

# BCWA PINNACLE

Clear Creek County  
Jefferson County  
City of Lakewood  
Town of Morrison  
Aspen Park Metropolitan District  
Conifer Sanitation Association  
Denver Water Department  
Denver Parks & Recreation  
Evergreen Metropolitan District  
Forrest Hills Metropolitan District  
Genesee Water & Sanitation District  
Jefferson County School District  
Kittredge Sanitation & Water District  
West Jefferson County Metro District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## Evergreen Metropolitan District, Kittredge Sanitation & Water District, and West Jefferson County Metro District

These Districts activated emergency response plans in mid-March. The goal of the plans is to keep all water and wastewater facilities functional and in compliance with all permit requirements during the emergency. These plans included the closure of all facilities to the public, the conversion from face-to-face meetings with virtual meetings, and activation of emergency response plans for each department. These plans include working remotely whenever possible, maintain distance and isolation from each other, and use of all personal protective equipment. During these current times we are in a maintaining mode for projects on the list, equipment will be serviced while keeping safe social distance as much as possible. The District will continue with this current plan until the Stay at Home Directive ban has been lifted.

## Genesee Water & Sanitation District

In early March, the District's Advanced Water Treatment Facility and Administration Office were labeled as clean spaces, meaning no non-essential personnel or visitors, and employees must wash hands immediately upon entering (prior to touching anything). Buildings are treated as clean/disinfected from interior door knobs on. The two office employees have gone to switching days on (one working per day). No employees are allowed to show up if they have any symptoms or believe they have been around anyone with symptoms, and it was made very clear to staff that time off if necessary, would be paid in full. The wastewater plant is a bit more difficult to control so only myself (District Superintendent) and two of the six District operators are allowed in the plant. This leaves four operators in less danger for water treatment operations. We wear masks when around others, and wash our hands constantly, but we obviously continue to work 7 days/week.

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## Water and Wastewater Facilities Respond to CoVID19 Pandemic

### Your water is safe to drink.

The CoVID-19 virus (a novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2) has not been detected in public drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence from related coronavirus studies, the virus doesn't survive the disinfection process. People can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.

All water providers in the watershed and through-out Colorado follow drinking water regulations that prevent waterborne pathogens, such as

a virus like CoVID-19, from contaminating your drinking water. Chlorination treatment is sufficient to kill CoVID-19 in drinking water systems.

The water providers will continue to deliver safe water to you. They have plans in place for handling emergencies of this type and routinely conduct exercises to prepare them for a variety of events. Each provider within the watershed has plans to ensure operations continue in this emergency.

**Denver Water** has suspended all water shut-offs due to delinquent payments to ensure all customers have access to this vital resource.

Denver Water Customers who are concerned about being able to pay a bill should contact the Denver Water Customer Care team at 303-893-2444, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Customer Care team is experienced in working with customers to evaluate options, like payment plans, or connecting the customer with other resources, including Denver's Temporary Rent and Utility Assistance program.

In addition, we are attempting to limit water outages to emergencies only and have processes in place to restore water as quickly as possible at all times. Routine street projects that require temporary outages for more than one residence will be put on hold to ensure continuous water service in order to protect the safety and well-being of employees, customers and the community.

Denver Water has a team of industry experts in Emergency Management, Safety and Security, Water Quality and Operations who have been actively tracking coronavirus since January, reviewing data as conditions shift, and taking steps to prepare for potential impacts to Denver Water. They are working daily with public health partners to continue monitoring. They will do everything necessary to deliver clean, safe and reliable water to 1.5 million people. For additional information please visit: <https://denverwatertap.org/>

[www.bearcreekwatershed.org](http://www.bearcreekwatershed.org)

Bear Creek Watershed  
Association and Bear Creek  
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## Can food be contaminated with CoVID-19?

Generally speaking, food is not contaminated with any of the known coronaviruses, and cooking would kill any virus in the food. See <https://www.fda.gov/media/137009/download> or <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

Help keep household plumbing and our wastewater infrastructure operating properly by only flushing toilet paper. Disinfecting wipes and other items should be disposed of in the trash, not the toilet

**Coronavirus Pandemic and Water/  
Wastewater Utilities general information**  
from the Environmental Protection Agency  
about CoVID-19 is available at [www.epa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus).

Utilities in the watershed have reviewed and updated their plans and they stay in close contact with their local health department and regulatory agency as the CoVID-19 situation is dynamic and evolving rapidly. Water and wastewater systems need the most up-to-date information in order to make decisions that are right for their utility based on the pandemic impacts to their specific community.

Virus can survive in raw wastewater and be found in the distribution system (pipes and at lift stations). Wastewater personnel are taking all necessary precautions to reduce risk of exposure. The virus that causes CoVID-19 has been detected in the feces of some patients diagnosed with CoVID-19. The amount of virus released from the body (shed) in stool, how long the virus is shed, and whether the virus in stool is infectious are not known.

There is no evidence that CoVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools, hot tubs or spas, or water playgrounds. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds should inactivate the virus that causes CoVID-19.

SARS, a similar coronavirus, has been detected in untreated sewage for up to 14 days. In the 2003 SARS outbreak, there was documented transmission associated with sewage aerosols. The available information suggests that standard municipal wastewater system chlorination practices may be sufficient to inactivate coronaviruses, as long as utilities monitor free available chlorine during treatment to ensure it has not been depleted.

## Risks to Wastewater Utilities

There are impacts caused by this pandemic to the wastewater utilities in the watershed, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Staff shortages due to absenteeism.
- Supply chain disruptions (chemicals, materials, personal protective equipment)
- Field operations interruptions (repairs, meter reading, sampling, cleaning lines or other infrastructure from undesirable waste products)
- Inability to maintain all normal operations.
- Increased disinfectant by-products in wastewater can disrupt operations

## Viruses in natural waters; Are our streams and lakes safe?

Viruses can survive in our waterways for several hours and within shallow groundwater for days. However, there are many factors that control the survival of viruses in water such as temperature, light, pH, salinity, organic matter, suspended solids or sediments, and air-water interfaces. Temperature has the highest effect on virus's survival in water since lower temperatures are a key to longer virus survival. The risk is low for virus transport into streams or reservoirs.

## Will my septic system treat CoVID-19?

While decentralized wastewater treatment (i.e., septic tanks) do not disinfect, EPA expects a properly managed septic system can treat CoVID-19 the same way it safely manages other viruses often found in wastewater. Additionally, when properly installed, a septic system is located at a distance and location designed to avoid impacting a water supply well. The risk is low in having viruses introduced into shallow groundwater aquifers.

## Jefferson County School District

After March 13th the school district closed all school buildings for the remainder of the school year. Minimal staff continue to maintain, clean and disinfect the buildings. Our water and wastewater staff work independently using personal protective equipment to ensure their own health and safety. Shift start times have been staggered to comply with social distancing requirements. Work that can be done off site is done remotely. Jeffco Schools utilizes ORC Water Professionals, a contract operations company, to provide expertise and back up staffing if needed. Jeffco Schools continues to operate our water and wastewater facilities, at considerably reduced demand, in compliance with all federal and state regulations.