

Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

COVID-19

Webinar # 2021-12

DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

July 15, 2021

(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



AGENDA



**DRINKING WATER
SECTION**

Webinar # 2021- 12
WEBINAR SERIES

Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

07/15/2021

- **Update from DPH COVID19**
- **DWS on Recent Developments**
- **Update from CTWC, Aquarion, RWA & MDC**
- **Update from other Municipal Water Systems**
- **Questions ?**





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DPH/DWS Updates

- **COVID19 - Updates**
- **Cyber Security Reminder**
- **LCRR Updates**
- **Contaminants and Drinking Water Quality**
- **Operators Certifications Update**
- **Environmental Labs Certifications Update**
- **Drought Status**
- **DWSRF Reminder**
- **Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment**



COVID -19 Updates

COVID-19



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- **COVID-19 vaccine eligibility:**

All individuals who are 12 years of age or older and live, work, or attend school in Connecticut are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information on vaccinations and to learn how to get the vaccine, visit ct.gov/covidvaccine.

- **Executive Orders**

- **Executive Order No. 21-1 & Executive Order No. 12D (06/30/2021)**

Takes several actions regarding the use of solitary confinement.

Takes several emergency actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor's civil preparedness and public health declarations, including: Implementation of certain requirements regarding evictions.

- **Executive Order No. 21-2 (07/01/2021)**

Extends disclosure requirements in compliance with restrictions on gifts to public officials from those with contracts valued at \$50,000 or more, in contrast to the \$500,000 threshold in state law.

- **legislative Updates**

- **Gov. Ned Lamont's emergency powers extended through September**

The General Assembly voted on Wednesday for a 44-word resolution extending Gov. Ned Lamont's emergency powers through Sept. 30, making Connecticut among the last in the northeast under a COVID-19 state of emergency.



Cyber Security Updates

DWS Circular Letter #2021-41

Sent on June 15, 2021

Cybersecurity Preparedness

- [EPA Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Water Sector](#)
- [EPA's Cybersecurity Guide for States](#)

DWS Circular Letter #2021-43

Sent on June 28, 2021

Cybersecurity Assessment and Technical Assistance

To register your utility, please visit:

- www.horsleywitten.com/cybersecurityutilities / [Registration link](#)

DWS Circular Letter #2021-48

Sent on July 12, 2021

Ransomware Readiness Assessment (RRA)

[Ransomware Readiness Assessment](#)





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Cyber Security Updates



Utility Survey Regarding physical and Cyber Incidents



WaterISAC is asking utilities to respond to its survey asking about physical and cyber incidents and suspicious activities they've experienced in the past quarter, from April 1 to June 30, 2021.

[Link to Survey](#)

Survey deadline is Friday, July 23

All CT utilities are recommended to complete this survey even if you have no incidents to report, WaterISAC is asking utilities to complete the survey anyways, simply indicating you experienced no incidents (you will still receive a copy of the report).





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Cyber Security Updates



An official website of the United States government

**STOP
RANSOM
WARE**

StopRansomware.gov

A new website was launched to help organizations reduce their risk of ransomware. StopRansomware.gov will enable organizations to enhance their network defense while helping organizations be more aware and prepared to deal with malicious cyber actors.





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Cyber Security Contacts

Bryan H. Gran

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Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

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Richard Berthaoon

Cybersecurity Advisor for Connecticut
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Email: richard.berthao@cisa.dhs.gov

Mobile# (202) 839-1429

Ron Ford

Cybersecurity Advisor | Region 1 - New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, VT) |
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Email: Ron.Ford@cisa.dhs.gov | Phone# (978) 778-8390

Report a Cyber Issue: <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/report> or (888) 282-0870

CISA Cyber: <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity>

CISA Resources Hub: <https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-essentials>





LCRR

- **New!!**
 - **Effective date:** ~~June 16, 2021~~ → December 16, 2021
 - **Compliance date:** ~~January 16, 2024~~ → October 16, 2024
- **Public comments**
 - Submittal of written comments extended to July 30, 2021
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/23/2021-13309/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions-lcrr-virtual-engagements>

Any questions, please contact: **Cindy Sek** || Email: cindy.sek@ct.gov





Contaminants and Drinking Water Quality

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2021 PFAS Legislation

- **PA 21-191-Signed into law on 7/13/21**
 - **AFFF ban**
 - **Ban on PFAS in food packaging**
- **PA 21-121-Signed into law on 7/6/21**
 - **Annual testing of sources of bottled water**

Any questions, please contact:

Pat Bisacky || Email: patricia.bisacky@ct.gov





DPH/DWS Updates - Certifications

Operator Certification Program – dph.opcert@ct.gov

Bill Sullivan

Phone# 860-936-1266

Kevin Veilleux

Phone# 860-937-7735

Certification Examinations:

- ❖ [CT DPH Operator Certification Examination, Applications and Reference Material List](#)
- ❖ [Circular letter 2021-14](#): Computer Based Exams at Test Centers

COVID-19 Suspension of Certification Renewal:

- ❖ State of Emergency, Reinstatement, Expiration Date Extension
- ❖ www.elicense.ct.gov (without password, click "Online Services" click "Lookup a License")

Approved Water Operator Training:

- ❖ [Distance Education \(Correspondence, Online, Live Internet Instructor Lead Courses\)](#)

Cross Connection Control:

- ❖ Correspondence to be submitted to dph.ccsr@ct.gov email address





Environmental Labs Certification Program

Proficiency Tests

- **Deadline is July 31st**
- **Drinking Water regulations require a PT for each method that a laboratory performs.**
- **Make sure to review graded PT reports for errors and failures.**
- **If two PTs are failed ELCP will need a corrective action before a third PT can be analyzed. The parameter status will also be downgraded**

Dawn Shaban

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Shinu Zachariah

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Phone 860-936-1678





DRINKING WATER SECTION

Tracking per State Drought Plan

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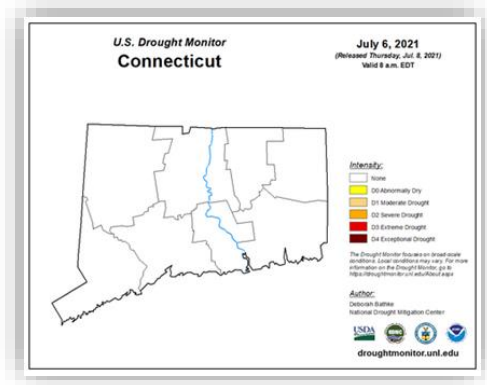
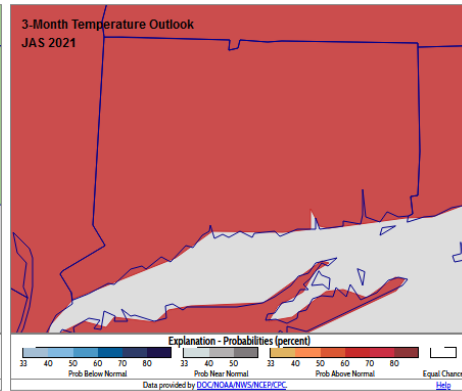
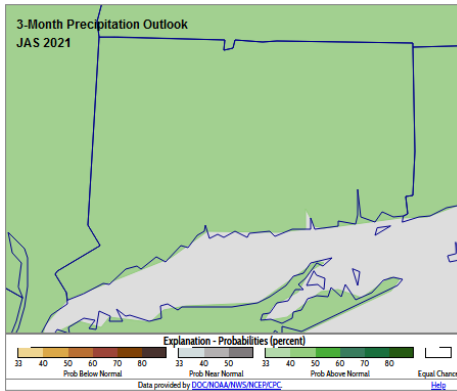
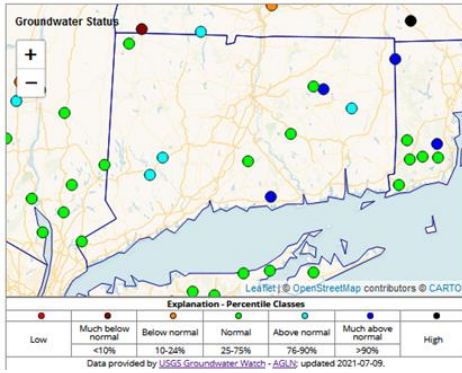
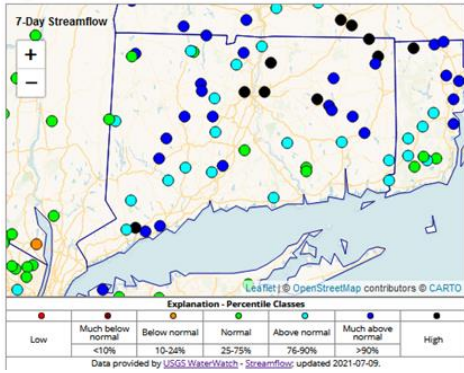
Environmental Laboratories

07/15/2021

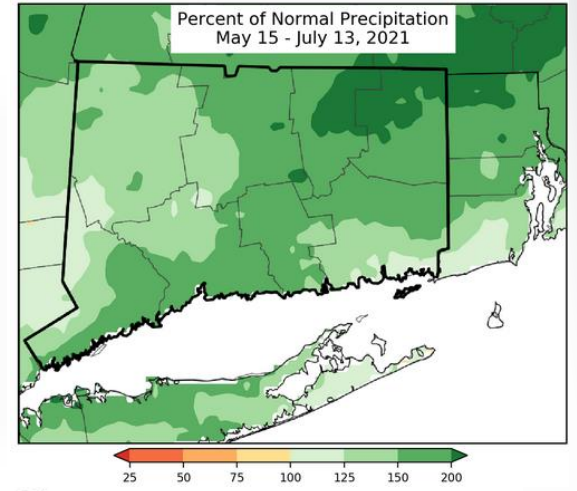


Statewide:

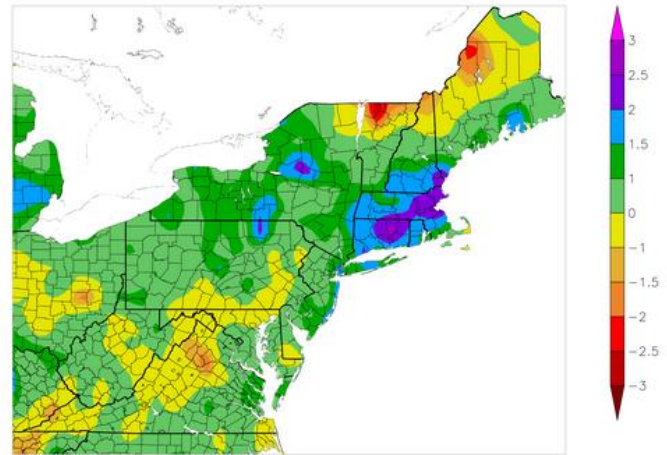
<p>≥ 100% of Normal n=34</p> <p>34</p> <p>Change since last week: +4</p>	<p>State Average</p> <p>96.86% ↑</p> <p>Last week: 95.3%</p>	<p>Average Percent of Normal</p> <p>107.8% ↑</p> <p>Last week: 103.3%</p>
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60-Day Percent of Normal



30 Day SPI 6/13/2021 - 7/12/2021



Any questions, please contact: **Steven Harkey** || Email: Steven.Harkey@ct.gov



DWSRF Update

- **DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) for SFY 2022 is drafted and a public hearing is tentatively scheduled for 10:00am on August 18**
- **The IUP will be published on the DWSRF website for a 30 day public comment period prior to the hearing**

If you have any questions, please contact the DWSRF Program at dph.ctdwsrf@ct.gov





DWSRF and Capacity Building in Action

Webinar Series

The EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Sustainable Systems Teams are hosting a series of webinars to highlight ways in which DWSRF set-asides and infrastructure project assistance can be used to build capacity at drinking water systems. Each webinar will include background on EPA initiatives, state presentations on current projects, and an opportunity to ask questions.



Source Water Protection

Wednesday, July 28th at 2-3 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

During this webinar, you'll learn the importance of protecting source water as it relates to drinking water challenges, the current eligibilities of the DWSRF set-asides for source water protection activities, as well as State examples of how they use their set-asides to encourage and assist water systems and communities in safeguarding, maintaining, and improving their source water protection capacity.





Drinking Water Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA)

- **The DWINSA determines:**
 - a nationwide 20-year capital need for investment
 - funds allocated from the EPA for Connecticut's DWSRF
- **Independent Documentation of Need and/ or Cost is very important to the DWINSA. These documents include:**
 - Capital Improvement Plan or Master Plan
 - Facilities Plan or Preliminary Engineering Report
 - engineering studies, watermain break report, repair reports, and distribution system studies
 - Grant or Loan Application Form
 - Engineer's Estimate or Bid Tabulation
 - Cost of Previous Comparable Construction
- **23 PWS' are included in the current DWINSA and have been contacted by staff for their support and participation.**

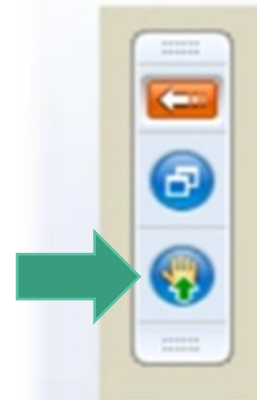


UPDATES

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

Requesting to raise your hand from GotoWebinar Control Panel

Grab Tab



- Click **arrow** to expand and collapse control panel
- Click **hand icon** to raise/lower hand



Suggestions

- Next webinar is on Thursday August 5, 2021 at 1 pm.

August

August 5, 2021

1 PM – 2 PM

- 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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