



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program
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The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at:
mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers

or at the Statehouse Archives at : <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



Credit: Berkshire Scenery, Ogden Gigli, Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism

Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-09-25

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. New PFAS Regulations To Take Effect
2. MassDEP Covid-19 Information
3. Cloth Mask Availability (replies needed by **Wednesday, 9/30/20**)
4. WIFTA Implementation
5. More Grant Funds for Lead in Schools Program
6. New Way to Communicate Water Quality
7. Lead and Copper Exceedances
8. Lead and Copper Rule- Lead Service Lines
9. Training

New PFAS Regulations To Take Effect

On October 2, 2020, the MassDEP will publish final regulations establishing a drinking water standard, or a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The MCL is 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for what the regulations call PFAS6, or the sum of six PFAS compounds: perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid

(PFDA). PFAS are a family of chemicals widely used since the 1950s to manufacture common consumer products. They have been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly in women who are pregnant or nursing, and in infants. In using the sum of six PFAS compounds, the new standard protects public health for sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants.

For more information please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject PFAS

Useful weblinks

- Complete text of the PFAS regulations: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>.
direct link to document: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-mcl-revisions-to-310-cmr-2200-clean-version-9-16-2020>
- Press Release: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-establishes-strict-standards-for-pfas-in-drinking-water-to-protect>
- Regulations Comments: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>
direct link to documents:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-mcl-revisions-to-310-cmr-2200-comments-received-after-january-2020-public-hearing-set-1>
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-mcl-revisions-to-310-cmr-2200-comments-received-after-january-2020-public-hearing-set-2>
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-mcl-revisions-to-310-cmr-2200-action-network-comments>
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-mcl-revisions-to-310-cmr-2200-comments-received-from-mwwa-members>
- Quick Reference Guide: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>
direct link to document: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-drinking-water-regulations-quick-reference-guide>
- DWP email to PWS: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers#emails-and-direct-mail>
direct link to document: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-pfas-maximum-contaminant-level-mcl-and-updates>

MassDEP COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Sign-up for the state messaging tool called “AlertsMA” which sends real-time notifications of COVID-19 alerts. To subscribe to these real-time notifications text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

Masks and Face Coverings: On May 1, Governor Baker issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public situations when appropriate social distancing measures are not possible. [Order](#) | [Guidance](#)

Phase 3, Step 1 (as of July 6) - Re-opening Massachusetts

Until a treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 is available, life will not return to normal. We each have a collective responsibility to ensure that reopening proceeds smoothly and safely. Everyone must follow public health directives and use common sense to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
- [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
- [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Drinking Water Operator license Extension Guidance during the public health emergency <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>
- MassDEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information>
- Form to document non-compliance related to COVID-19 <https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency>
- Information on Training for Public Water Suppliers <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drinking-water-training>
- Reminder: Please note that during the COVID-19 pandemic that MassDEP staff are generally working remotely. MassDEP-DWP cannot guarantee that posted hardcopy submittals will be delivered or received as expected. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to use eDEP, if available, for water quality monitoring reporting or if you mail in reports to also submit a PDF copy of the report by email to Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov. The subject line should include the PWSID, City/Town and type of report (e.g. 3035000 Boston Bacteria Report). Continue to mail the official hardcopy to the appropriate MassDEP Regional office but indicate

on the cover letter or similar enclosure that the report(s) was sent in via email and include the date of the email.

MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is now holding monthly Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

These calls are now on a monthly schedule

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Zoom Meeting Information

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://zoom.us/meeting/uJEtf-isqzstGhSf_beAtiSdfHxEd-69rQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuytrjMrHtGVt1z9d7lvW4X-b-HyllZGmaVinhREfYlgZgXeLsdGf-QmAumB

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/anAJCjR7G>

EPA COVID-19 Information

EPA COVID-19 <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

CLOTH MASK AVAILABILITY!

MassDEP has the opportunity to obtain more cloth masks for distribution to the water sector, but we must first gauge interest. If your system is currently in need of cloth masks or is planning for a near future need (i.e., planning for possible coronavirus spike during the upcoming cold/flu season), please submit the following information **by Wednesday, 9/30/20** to Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, **Subject:** Cloth Masks

[DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov), **Subject:** Cloth Masks

1. Contact Name
2. Contact Phone
3. Total # Staff Needing Masks
4. *PWS ID#

*Contract operators – please self-identify as contractor in lieu of PWS ID#

Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA) Implementation

MassDEP amended the Final Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, dated April 27, 2020, to effectuate the transfer of \$30 million from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The funds may be used to provide additional subsidy in the form of loan forgiveness. Project activities eligible for this enhanced loan forgiveness include planning and construction for lead removal, corrosion control capital improvements, and full replacement of lead pipes and service lines. More information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/2020-final-srf-intended-use-plans#2020-final-iups>.

More Grant Funds for Lead in Schools Program

MassDEP has been awarded a \$321,000 EPA grant to continue our Lead in Schools Program work. This is the second grant under the WIINS school grant program.

More information about the Lead in Schools Program is available at <https://www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water>.

*Also, see later article on training opportunity for Lead in Schools Program.

New Way to Communicate Water Quality

The Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) is excited to announce the [Water Data Prize](#)! The Prize is an open invitation for teams to imagine a new way of communicating water quality.

America's 50,000 water utilities must provide their customers with a "Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)" each year. By federal law, this report must include information about water quality, including test results on contaminants like lead, copper, and coliform bacteria.

While most utilities publish reports that technically meet these requirements, the average American would struggle to understand what they mean. We believe that there are creative ideas for how to communicate this critically important information. We are launching a design competition -- open to water utilities, tech companies, university teams, artists, or any other group -- to take an existing CCR of a water system and show a different way to package and share that information that makes it more useful to customers.

You can find a tiny fraction of CCRs here on this [EPA](#) website, or hundreds available for the state of [Maryland](#) or [Mississippi](#) which are unique in sharing them all, or individual reports from [Los Angeles](#), [Tulsa](#) (OK), [Flint](#) (MI), [Cairo](#) (IL), or [Rutland](#) (VT). CCRs were created for the explicit purpose of increasing transparency and building trust among consumers, and we believe that with the right tweaks and improvements, they can still accomplish those goals and generate community support for investments in our water infrastructure.

The Water Data Prize is now open for applications. See www.waterdatapriz.com for all the details.

About EPIC: The [Environmental Policy Innovation Center](#) builds policies that deliver spectacular improvement in the speed and scale of environmental progress. A nonprofit start-up, EPIC is committed to finding and highlighting the best approaches to scaling up results quickly. EPIC focuses on clean water, endangered species, environmental markets and the use of data and technology in producing conservation outcomes. Our water [program](#) focuses on water infrastructure financing, federal and state policy, and transforming the role of 'trust' in water services, especially through data technology.

Lead and Copper Exceedances

The Lead and Copper Rule applies to all community and NTNC water systems of which there are approximately 779 in the Commonwealth.

All samples collected by the public water systems that meet the proper site selection and sample collection procedures specified by the US EPA and the state are used to determine the 90th percentile calculation, even if the PWS collected samples from more sites than required. No more than 10% of samples collected should be over the action level.

MassDEP Drinking Water Program routinely posts 90th percentile results for the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) on our web page at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-systems-90th-percentile-lead-sampling-results> . This posting occurs 3 times per year after each round of LCR monitoring (March 1, September 1 and December 1).

There have been only four systems identified on the 90th percentile list as exceeding the lead action level of 15 ppb. This list includes three community systems and one NTNC system. These systems are working with the MassDEP regional offices to address the exceedance.

Free Online Training on Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities (1.5 TCHs)

On September 28th from 1-2:30 PM, learn from state experts about the issue of lead in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities and free state assistance to help address it. This is especially relevant as facilities reopen after being closed due to the pandemic. Speakers include staff from the MassDEP, Massachusetts DPH, and UMass-Amherst. This training has been approved for 1.5 training contact hours (TCHs) by the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Facilities (Board). This is a repeat of the training held on August 27th and additional TCHs will not be issued to individuals who attend both trainings.

Register at <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4098645506171916289>

Note that:

- You must register with an email address with which you can be contacted after the training is complete. Please do not use an email address you do not check daily.
- ***This training must be taken on a computer or other electronic device (such as an iPad or tablet), and not only by telephone.*** Attendance will be monitored using tools only accessible on electronic devices. However, you are not required to use your computer camera (meaning you do not have to "show your face").

Attendance Statement

Please note the purposes of meeting requirements of the Board for issuing TCH:

- 1) The training session will be recorded.
- 2) Zoom tools will be used to monitor attendance throughout the 1.5 hours. These tools may include, but are not limited to, requests to "Raise Your Hand", answer a question poll that pops up on the computer screen, take a quick survey, etc.
- 3) You will be required to complete and return an evaluation of the training online within a set period of time.

MassDEP reserves the right to withhold TCHs if attendance cannot be verified.

Lead and Copper Rule – Lead Service Lines

Earlier today, ASDWA, in partnership with [Blue Conduit](#), released a [white paper](#) on lead service line (LSL) data methods that outlines important considerations for state regulators and water systems when using statistical and predictive models for LSL inventory and replacement. Substantial uncertainty still surrounds the nation's water systems regarding the number and locations of lead service lines. This uncertainty stems primarily from inadequate records and data. The accuracy of these records carries significant implications for utility operations, public health, regulatory compliance, and long-term asset management and the intent of this white paper is to assist all involved in implementing the [Lead and Copper Rule Revisions \(LCRR\)](#) with developing a better understanding of the accuracy and the uncertainties with these records. Status of final LCRR: [the final LCRR is still under review at OMB](#).

Asset Management for Small Water Systems

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:00 am -3:00 pm 4 TCHs

RCAP Solutions is offering a **free** 4-hour training to help your utility learn about asset management, developing a capital budget, maintenance scheduling, and more. For more information contact mark at mjohnson@rcapsolutions.org.

Register [here](#).

EPA's State EJ Training Webinar

October 21, 2020 1:00 pm ET

The US EPA's second State Environmental Justice Training Webinar session for 2020 will focus on "Incorporating Equity in Disaster Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Programs." In light of the severe weather events proliferating and intensifying, this webinar is extremely relevant and timely.

Register [here](#).

Wildfires and Resulting Impacts to Water Bodies Used as Drinking water

EPA webinar September 29, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Register here: attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2152789201095229455

This presentation will discuss watersheds' response to post-fire sedimentation and will provide information on how water utilities can modify treatment plant operations to avoid disinfection byproducts.

For more information: <https://ncceh.ca/events/epa-webinar-wildfires-and-resulting-impacts-water-bodies-used-drinking-water-sources>


Training

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.
