

COVID-19 reminds us that Water Resources are Essential

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IWRA

**International
Water Resources
Association**



Use of water resources in water, sanitation and hygiene

- 💧 Drinking
- 💧 Water-washed sanitation sewerage systems
- 💧 Hand-washing
- 💧 Cleaning
- 💧 Laundry
- 💧 Washing food



Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for the
COVID-19 virus

Interim guidance
23 April 2020

Broader uses of water

- ◆ Fire-fighting
- ◆ Irrigation
- ◆ Aquaculture
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Cooling
- ◆ Manufacturing
- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Environment



Problems experienced

- 💧 Workers being absent
- 💧 Infrastructure failing
- 💧 Supply chain interruption
- 💧 Public perception
- 💧 Other impacts

Workers being absent due to illness or caring duties

Become ill or die from COVID-19

Need to care for others that are made ill

Caring for family members as schools closed

Workers being afraid to work

Unwilling to be close to others at work or during travel for work

Worried about COVID-19 virus in sewage

Worried about infecting others so don't come to work

Infrastructure failures

Closure of construction sites

Inability to reach sites to conduct works

Supply chain

Chemicals used in water treatment

Materials for infrastructure construction and repair

Laboratory equipment and reagents

Specialist parts and equipment

Public perception

Fear of sewage and impacts on drinking water, beaches and food

Fear of drinking water contamination

Other impacts

Additional sanitisers, detergents and cleaning wipes in sewage

Inability to pay for water and sewer services

Economic impacts leading to adverse water resources management impacts

Solutions

- 💧 Communication
 - 💧 Workers
 - 💧 Public
- 💧 Working arrangements
 - 💧 Work remotely
 - 💧 A and B teams and backup teams
- 💧 Supply chain management



Useful guidance

- ◆ WHO

- ◆ COVID-19 information

- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

- ◆ WASH Technical Brief <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>

- ◆ Hand hygiene: https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

- ◆ Using gloves:

- https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_Information_Leaflet.pdf

- ◆ Industry guides

- ◆ US: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>

- ◆ Australia: <https://watersource.awa.asn.au/featured-news/a-practical-guide-on-covid-19-for-the-water-industry/>