

From: Hall, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Hall, Bill; Mackey, Chip; Lamarsh, Brian.M
Subject: FW: NH Drinking Water Monitoring during COVID-19 (P) 031820

Dear Laboratory Directors and Quality Assurance Officers,

Please note the message concerning **NH Drinking Water Monitoring** from Chip Mackey of the NHDES DWGB.

Feel free to delete the message if you do not perform compliance drinking water analyses in NH.

Bill Hall
NH ELAP
(603) 271-2998

From: Mackey, Chip <Harrison.Mackey@des.nh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Hall, Bill <George.Hall@des.nh.gov>
Subject: NH Drinking Water Monitoring during COVID-19

Dear Lab Director/Manager,

We have gotten multiple inquiries from labs looking for clarification and guidance as we navigate the COVID-19 National Emergency. This is just a quick note to try to provide that.

But first we want to recognize the important role you all play and thank you for your partnership, with NHDES and public water systems, in assuring safe drinking water. Especially during this on-going crisis.

It is as important as ever that we assure that the water people are consuming is safe to drink. Especially in a time when people are stuck at home. Imagine if E.coli is present and not identified on top of the current health crisis.

The State of New Hampshire and USEPA have no intention of relaxing sampling schedules. So samples must be taken and results submitted to us in a timely manner. One thing that NH is allowing is for water systems to collect bacteria samples in the distribution system at an alternative location in the distribution system, if necessary to avoid going into people's homes or other facilities that are high-risk or closed. The selected alternative location must be a location that is representative of the water in the distribution system. An alternative location may include an outside tap or other location that is lower risk for the sampler. Extra care and caution for tap cleaning and flushing prior to sampling should be used for any alternative locations. As always, follow-up sampling will be required for all positive bacteria results. At this time, using an alternate bacteria location does not need pre-approval from DES. However the public water system must document where the samples are taken on the sampling form. And you, the lab, needs to submit that description to DES. We will take it from there.

Please contact us or have the water system contact us if there are any questions or unusual situations. The State is working diligently to make sure all critical drinking water functions are being taken care. You may not get an immediate response to your inquiry but someone will get back to you to address any issues/problems.

E.coli and nitrate exceedances should be handled as always, contacting DES ASAP. The only thing different is that if you can't reach someone at DES during regular business hours, treat it as you would an after-hours or weekend incident by contacting the NH State Police at 603-223-4381 and asking for the on-call person at DES.

We will do our best to keep you updated of any changes via email.

I hope this helps. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all you do.

Be well,

Chip

Harrison 'Chip' Mackey
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Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau