

Public Water System, Certified Water Operators and Environmental Laboratories

COVID-19

Webinar # 2020-17

DRINKING WATER SECTION

Lori Mathieu

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch Chief

July 9, 2020

(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



AGENDA



**DRINKING WATER
SECTION**

WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar # 17

**COVID-19
for
Water Utilities**

**Certified Water
Operators**

**Environmental
Laboratories**

July 9, 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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July 9, 2020

- **Current Status of COVID 19 ; daily report from Governor via <https://portal.ct.gov/>**
- **Voluntary quarantine for travelers from 19 States**
- **Calls: CWSs, Env. Labs, Top Ops, EPA R1, P3 group**
- **Reminder to report all WQ results by July 10th**
- **Reopening Phase III (next slide)**

COVID-19





DPH/DWS Updates – Reopening

• Phase 3 Reopen Rules (mid-July)

**** Note: additional information regarding Phase 3 will be coming soon ****

- ❖ **Restaurants, Breweries & Wineries**
- ❖ **Rules for Gatherings and Venues (additional guidance in Phase 2 below)**

Effective from July 3rd

- ✓ Indoor private gatherings – 25 people
- ✓ Outdoor private gatherings – 100 people, one time exception for Graduations @ 150 people
- ✓ Outdoor organized gatherings (e.g. Fireworks, Concert in Municipal Park) – 15 feet of space blanket to blanket, cap of 500 people. Event organizer responsible for compliance with guidance.
- ✓ Outdoor Event Venues (e.g. Amphitheaters, Race Tracks) - 25% of Fire Capacity and distancing

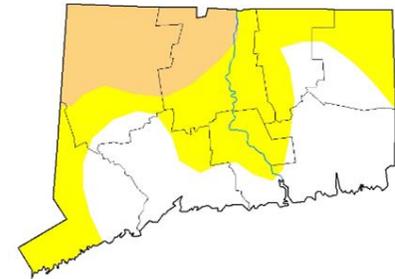


DPH/DWS Updates – Reopening

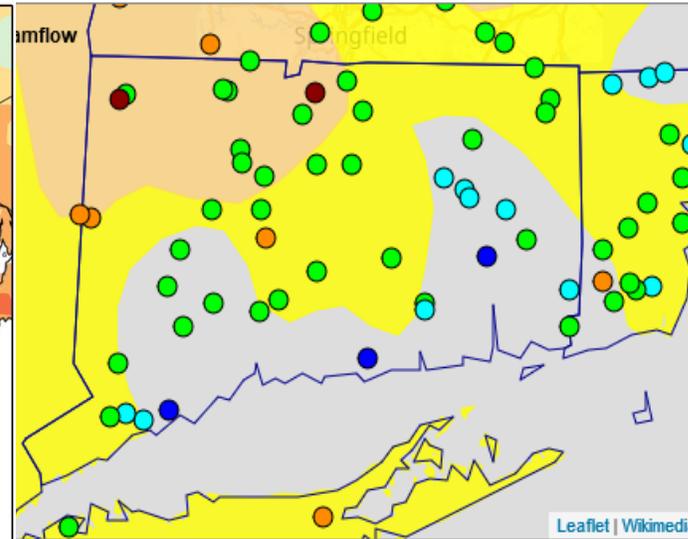
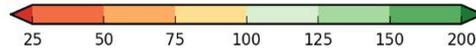
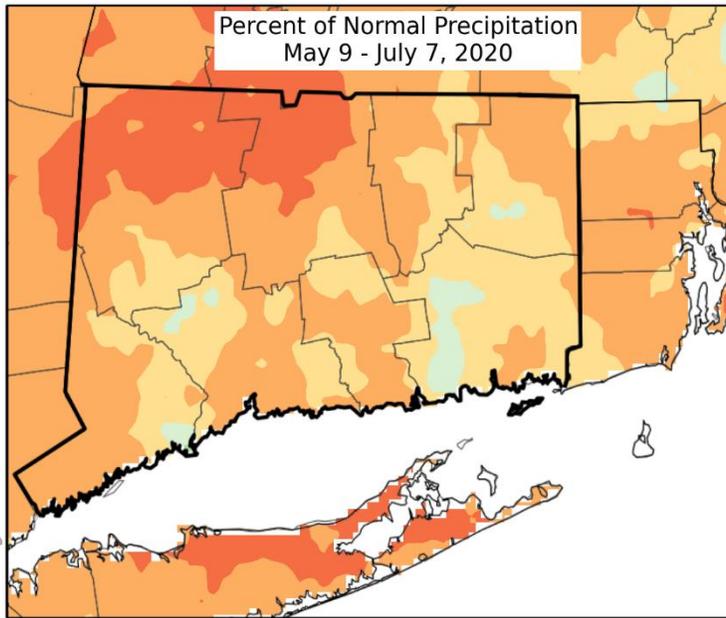
- Hot dry days coupled with reopening presenting us with unprecedented water demands causing water discoloration or insufficient pressure
- Conditions ripe for bacterial contamination and legionella growth
- Communicate often with customers and draft measures to be followed especially by HCFs
- Circular Letter-2020-54: Reporting weekly of water supply capacity readings
- Alternative care sites and shelters- Continue to provide technical assistance
- DWS “Return To Service” guidance is on DWS webpage



Tracking per State Drought Plan



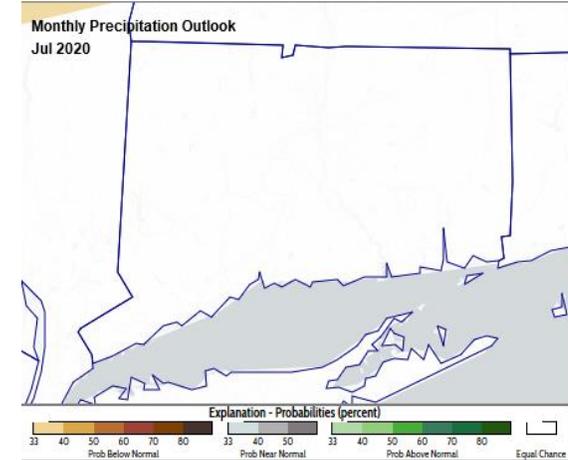
- ❖ Statewide Percent full is 91.97% ❖ Statewide Percent of Normal is 100.5%
- 23 Reservoir Systems <100% of Normal (+5 from previous week, 7 trending )
- 11 Systems – below normal capacities; 1 - 88% of Normal – hit 1st drought stage trigger
- US Drought Monitor contracted D0 area and slightly expanded D1 since last week



| Explanation - Percentile Classes | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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](https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/); updated 2020-07-09.

Stream flows improved over short term
July Precip outlook equal chance.





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Remote Sanitary Surveys

Please contact:

Thomas Chyra : thomas.chyra@ct.gov

Mandy Smith : mandy.smith@ct.gov

- **Pilot program conducted in June- GW PWS**
- **DWS developed a remote sanitary survey template**
 - **Modified after pilot to utilize virtual visit in lieu of photos**
- **Survey staff have received equipment (iPhones, network access) and will begin scheduling remote surveys soon**
- **Working separately on template for larger PWSs, plan to start remote surveys of larger PWSs in July – identify if field work will be necessary**

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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**;
- Questions regarding qualifications for renewal should go William.Sullivan@ct.gov and copy DWDcompliance@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

- **WEBEOC Update**
 - ❖ 90 entities/managers representing a total of 244 CWSs have logged in to WEBEOC (represents 2.8 million out of 3.1 million served by CWSs or 90%)
 - ❖ 26 entities with log in credentials have not reported yet in WEBEOC
 - ❖ All reports are for normal operation so far
- **CtWARN Update, including FEMA PPEs**
 - ❖ Update from Tom Barger
 - ❖ Update from RWA, including RWA initiatives from John Schultz



UPDATES

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- 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 **7/23/20** at 1 pm.
- Email Questions about operator certification to William.Sullivan@ct.gov
- 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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