

# Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

## COVID-19

Webinar # 2020-06

### DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

April 16, 2020

(11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



# AGENDA



DRINKING WATER  
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES  
Webinar # 6

COVID-19  
for  
Water Utilities

Certified Water  
Operators

Environmental  
Laboratories

April 16, 2020

- **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**
- **Executive Order 70, suspension of requirements for license renewal**
- **DPH Commissioner issued an order suspending the licensing/certification requirements. See Circular Letter 2020-23**
- **DPH DWS Field Work Suspended – till April 30th**
- **Send all mail to email – [dwdcompliance@ct.gov](mailto:dwdcompliance@ct.gov)**

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# DPH/DWS Updates - Certifications

- **Certifications/licenses not renewed by DPH shall not expire throughout the duration of the COVID-19 emergency;**
- **Certifications/licenses suspended by the Commissioner are to be renewed in the six-month period following the date of the resumption of the license renewal requirements;**
  - ❖ **If DPH renews a certification/license on a date other than the customary renewal date, the period of licensure shall not extend beyond the customary renewal date provided pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes; and**
  - ❖ **At the time of such renewal, the licensee shall be responsible for payment of all license fees to DPH, including payment of fees not collected by DPH due to the suspension of such license renewal requirements.**





# DPH/DWS Updates

- On 4/7/20, Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7V enacts the safe workplaces in essential business.
- DECD in consultation with DPH published the Safe Workplaces Rules for Essential Employers on its website, outlining guidance for these businesses. These rules go into effect immediately.
- Applicable to the water sector and associated businesses including Environmental Labs & Construction Co.





# DPH/DWS Updates

- March 20, 2020: Executive Order No. 7H 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





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April 16, 2020

# DPH/DWS Updates – Regs Suspension

- On 3/23/20 Gov. Signed EO 7K
  - ❖ Authorized DPH Comm to temporarily waive, modify or suspend regulations when necessary to reduce the spread of COVID 19 for up to 6 months from the end of the emergency
- Potential Regs -Temporarily waive.

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# DPH/DWS Updates – EO 7S & 7W

- On 4/1/20, Gov. Signed EO 7S
- Section 6 - EO 7S and EO 7W Sec.1 apply to municipalities' suspension of tax deadlines and collection efforts

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April 16, 2020

# DPH/DWS Updates

- 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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# DPH/DWS Updates – General Info.

- **Alternative care sites and shelters- Utilities be prepared to provide technical assistance**
- **DWS “Return To Service” guidance is under review**
- **CDC building water system guidance**
- **Flushing procedures from ESPRI**
- **DWS Pb/Cu sampling precautions guidance under development**

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# DPH/DWS Updates – General Info.

- **Field Inspections of Public Water Systems**
  - ❖ **Initiate in May (unless mission critical),**
  - ❖ **Conduct remotely or in person with PPE protocols in place**
- **WRF Latest COVID Research Update Webcast**
  - **Thu, Apr 16, 2020 3:30 PM (EDT)**

**Register Now**

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# Reporting to DPH/DWS

- **How to Report ?**
  - **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](mailto:dwdcompliance@ct.gov)***



# DPH/DWS Updates

- 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
- EPA Administrator reached out to Homeland Sec. to prioritize PPEs and COVID testing for the water sector
- EPA is working on “Flushing Guidance”



# WEBEOC & CtWARN

- **WEBEOC Update**
  - ❖ 65 entities/managers representing a total of 212 CWSs have login credentials
  - ❖ 20 of these entities have reported in WEBEOC
  - ❖ All reports are for normal operation so far
- **CtWARN Update**
  - ❖ Updates from Tom Barger

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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 4/23/20 at 1 pm.
- Email Questions about operator certification to [William.Sullivan@ct.gov](mailto:William.Sullivan@ct.gov)
- 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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