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Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:51 AM

Subject: Coronavirus Disease 2019 - Info & Resources for Water Utilities

Dear Community Water System Owners and Operators:

The 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) is becoming an increasingly significant issue internationally. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned that the U.S. could experience community spread of COVID-19, as is happening in China and other Asian countries. The CDC states that it's likely more cases will be identified in the U.S. and that person-to-person spread will continue to occur. The CDC also notes that the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and in the U.S., adding that "current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic." For more information on COVID-19 and resources to help reduce your risk of exposure, please visit the CDC [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Please see the following resources to help you and your water utility remain safe:

- [Business Continuity Planning for Water Utilities](#), from the Water Research Foundation, U.S. EPA, and the American Water Works Association
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) [COVID-19 webpage](#). On the webpage, OSHA indicates exposure risk may be elevated for wastewater management workers, among other types of workers. OSHA notes its [existing standards](#) apply to protecting workers from COVID-19, which are described on the webpage.
- The Water Environment Federation's (WEF's) [coronavirus webpage](#), which contains [The Water Professional's Guide to COVID-19](#), the recording from its February 25 "[Updates on Novel Coronavirus for Water Professionals](#)" [webcast](#), and other information and resources regarding COVID-19.
- The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) established its Incident Command System and activated its Emergency Operations Center to continue to monitor the response, providing assistance to member public health laboratories as they receive test kits distributed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the International Reagent Resource. [Click here](#) for more information on APHL's response.

Other general resources:

- WaterISAC [a portal page](#) to monitor and provide updates on this rapidly evolving situation. In addition to including information in its Security and Resilience Updates, it is maintaining with information and resources on COVID-19.
- The CDC's [Interim Guidance for Business and Employers to Plan and Respond to 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) provides information on how to prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COV-ID 19. The guidance also includes planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19.
- The CDC's "[Prevention and Treatment](#)" [webpage](#) provides recommendations for individuals to avoid being exposed to the virus.
- The CDC's "[Implementing Home Care](#)" [webpage](#) provides recommendations for anyone who may have the COVID-19 infection to reduce the risk of spreading the illness to others.
- FEMA's [Business Continuity Planning Suite](#) provides access to tools and information to guide organizations through creating a business continuity plan.

The following information is available to WaterISAC subscribers:

- [Business Continuity Planning in the Event of an Influenza: A Reference Guide](#), from WaterISAC and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- [Pandemic Impacts to Lifeline Critical Infrastructure](#), from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

We appreciate your efforts in taking care of your health as well as the health and safety of your water customers.

Stephanie Nistico

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