

Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

COVID-19

Webinar # 2020-23

DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

October 01, 2020

(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



AGENDA



DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES
Webinar # 23

COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020

- **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 ?**

COVID-19





DPH/DWS Updates

- **Current Status of COVID 19 ; daily report from Governor via <https://portal.ct.gov/>**
- **Quarantine for travelers from several States**
- **Drought continues; curtail outdoor water use**
- **Asset Management plans due 1/1/21; Remote Surveys Status**
- **Certifications & Update on Env. Lab Program Contacts**
- **Cross Connection Surveys**
- **DWSRF Update**



Tracking per State Drought Plan

- ❖ Statewide Percent full is 68%
- ❖ Statewide Percent of Normal is 83.5%
- 3 Reservoir Systems $\geq 100\%$ of Normal
- 31 Reservoir Systems are below normal capacities
- 2 CWS are in Stage 3 of their drought plans
 - Norwalk 1st Tax District
 - UCONN Main Campus
- 3 CWS are in Stage 2 of their drought plans
 - AWC Greenwich System
 - Bristol Water Dept
 - Manchester Water Dept
- 6 CWS are in Stage 1
 - Norwich
 - South Norwalk Electric & Water
 - CTWC Guilford
 - CTWC Stafford
 - New London Dept of Public Utilities
 - New Britain Water Dept
- 12 CWS have enacted Mandatory water restriction
- 7 Systems enacted voluntary Restrictions

COVID-19





Reservoir System Drought Restrictions

DRINKING WATER SECTION

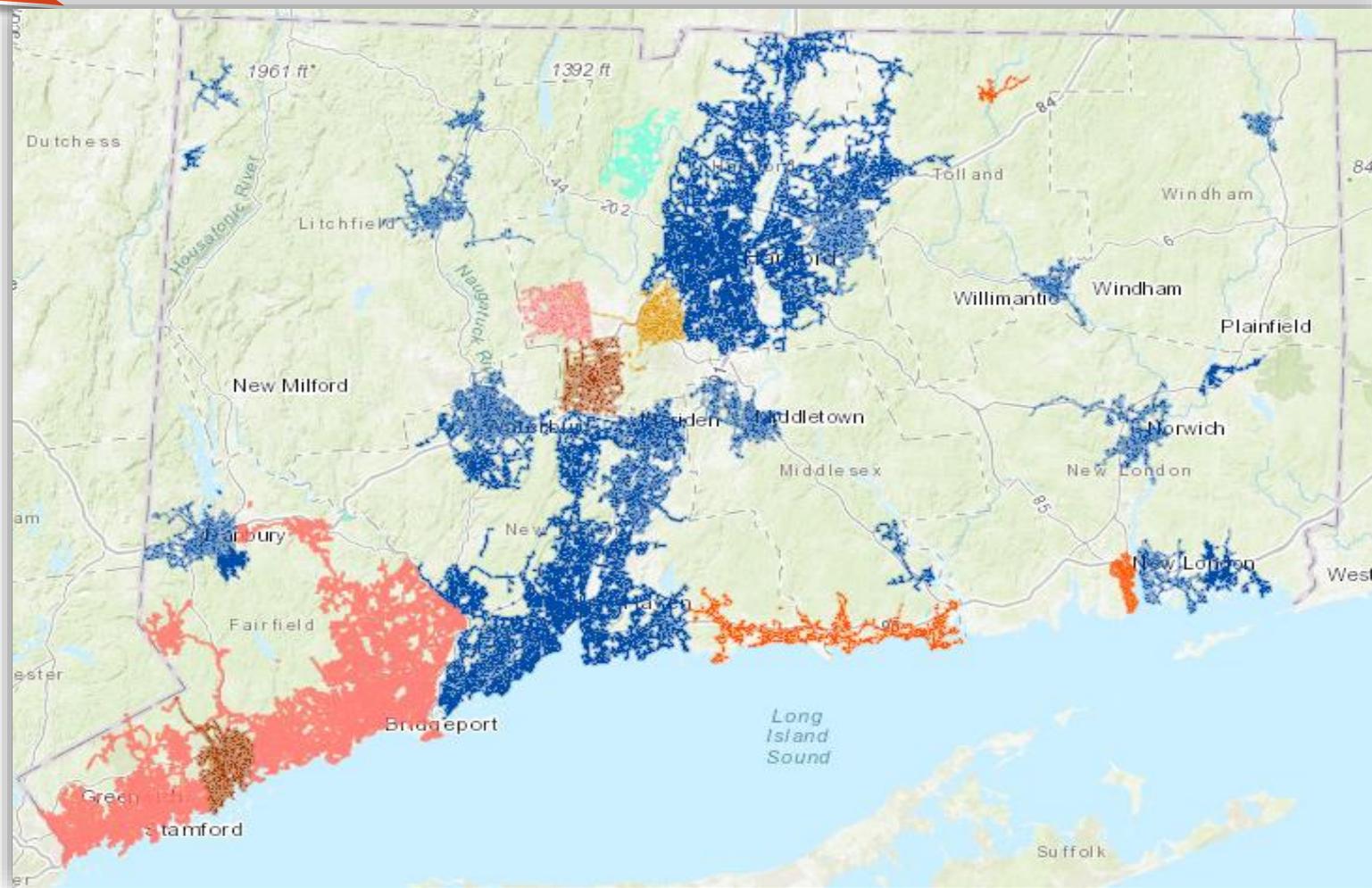
WEBINAR SERIES
Webinar # 23

COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020



- No Restrictions
- 20% reduce in water usage. Mandatory 2day/week watering
- Voluntary Restriction- Reduce irrigation
- NA
- Voluntary Conservation request
- Mandatory 2day/week watering until end of October
- Mandatory odd/even watering, limit outside water use
- Voluntary Restrictions
- Voluntary 10% reduction, Odd/Even Watering
- Voluntary 10% reduction
- Mandatory Conservation request

COVID-19





Drought Update

DRINKING WATER SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES
Webinar # 23

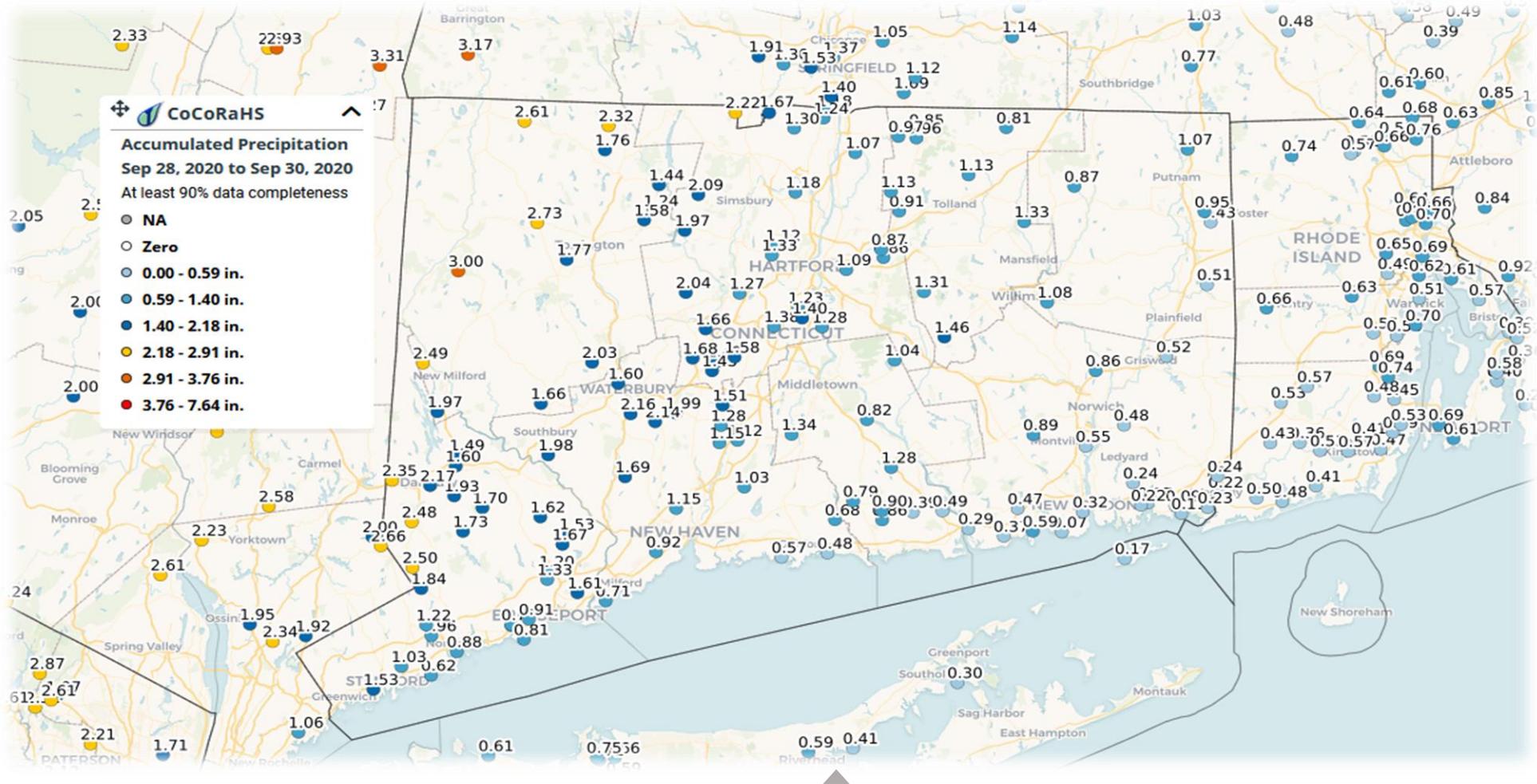
COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020

This weeks rain!



COVID-19



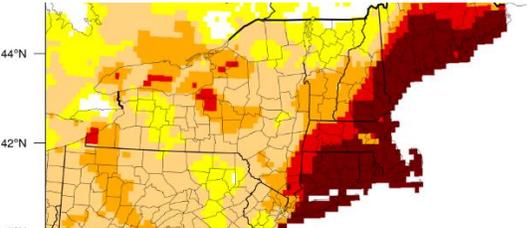
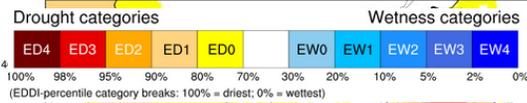


Drought Monitor Update

US Drought Monitor: Significant degradation across CT

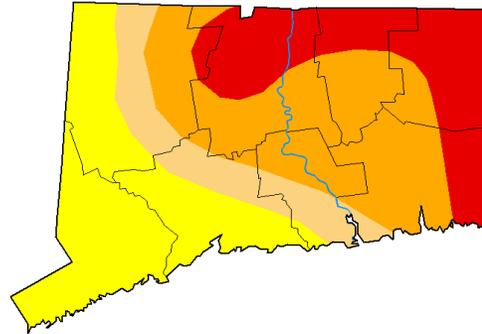
Evaporative Demand Drought Index

1-week EDDI categories for September 25, 2020



U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

September 29, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



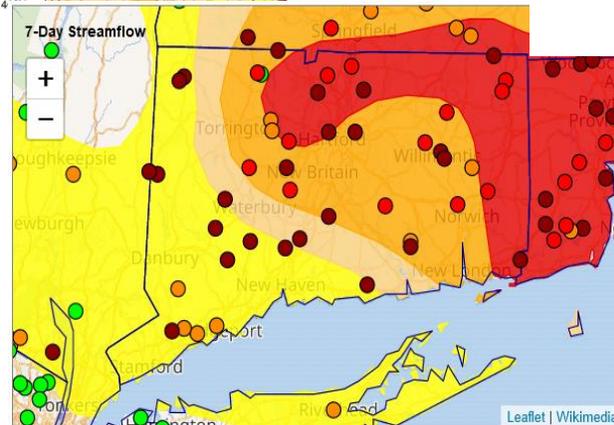
Intensity:

- 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>

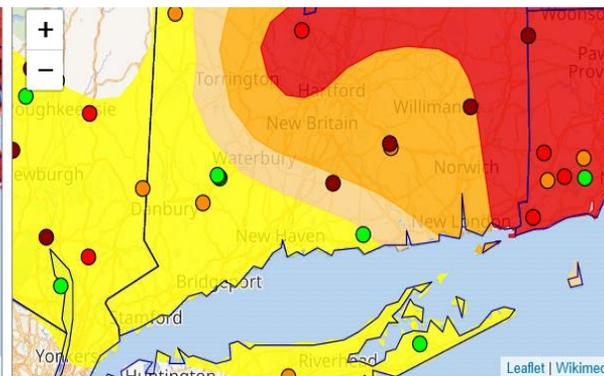
Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

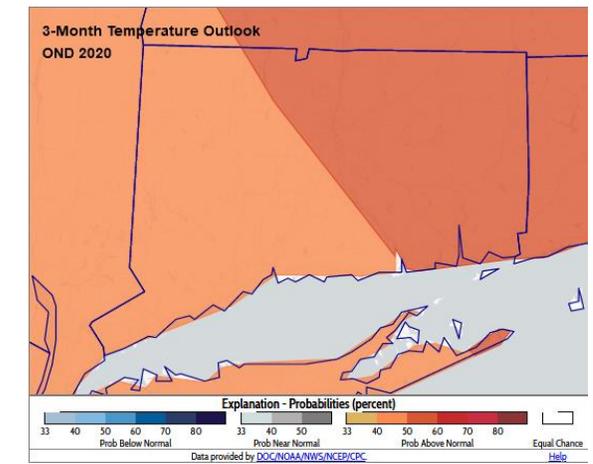
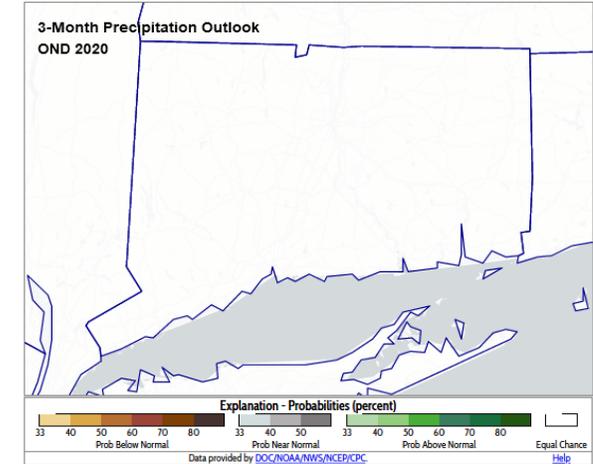
Data provided by USGS WaterWatch - Streamflow; updated 2020-10-01.



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

Data provided by USGS Groundwater Watch - CRN; updated 2020-10-01.

3-Month Precipitation and Temperature Outlook





DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar # 23

COVID-19

for

Water Utilities

Certified Water

Operators

Environmental

Laboratories

10/01/2020

Fiscal & Asset Management Plan Small CWS

- Letter went out this week to 286 Small CWS serving <1,000 people reminding them of the requirement to complete a Fiscal & Asset Management Plan by **1/1/2021**.
- DPH is asking PWS to send in a certification of completion form once plan has been completed.
- Template, example, instructions, guidance and training webinar on how to complete template on DWS Capacity Development for Small Systems Webpage.
- Contact Mandy.Smith@ct.gov with any questions

COVID-19





**DRINKING WATER
SECTION**

WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar # 23

COVID-19

for

Water Utilities

**Certified Water
Operators**

**Environmental
Laboratories**

10/01/2020

Free Training

Free upcoming Training Opportunity with EFCN

-Asset Inventory

-Mapping Programs

for small water systems

October 8, 2020,

2-3:30 PM

Registration Link - open to all

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5758512239883902991>



Virtual Training | Asset Inventory and Mapping
for Small Water Systems
October 8, 2020 2pm EST-3:30pm EST

Join the Environmental Finance Center Network for a 1.5-hour
Asset Management Training.

- Obtain a solid understanding of what asset management is and how it benefits water systems
- Identify the 5 core components of asset management
- Develop basic skills to build a digital data collection application and understand how uniform data collection improves your inventory and analysis
- Discuss techniques, tools, and examples for developing asset inventories and building maps
- Gain a general understanding of the usage of collected data in water system mapping across a variety of GIS platforms such as ESRI's ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, and Google Earth
- Identify and learn to leverage the GIS technologies available to your system

This webinar was developed in cooperation with the CT Department of Health Drinking Water Section.

Presenters: Heather Himmelberger, Director, James Markham, and Luke Andrews, Research Scientists at the Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico

Register Online: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5758512239883902991>



SOUTHWEST
ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



COVID-19



DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES
Webinar # 23

COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020

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

COVID-19





COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Cross Connection Control - Inspections for Cross Connections & Tests of Backflow Prevention Devices

- **05/15/2020 Circular Letter 2020-32: Watershed and Cross Connection Inspections** https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/DWS_CL-2020-32_re_Watershed_Inspections_etc.pdf
- Public Water Systems (PWSs) should prioritize required tests and inspections by:
 - **first** inspecting those consumer premises for cross connections and testing those backflow prevention devices associated with the greatest risk of contaminating the PWS's distribution system (i.e. premises with Item 2 Category of Concern and/or RPDs),
 - **second** inspect those premises and test those backflow prevention devices with a lower risk of contamination (premises with Item 1, 3, 5 and/or 5 categories of concern),
 - Resources: Chapter 6 of the CT DPH Cross Connection Control Manual (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/XCMANUALpdf.pdf)
- During this COVID-19 pandemic the PWS may be unable to or prevented from inspecting all premises for cross connections and unable to test all backflow prevention devices as required:
 - Reasons include staffing shortages, safety concerns, limit person to person exposure, and lack of access to facilities
- The DPH Drinking Water Section will consider the impacts the COVID-19 emergency is having on PWSs when determining whether any enforcement response is appropriate for violations dealing with - Inspections for Cross-Connections and Testing of Backflow Prevention Device
- If "Unable" due to COVID-19 the PWS is to document its annual Cross Connection Survey Report (CCSR) "**Unable COVID-19 Inspection / Test**" in the CCSR form Comment section





DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar # 23

COVID-19

for

Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020

Environmental Labs Certification Program

- Suspension of renewals ; CL 2020-23
- Proficiency testing extended from July to Oct; CL 2020-37
- Inquiries, requests and applications to be submitted to:

Dawn Shaban

Email: Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov

Shinu Zachariah

Email: Shinu.zachariah@ct.gov

COVID-19





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**
- **All testimony is being reviewed and the hearing report is being drafted along with the final IUP**
- **Once the IUP is final, we will be formally requesting Part 1 of the Financial Assistance Application for each project on the Project Priority List**

COVID-19





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

COVID-19





UPDATES

DRINKING WATER
SECTION

WEBINAR SERIES
Webinar # 23

COVID-19
for
Water Utilities

Certified Water
Operators

Environmental
Laboratories

10/01/2020

- **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

COVID-19





COVID-19 - Suggestions

- Next webinar is on Thursday **10/22/20** at 1 pm.

October	
October 1, 2020	October 22, 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

Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

Thank You

**DRINKING WATER SECTION
Webinar 2020-23**



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

