

Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

COVID-19

Webinar # 2020-22

DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

September 17, 2020

(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



AGENDA



DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar # 22

COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
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Laboratories

09/17/2020

- **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

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- **Current Status of COVID 19 ; daily report from Governor via <https://portal.ct.gov/>**
- **Quarantine for travelers from several States**
- **Calls: CWSs, Env. Labs, Top Ops, EPA R1, P3 group**
- **Stage 2 Drought**
- **Weekly readings & reporting, ask customers to conserve, fix leaks, audit large users, reduce non-revenue water, assess drought triggers & action, inform local officials.**

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Tracking per State Drought Plan

- ❖ Statewide Percent full is 71.4% ❖ Statewide Percent of Normal is 88.6%
- 6 Reservoir Systems $\geq 100\%$ of Normal
- 28 Reservoir Systems below normal capacities
- 5 CWS are in Stage 2 of their drought plans
 - AWC Greenwich System
 - Bristol Water Dept
 - Manchester Water Dept
 - Norwalk 1st Tax District
 - UCONN Main Campus
- 3 Systems are in Stage 1
 - Norwich
 - South Norwalk Electric & Water
 - New Britain Water Dept.
- 11 CWS have enacted Mandatory water restriction
- 3 Systems enacted voluntary Restrictions

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Reservoir System Drought Restrictions

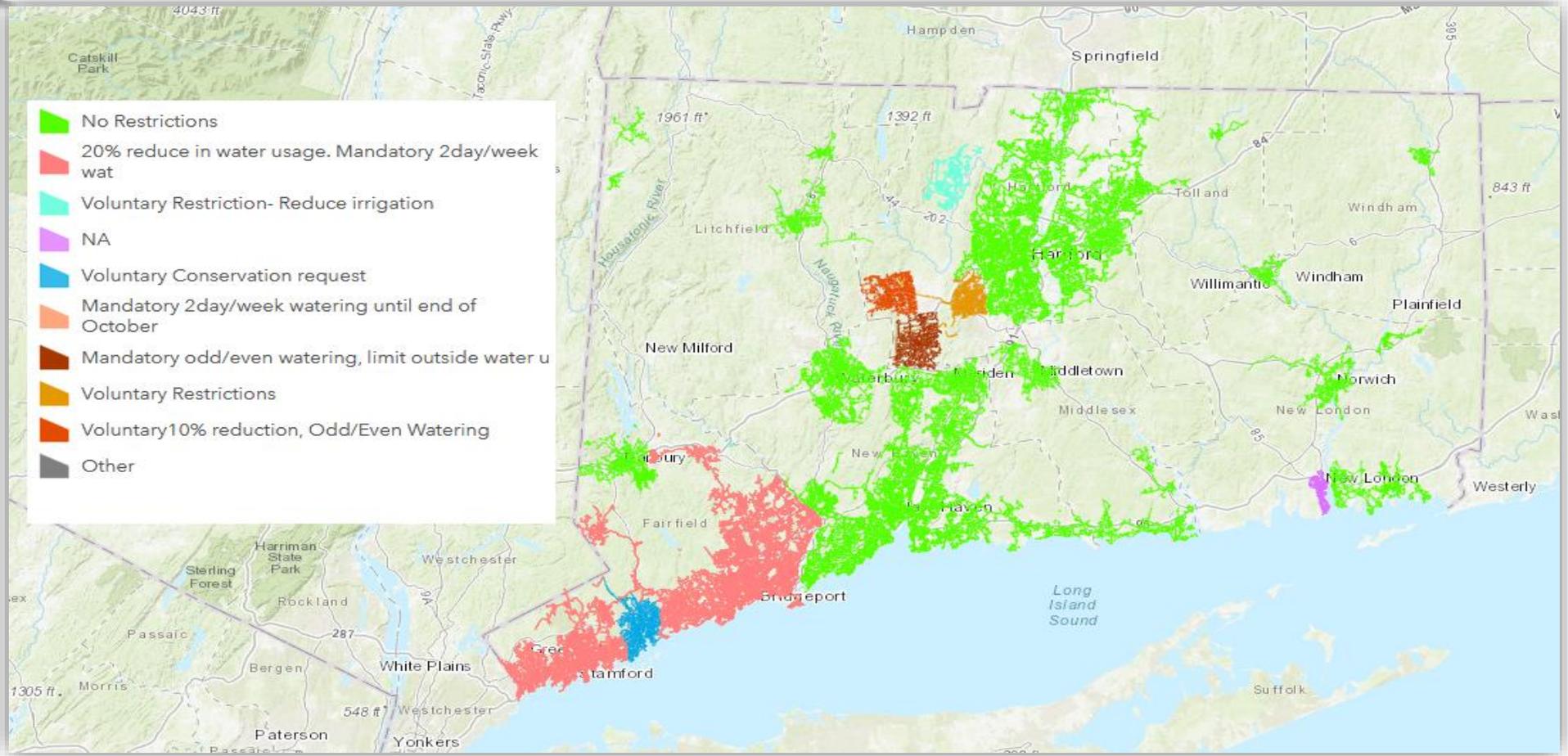
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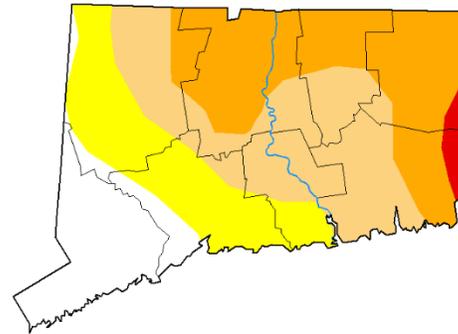
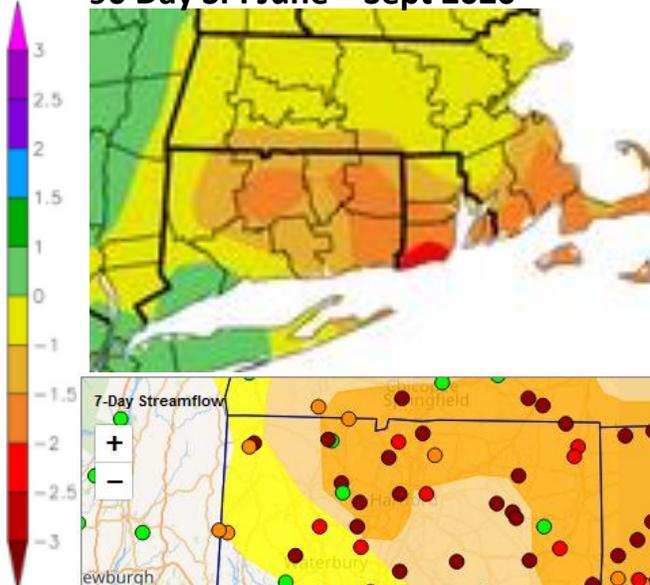
Drought Monitor Update

US Drought Monitor: Removed D0 in Fairfield County & added D3 in East

U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

September 15, 2020
(Released Thursday, Sep. 17, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

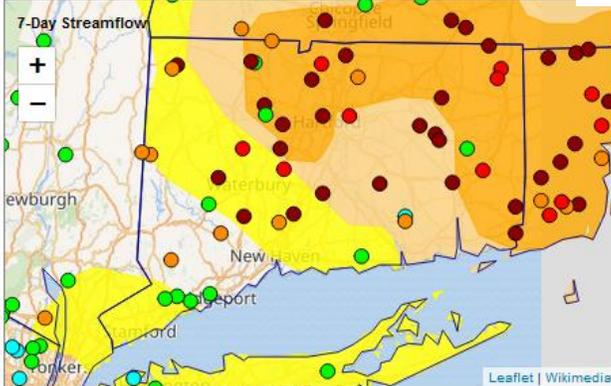
90 Day SPI June – Sept 2020



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

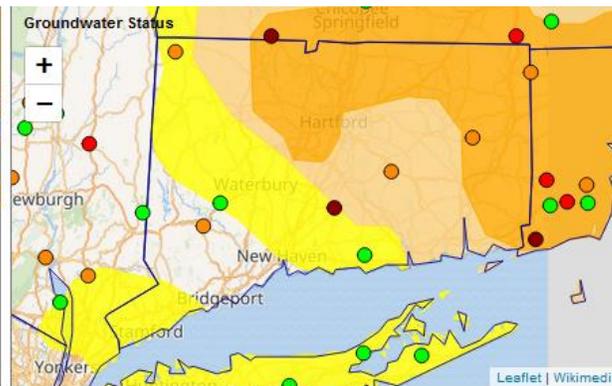
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Explanation - Percentile Classes						
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High
	<10%	10-24%	25-75%	76-90%	>90%	

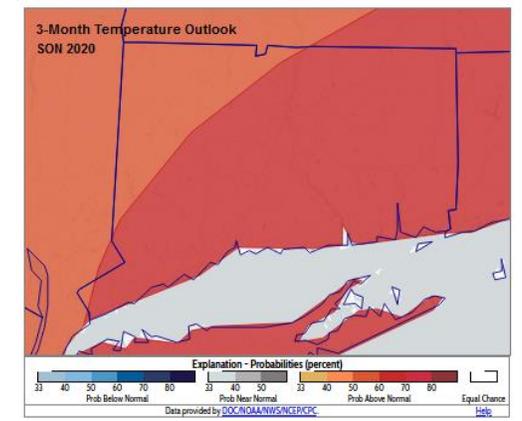
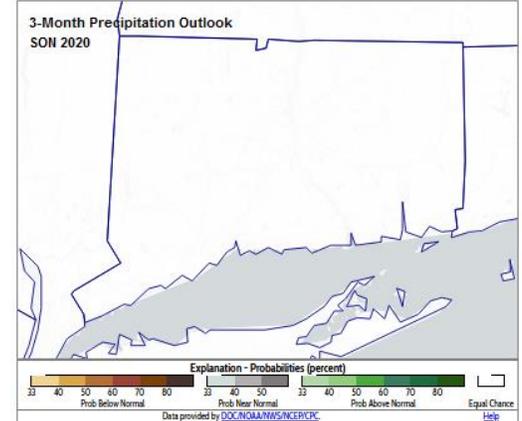
Data provided by USGS WaterWatch - Streamflow; updated 2020-09-16.



Explanation - Percentile Classes						
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High
	<10%	10-24%	25-75%	76-90%	>90%	

Data provided by USGS Groundwater Watch - CRN; updated 2020-09-16.

3-Month Precipitation and Temperature Outlook



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CT Current Drought Status – IDW & State Drought Plan

Connecticut

Drought Preparedness and Response Plan

The Interagency Drought Workgroup has been meeting every 2 weeks to discuss conditions and recommend drought stage actions per the CT drought plan

- Current Stages
 - Stage 2 – 4 Northern Counties
 - Stage 1 – 4 Southern Counties
- Stage 2 – Incipient Drought
 - Stage 2 represents an emerging drought event, potentially impacting water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems. Impacts from a Stage 2 drought are typically limited or isolated in nature, and are likely to be felt first in the most water-constrained settings. At Stage 2, government officials and public water suppliers in affected areas should be engaged and preparing to undertake mitigation activities should they become necessary. Data collection and reporting activities are increased, where appropriate, and communication and coordination becomes a priority. Stage 2 is the first publicly-announced stage of drought.
- Stage 3 (if condition worsen)
 - At Stage 3, a drought event is well-established across a significant area, with impacts increasing in extent and intensity and potentially including isolated severe impacts. At Stage 3, the tone of public messaging is intended to convey the more serious nature of conditions, and preparations are made for the possibility of widespread emergency response, should conditions continue to worsen.



Adopted by the Connecticut Water Planning Council
November 6, 2018

Quantitative criteria include:

- Cumulative precipitation
- Groundwater levels
- Streamflow
- Drinking water reservoir levels
- Palmer Drought Severity Index
- Crop Moisture Index
- Vegetation Drought Response Index (only available during growing season),
- Fire danger
- U.S. Drought Monitor

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Remote Sanitary Surveys

Please contact:

Thomas Chyra : thomas.chyra@ct.gov

Mandy Smith : mandy.smith@ct.gov

- **DWS developed remote Sanitary Survey Templates**
 - Small GW Template has been used since July- going well
 - Large PWS Template rolled out last couple of weeks
- **Survey staff have received equipment (iPhones, network access) and are scheduling remote surveys at PWS**
 - Look for Staff work cell phones on their email signature blocks and reach out if/when necessary
 - Remote survey should not add extra work to PWS staff and is in place to protect critical staff. If there is something you are concerned about – discuss how to best approach it with the DWS survey staff assigned to your PWS

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DPH/DWS Updates - Certifications

Operator Certification Program – www.opcert@ct.gov

Bill Sullivan

Email: *william.sullivan@ct.gov*

Phone# 860-936-1266

Kevin Veilleux

Email: *kevin.veilleux@ct.gov*

Phone# 860-936-1455

- **COVID-19 Suspension of Certification Renewal**
- **Approved Water Operator Training**
 - ❖ Distance Education (Correspondence, Online, Live Internet Instructor Lead Courses)
 - ❖ College Courses (Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Math, Natural Sciences, Public Health)
- **Certification Examinations**
 - ❖ We are working on a method for exam administration and will be sharing that shortly
- **Cross Connection Control**
 - ❖ Review / processing of annual Cross Connection Survey Reports

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

- **The public hearing on the SFY 2021 DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) and Project Priority List was held via Zoom meeting on September 15 at 10:00am**
- **The hearing record remains open for additional written testimony until Friday September 18, 2020 at 4:30pm**
- **If you wish to provide written testimony it must be emailed to DPH.CTDWSRF@ct.gov**





Reporting to DPH/DWS

- **How to Report ?**
 - **An Acute Risk Water Quality Issue**
 - **The Water Main Breaks That Effect Critical Facilities**

**Call 860-692-2333 (Emergency) and
*Email: dwdcompliance@ct.gov***



WEBEOC & CtWARN

For WEBEOC related questions please contact:
Sachin Patel: Sachin.patel@ct.gov



• WEBEOC Update

- ❖ 104 entities/managers representing a total of 256 CWSs have logged in to WEBEOC (represents over 2.8 million out of 3.1 million served by CWSs or 90%)
- ❖ 16 entities with log in credentials have not reported yet in WEBEOC
- ❖ All reports are for normal operation so far. Several were on generators during the recent storm

• CtWARN Update





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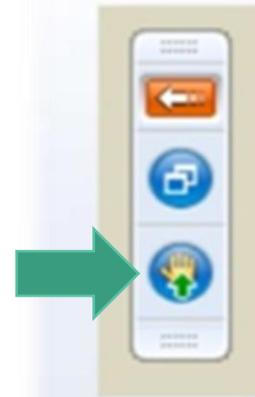
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UPDATES

- PURA - John.betkoski@ct.gov
- 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

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COVID-19 - Suggestions

- Next webinar is on Thursday **10/01/20** at 1 pm.

October		
October 1, 2020	October 15, 2020	October 29, 2020

- 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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