



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

We would like to let you know what the Western Berks Water Authority is doing as a result of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. The health and safety of our customers, community, and employees is our top priority. Our main objective is to remain operational and continue to support the municipalities and customers that we serve.

During an emergency or crisis, it is important for everyone within the organization to reflect on the Authority's mission statement:

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose and desire of the Western Berks Water Authority is to deliver our customers with integrity, a safe, reliable, and sustainable water service. We strive to provide our water at the lowest reasonable rate, consistent with safe business practices, in an environmentally sound manner. We will attempt to understand our customers' needs and to insure the ability to meet future compliance, water quality and capacity requirements.

Our treatment plant has multiple barriers which provide protection that includes sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. These treatment barriers are effective in removing and/or inactivating viruses. Our water treatment plant produces water that meets all current federal and state drinking water requirements.

The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. **Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.** EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems that prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water and wastewater. Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19, is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection and standard treatment and disinfectant processes are expected to be effective.

Recent Coronavirus news is a good reminder for our operations staff to be extra diligent in the operation of our water treatment plant. It has focused both management and staff to review and implement our emergency response plan and our preparedness plan. In addition, we are following guidance from Berks County's Emergency Management Agency, CDC, and other state and federal agencies.

What Are We Doing Internally?

Although many of our employees are in the low or very low risk segment for contracting COVID-19, we all have an obligation to do our part to slow the spread and protect the health of our team members and families.

We have taken measures to remain fully operational to serve you, such as:

1. Cancelling employee attendance at any events with more than 25 attendees and keep in-person meetings to a minimum in the building.
2. Minimizing onsite visits, beyond essential guests, and screening all visitors to assess their risk level.
3. Instituting daily and more frequent sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces.
4. Requiring employees to self-identify any factors that would put them at a higher risk to exposure.
5. Offering opportunities to alter work shifts to minimize the number of people in the building at a given time and provide opportunities for those who lose childcare due to school and daycare closures.
6. Requiring employees that are sick or have sick family members to stay home and if possible work from home.
7. Recommend that our employees practice social distancing during their personal time away from work.

We are actively taking every step necessary to ensure your water supply is not disrupted. As we become aware of any additional updates, we will be sure to make you aware immediately.

Thank you,
Western Berks water Authority

