WS Circular Letter 2020-14

TO: Environmental Laboratories

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, EHDW

DATE: March 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Environmental Laboratory Preparedness – COVID 19

As the State of Connecticut continues to move forward with the COVID 19 response, we are reaching out to all Environmental Laboratories to provide guidance during this emergency. We have received several questions regarding drinking water testing requirements and provide this response.

At this time, the continued protection of public drinking water remains paramount. The EPA has not suspended the drinking water quality monitoring requirements and therefore many public water systems will rely on you to conduct the analyses of drinking water samples especially the acute parameters such E.coli, nitrate and nitrite. So remaining open, if possible, to meet the federal drinking water monitoring requirements is essential during this emergency. If at any time any laboratory anticipates resources cannot be sufficiently maintained each laboratory should implement their contingency plan and subcontract out critical water quality testing and also notify this department.

For the latest information, resources, and guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus

Please join us Tuesday March 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM for the first webinar in the COVID-19 Environmental Laboratory Preparedness Series. Laboratories will receive an invitation via email to participate in this webinar series.

Webinar Registration URL: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2966492673013560587

We know these days are challenging and recognize all the critical work performed by our partners in the laboratory community. Thank you for your work.

Please contact Michael Hage of this office at michael.hage@ct.gov if there are any questions.

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