

# Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

## COVID-19

Webinar # 2021-7

### DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

April 08, 2021

(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



# AGENDA



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

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# DPH/DWS Updates

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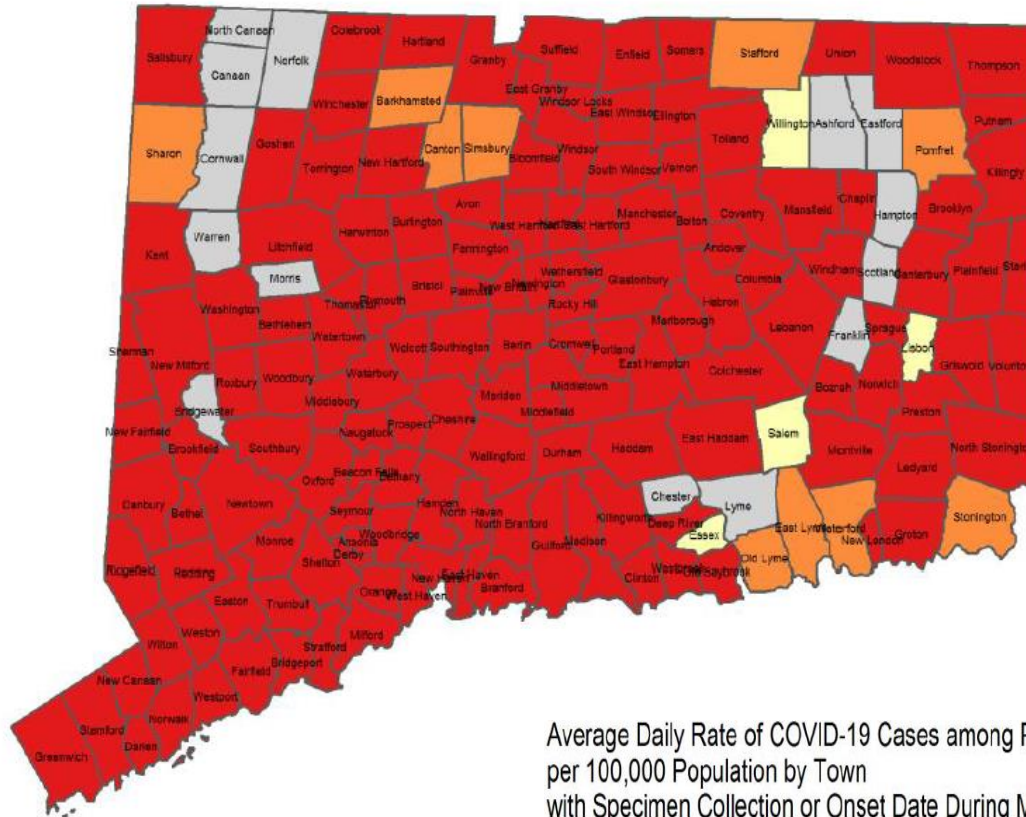
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- **Current Status of COVID 19 - Daily report from Governor**



Average COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Population per Day

- <5 cases per 100,000 or <5 reported cases
- 5-9 cases per 100,000
- 10-14 cases per 100,000
- 15 or more cases per 100,000

Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases among People Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population by Town with Specimen Collection or Onset Date During March 21-April 03

COVID-19







# DPH/DWS Updates

- **On Going Vaccination – Advisory Group Webpage**

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Communications/Disease-Preparedness/COVID-19-Vaccine-Advisory-Group>

- **2021 Sanitary Survey Update**
- **Reminder – PWS reopening**
- **LCRR Updates**
- **Certifications (Operators & Laboratories) Update**
- **Drought Status**
- **DWSRF Updates**
- **Cyber Security Updates**

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# 2021 Sanitary Survey Program

- **503 total surveys due this calendar year**
- **Staff began scheduling remote/virtual surveys in March**
- **Sanitary Survey Capacity Questionnaire for Every CWS due to be surveyed.**
  - **New Online Form – eliminate need to print, scan, email**
  - **Emailed to all CWS due for 2021 Survey**
  - **Was due **3/31/21** – please complete if not already done so**

Email [DPHCapacity@ct.gov](mailto:DPHCapacity@ct.gov) or [Mandy.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Mandy.Smith@ct.gov) with questions





# PWS Reminder – Reopening Guidance

- **Increase in Notification of Buildings Reopening with Return to Work, seasonal start ups, etc.**
- **Currently Multiple Legionella Cases Being Investigated by DPH**
- **Reminder to proactively start discussions with customers on this topic including referencing the DPH Return to Service Guidance Document- located on COVID-19 Information for PWS**

**[Return to Service Guidance Document](#)**

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# LCRR

- EPA postponed the effective date of the final LCRR to **6/17/2021**.
- EPA's proposal to extend the following was published in the FR on **3/12/2021**. The 30-day comment period ends on **April 12, 2021**.
  - Proposed effective date to **12/16/2021**
  - Proposed compliance date to **9/16/2024**

Any questions, please contact:

**Cindy Sek** || Email: [cindy.sek@ct.gov](mailto:cindy.sek@ct.gov)





# LCRR Virtual Engagements

- **EPA Public Listening Sessions**
  - **April 28, 2021** and **May 5, 2021**, from 10 am to 10 pm EST
    - 3-minute speaking time slot
    - Complete the registration form on the EPA website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions-lcrr-public-listening-session>
  - **Written comments can be submitted by June 30, 2021 at <http://www.regulations.gov>: enter Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0255**

Any questions, please contact:  
**Cindy Sek** || Email: [cindy.sek@ct.gov](mailto:cindy.sek@ct.gov)







# LCRR Virtual Engagements

- **EPA Virtual Roundtables**
  - **Community roundtables**
    - **Starting in May 2021**
  - **Stakeholder roundtables**
    - **Starting in June 2021**
  - **Nomination letter to EPA at [LCRR@epa.gov](mailto:LCRR@epa.gov) by **April 23, 2021****
  - **See details at the EPA website**  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions-virtual-engagements>

**Any questions, please contact:**  
**Cindy Sek || Email: [cindy.sek@ct.gov](mailto:cindy.sek@ct.gov)**



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# DPH/DWS Updates - Certifications

**Operator Certification Program – [dph.opcert@ct.gov](mailto:dph.opcert@ct.gov)**

**Bill Sullivan**

**Email:** *[william.sullivan@ct.gov](mailto:william.sullivan@ct.gov)*

**Phone#** 860-936-1266

**Kevin Veilleux**

**Email:** *[kevin.veilleux@ct.gov](mailto:kevin.veilleux@ct.gov)*

**Phone#** 860-936-1455

- **Certification Examinations**
  - ❖ Circular letter 2021-14 - Remote Water Operator Certification Exams
- **COVID-19 Suspension of Certification Renewal**
  - ❖ Certification Expiration Dates & status available on the [www.license.ct.gov](http://www.license.ct.gov) web site
- **Approved Water Operator Training**
  - ❖ Distance Education (Correspondence, Online, Live Internet Instructor Lead Courses)
  - ❖ College Courses (Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Math, Natural Sciences, Public Health)
- **Cross Connection Control**
  - ❖ All completed reports to be submitted to the [dph.ccsr@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ccsr@ct.gov) email address

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# Environmental Labs Certification Program

- **CL 2020-23 Certification Renewal**
  - Expired Certificates are still valid
- **CL 2021-19 2021 Analytical Methods Questionnaire**
  - Collecting information for the analytes listed in Section 19-13-B102(g) by Certified Operators are using to test for Public Water
  - Deadline is May 3rd
- **Inquiries, requests and applications to be submitted to:**

**Dawn Shaban**

**Email: [Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov](mailto:Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov)**

**Phone 860-488-0652**

**Shinu Zachariah**

**Email: [Shinu.zachariah@ct.gov](mailto:Shinu.zachariah@ct.gov)**

**Phone 860-936-1678**

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# Tracking per State Drought Plan

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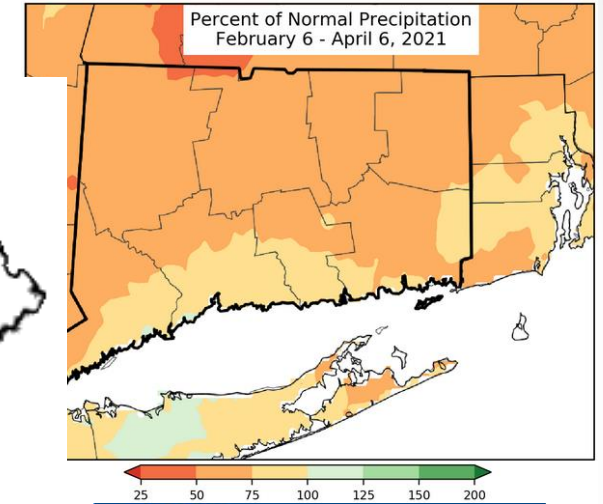
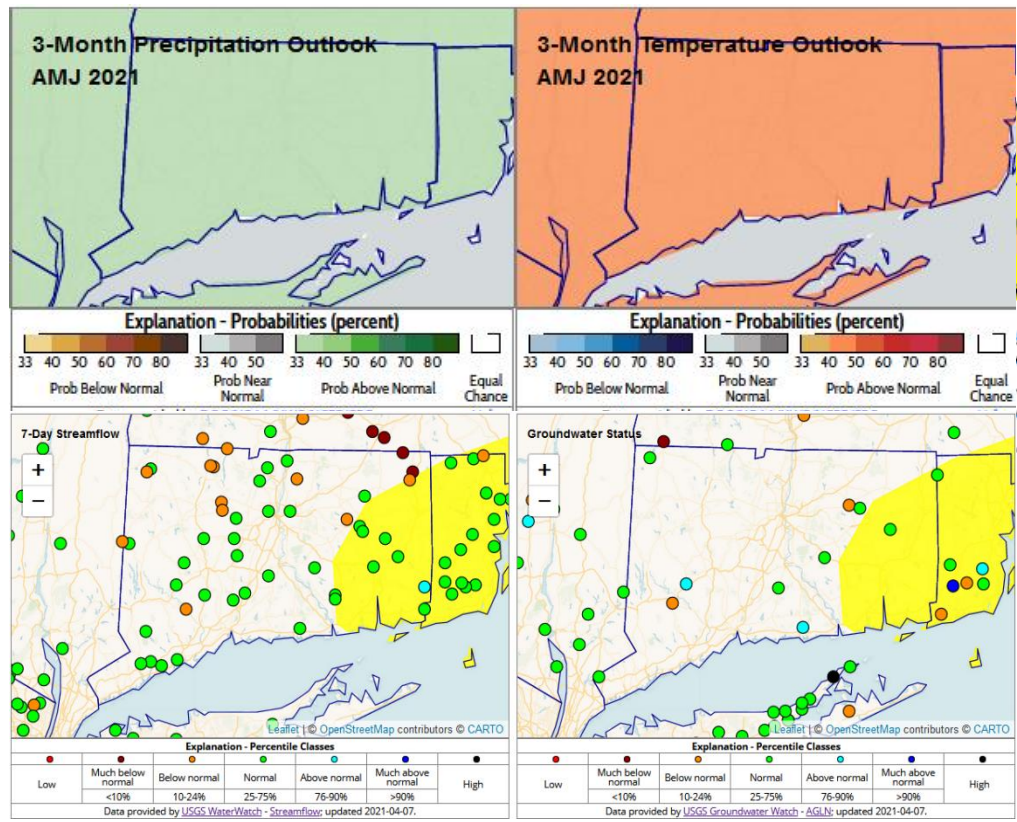
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❖ Statewide:

Percent Full  
**97.4**

Perc of Normal  
**101**



**2020 Drought in New England**

Below average and infrequent rainfall from May through September 2020 led to an extreme hydrologic drought across much of New England, with some areas experiencing a flash drought, reflecting its quick onset. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recorded record low streamflow and groundwater levels throughout the region. In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared Agricultural Counties in Maine and Hillsborough and Merrimack Counties in New Hampshire as crop disaster areas. By the beginning of October, 146 community water systems and 7 municipalities in New Hampshire, more than 100 municipalities in Massachusetts, and several community water supplies in Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island had mandatory water restrictions in place (Northeast Regional Climate Center, 2020b).

**Highlights**

- Much of the severe precipitation during summer 2020 fell as dry snots, leaving long periods with little to no rain.
- Northern and central Maine were in a flash drought by the beginning of July; southeastern Massachusetts, northern Rhode Island, and southeastern Connecticut, by the beginning of August.
- During September, 14 USGS streamgages recorded the lowest 7-day average streamflows in the past 10 years; the USGS recorded the lowest streamflow measurements in the past 50 years at 14 streamgages.
- The lowest monthly groundwater levels in the past 25 years were recorded at 24 USGS monitoring wells during the summer.

Photograph of a dry stream channel at MB River at Cook Hill Road near Chelsea, Connecticut, at U.S. Geological Survey streamgage 01190008 on September 2, 2020; photograph by Nancy Dubicki, USGS.

Photograph of Emphory Stream at Abell Village Mill, near U.S. Geological Survey streamgage 01071400 on September 26, 2020; photograph by Andrew Chalkley, USGS.

COVID-19



<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201148>





# DWSRF Updates

- DPH received 32 applications for \$161.2M in DWSRF funding for SFY 2022 by the March 31, 2021 deadline
- DPH issued Circ. Ltr. 2021-20 on March 25 extending the deadline to submit DWSRF Eligibility Applications for **lead service line replacement** projects by April 16, 2021 (only 3 PWS currently submitted)
- The Biden Administration's American Jobs Plan is proposed to include \$45 billion in funding for lead service line replacements and \$56 billion for aging infrastructure
- If you have any questions please contact the DWSRF Program at [dph.ctdwsrf@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ctdwsrf@ct.gov)



# Cyber Threat Briefing



## Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) **Cyber Threat Briefing Series**

### HC3 April 8 Cybersecurity Threat Briefing - Ryuk Ransomware

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) invites to join us at the first of our bi-monthly cybersecurity threat briefings in April (today). The topic is **Ryuk Ransomware**. This initiative will provide actionable information on health sector cybersecurity threats and mitigations. HC3 analysts will present relevant cybersecurity topics, engage in discussions with participants on current threats, and highlight best practices and mitigation tactics.

[Register](#)



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# Cyber Security Contacts

## Bryan H. Gran

Protective Security Advisor  
Connecticut District  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

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Phone# 202-809-8408

## Richard Berthaoon

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

Email: [richard.berthao@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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>



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# UPDATES

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

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Grab Tab



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

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# COVID-19 - Suggestions

- Next webinar is on Thursday **04/22/21** at 1 pm.

April

April 22, 2021  
1 PM – 2 PM

- Email questions/notifications about water quality testing and monitoring to [dwdcompliance@ct.gov](mailto:dwdcompliance@ct.gov)
- Emergency notifications, may call 860-692-2333 and email to [dwdcompliance@ct.gov](mailto:dwdcompliance@ct.gov)



# Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

# Thank You

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