

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Governor
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Lt. Governor

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

DWS 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Mathieu" followed by "2020".

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.

c: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Department of Public Health
Steve DiMattei, EPA Region 1



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