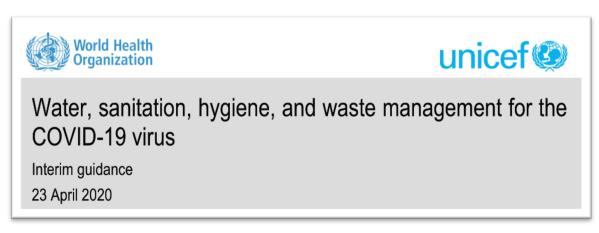
# COVID-19 reminds us that Water Resources are Essential

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# Use of water resources in water, sanitation and hygiene

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



https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331846/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC\_WASH-2020.3-eng.pdf

#### 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 <u>https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</u>
- WASH Technical Brief <a href="https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19">https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19</a>
- ♦ Hand hygiene: <a href="https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean\_hands\_protection/en/">https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean\_hands\_protection/en/</a>
- Using gloves:
  <a href="https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove\_Use\_Information\_Leaflet.pdf">https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove\_Use\_Information\_Leaflet.pdf</a>

#### Industry guides

- US: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater">https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater</a>
- ♦ Australia: <a href="https://watersource.awa.asn.au/featured-news/a-practical-guide-on-covid-19-for-the-water-industry/">https://watersource.awa.asn.au/featured-news/a-practical-guide-on-covid-19-for-the-water-industry/</a>