

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

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Coronavirus Websites for Water and Wastewater Operators

Listed below are four websites and a web link with information relevant to water and wastewater operators about the novel coronavirus.

- Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) website on COVID-19
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Water Transmission and COVID-19
- <u>US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) COVID19 Drinking water and</u> wastewater website
- <u>Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Novel Coronovirus (COVID-19) website</u>
- Connecticut's Top Ten List for Pandemic and Natural Disaster Preparation at Water Systems (.pdf)

Operator Certification Examinations Suspended

To aid in the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19, Des Moines Area Community College and Iowa Department of Natural Resources Field Offices have suspended all operator certification testing services indefinitely. If you were scheduled for an exam, you will be notified concerning rescheduling. Please call 515/725-0463 or email Elizabeth.Feilmeier@dnr.iowa.gov with any questions.

Grade A Water Operator Training Classes Cancelled

The Grade A Water Operator Training spring classes have been cancelled.

DNR Event Postponements

This is the webpage for <u>DNR Events</u>. It is also where any DNR event postponements due to coronavirus will be posted.

DNR Water Supply Program Staff

The majority of water supply program staff in Water Supply Engineering and Operations are or soon will be working off-site. The best way to contact them is via email: firstname.lastname@dnr.iowa.gov. The contact name should also be listed in the operation permit or construction permit if you're not sure who to contact. Staff will be checking voicemail periodically; please include the best way to contact you in your email or voicemail. Also, return calls may be made from our personal phones, which would be an unfamiliar number.

The Field Office staff are working individually with operators on specific situations; many are in remote locations. Call if you have questions. If you have an emergency, contact the Field Office during working hours and use the Emergency Response Hotline after hours at 515-725-8694. All of the Field Offices are minimally staffed at present time, so please call ahead as the doors may be locked. There are no surprise visits or sanitary survey inspections; staff is calling ahead of time and only proceeding if the operator is comfortable with an onsite visit. An unannounced visit would occur only if there is a significant environmental risk or human health is in danger.

We want our operators and our staff to remain safe during this outbreak.

This is very challenging situation and circumstances can change for all of us. Here are the webpages for lowa DNR water supply activities. There are several pages beneath each of these links; look to the left for the navigation pane or click on the links within the webpage:

Field Office Webpage

- Certification Webpage
- Water Supply Engineering Webpage
- Water Supply Operations (Compliance) Webpage