Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

COVID-19

Webinar # 2020-05

DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu
Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

April 09, 2020



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH





DRINKING WATER SECTION

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Webinar # 5

COVID-19 for Water Utilities

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April 09, 2020

AGENDA

- Update from DPH/DWS on Recent Developments
- Status of WEBEOC and CtWARN
- Update from PURA
- Update from CTWC, Aquarion, RWA & MDC
- Update from other CWSs
- Questions ?





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DPH/DWS Updates

- Current Status of COVID 19; can sign up for daily report from Governor via https://portal.ct.gov/
- Weekly calls: CWSs, Env. Labs, Top Ops, EPA R1, P3 group
- Water Task Force (ESF 12) No resources issues reported so far
- On March 27, 2020, Governor issued Executive Order 70, suspension of requirements for license renewal
- On March 30, 2020, the Commissioner issued an <u>order</u> suspending the licensing/certification requirements.
 - See Circular Letter 2020-23

COVID-19 for Water Utilities

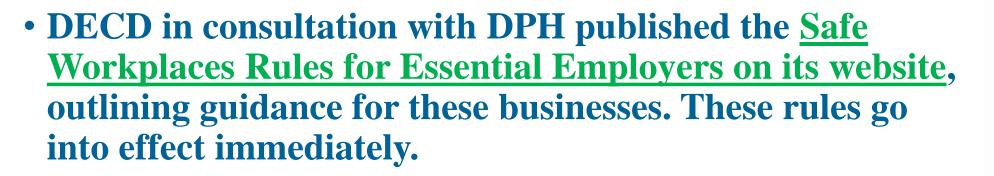
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DPH/DWS Updates

• On 4/7/20, Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7V enacts the safe workplaces in essential business.



• Applicable to the water sector and associated businesses including Env.Labs & Construction Co.





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- March 20, 2020: <u>Executive Order No. 7H</u> essential business
- DECD issued guidance and request for designation at https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Business-Exemptions-for-Coronavirus
- EPA provided a documentation template for water sector to use

https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater

Keep your DPH certifications handy



DPH/DWS Updates

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- CL 2020-18: Recreational
- CL 2020-22: Campgrounds
- DWS COVID 19 Related info to PWSs at https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/COVID-19/COVID-19---Information-for-Public-Water-Systems

• COVID 19 Related info on EHS website at https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/COVID-19







COVID-19

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- On March 26, 2020, EPA issued a memorandum entitled COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program (COVID-19 Memo).
 - **EPA** considers drinking water as critical infrastructure.
 - **EPA** strongly encourages Certified Operators, PWSs and Laboratories to continue normal operations and routine monitoring
 - **❖** Inform State as soon as possible of any acute risk situations.
 - **❖** If routine monitoring is not reasonably practical then prioritize based on acute risks
- Alternative medical care sites- Utilities be prepared to provide technical assistance
- DWS is working on "return to service" guidance



Reporting to DPH/DWS

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- An Acute Risk Water Quality Issue
- The Water Main Breaks That Effect Critical Facilities

DWS Phone Numbers:

860-509-7333 (Normal hours)

860-692-2333 (After hours)

Email: dwdcompliance@ct.gov





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WEBEOC & CtWARN

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WEBEOC Update

- CtWARN Update
 - Updates from Tom Barger





UPDATES

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- PURA
- CTWC
- Aquarion
- RWA
- MDC
- Others (Torrington, Bristol, etc..)

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COVID-19 - Suggestions

• Next webinar is on Thursday 4/16/20 at 1 pm.

Thereafter no longer need to send the registration link

- Email Questions about operator certification to William.Sullivan@ct.gov
- Email questions/notifications about water quality testing and monitoring to dwdcompliance@ct.gov
- Emergency notifications, may call 860-692-2333, and email to dwdcompliance@ct.gov



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Thank You

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