

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

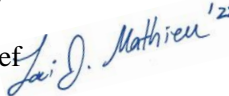
Manisha Juthani, MD  
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Lt. Governor

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

#### Circular Letter #2022-28

**TO:** Community Public Water Systems and Certified Water Operators  
**FROM:** Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief   
**DATE:** June 2, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Drying Conditions Update

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Community public water systems (CPWS) in Connecticut are responsible to provide weekly groundwater and surface water readings by submitting their groundwater and surface water reporting forms to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by email to [DPHWaterSupplyCapacity@ct.gov](mailto:DPHWaterSupplyCapacity@ct.gov). This information is important to ensure an understanding of how drought conditions might affect public drinking water for community populations. The DPH wishes to share the below current information with you:

#### 1. US Drought Monitor –

- a. US Drought Monitor has determined that the majority of Windham and New London Counties and portions of Tolland and Middlesex Counties are in the moderate drought classification D1 based on much below normal streamflow and groundwater and a significant departure from normal precipitation in the 30- and 90-day timeframe. The D1 classification under the US Drought Monitor indicates that streams, reservoirs, or wells are low and some water shortages are developing or imminent.
- b. US Drought Monitor has placed portions of Tolland, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in D0-Abnormal Dry classification. This stage is used to raise awareness of dry conditions and that if the conditions persist a drought may occur. Please see a map here: [US Drought Monitor CT](#)

2. The Interagency Drought Workgroup met on June 2, 2022 and designated Windham and New London Counties as being in Stage 1 of the CT Drought Response Plan. Stage 1 is an alert and preparedness stage of the drought plan. As part of the response plan, the Department of Public Health asks that public water systems provide a drought response



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communication contact to aide in communication between the state, the municipal drought liaison, and the water companies if conditions worsen.

3. The current period of dryness coincides with the beginning of increased demands on CPWS from outdoor water use. Nearly all surface water systems across the State indicate levels that are at or above normal levels for this time of the year.
4. As a precaution and in response to these drying conditions, the Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section reminds you to continue to take weekly readings of all sources, keep a watch over groundwater and surface water levels, and assess the current capacity to maintain adequate supply and pressure. The Department would also encourage CPWS to review their Emergency Contingency Plans in preparation for potentially worsening conditions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the DPH Drinking Water Section by electronic mail at [DWDcompliance@ct.gov](mailto:DWDcompliance@ct.gov), if you have any questions or run into any issues with respect to your public water system.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH  
Local Health Directors