

SDARWS
South Dakota Association
of Rural Water Systems

SPECIAL EDITION

Quality On Tap!

May 2020 | Volume 15 - Special Edition



COVID-19 UPDATE
TAP WATER IS
SAFE TO DRINK

CERTIFICATION CLASSES GO ONLINE | SDWARN CALL TO ACTION

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems



SOUTH DAKOTA WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SYSTEMS,

Effective immediately, South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) will be following the National Rural Water Associations' federal guidelines and limiting on-site visits by our field staff. If your system has an emergency, please contact the SDARWS office or field staff immediately. We will evaluate the situation and if deemed necessary a Circuit Rider, Wastewater Technician or other Field Staff will make suitable arrangements to come to your facility and provide hands-on assistance. If it is a non-emergency, you are encouraged to call, we will continue to offer remote assistance and advice.

SDARWS is here for our members during these trying times with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time our offices will be closed to the public (doors locked), but still functioning Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (CDT) we will continue to receive phone calls at 605-556-7219 and to check and respond to emails. We will continue to monitor any changes of the COVID-19 pandemic and adhere to additional federal, state and local directives as they are issued and understood.

If you have any questions, concerns or need further information, please contact the SDARWS office 605-556-7219 or call directly; Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director 605-204-0125 (cell).

In closing, we remind everyone that it is your responsibility to keep your family, neighbors and fellow South Dakotans safe by following all Federal, State and Local guidelines dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the avoidance of group gatherings and the practice of social distancing. Thank you and stay safe!



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YOUR TAP WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

IS DRINKING TAP WATER SAFE?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The World Health Organization (WHO), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

IS TAP WATER SAFE TO USE FOR HAND WASHING?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the CDC, washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

DO I NEED TO BUY BOTTLED WATER OR STORE DRINKING WATER?

EPA recommends that citizens continue to use and drink tap water as usual. At this time, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or will affect the reliable supply of water.

DO I NEED TO BOIL MY DRINKING WATER?

Boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M CONCERNED ABOUT MY DRINKING WATER?

The World Health Organization (WHO) EXIT has stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in

drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low."

Homeowners that receive their water from a public water utility may contact their provider to learn more about treatments being used. Treatments could include filtration and disinfectants such as chlorine that remove or kill pathogens before they reach the tap.

WHAT IS EPA'S ROLE IN ENSURING DRINKING WATER REMAINS SAFE?

EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems that prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water. These treatment requirements include filtration and disinfectants such as chlorine that remove or kill pathogens before they reach the tap. Additionally, the World Health Organization (WHO) EXIT notes that, "conventional, centralized water treatment methods which utilize filtration and disinfection should inactivate COVID-19 virus."

The EPA continues to coordinate with federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and continues to provide technical assistance and support to states, as appropriate.

References

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

Thank a WATER OPERATOR



Water utility personnel are the unsung heroes of public health. The important work they do ensures that we have clean, safe water with every turn of the tap.

As we endure this COVID-19 pandemic, we must continue to recognize and thank each of the men and women working every day to ensure our water continues to flow and waste treatment systems continue to operate, while protecting our source waters and the environment. These services are essential to maintain public health, essential to protect the environment and essential to mitigate and eliminate the threat of this virus on our American communities and families. For all these reasons, each individual operating and working in these systems is considered essential to carry out these critical services during this emergency.

Systems of all sizes have taken necessary steps to ensure continuity of service and to protect the industry workforce. State Rural Water Associations have developed a listing of around 3,000 retired or otherwise qualified operations specialists to support systems if critical, local utility staff are unable to perform their duties due to the virus – including operations specialists in South Dakota.

The memorandum specifies the following Water and Wastewater sector employees as “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers:”

- Operational staff at water authorities
- Operational staff at community water systems
- Operational staff at wastewater treatment facilities

- Workers repairing water and wastewater conveyances and performing required sampling or monitoring, including field staff
- Operational staff for water distribution and testing
- Operational staff at wastewater collection facilities
- Operational staff and technical support for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Control systems
- Chemical and equipment suppliers to water and wastewater systems and personnel protection
- Workers who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting water and wastewater operations

The public health and well-being of our nation’s rural residents depends on uninterrupted access to safe drinking water. Rural water systems provide critically important, life-saving infrastructure by providing safe drinking water and clean sanitation at millions of homes across the United States and territories.

At this time, existing safe management techniques in both drinking water and sanitation apply to COVID-19. Extra measures are not needed. In particular, disinfection treatment processes will facilitate more rapid die-off of the COVID-19 virus. Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions play an essential role in protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 outbreak, and is the priority of water and wastewater operations specialists around the state and the country.



WATER SCIENCE

FUN EXPERIMENTS YOU CAN TRY AT HOME!

DIFFUSION

What you need:

- 2 clear glasses or jars
- Hot tap water
- Cold tap water
- Food coloring

Instructions:

Fill up one of your clear glasses with cold tap water, the other with hot tap water. Place the filled glasses on a table and let them sit until the water is calm. Add the food coloring one drop at a time so you can see the drop of color slowly spread throughout the water.

BENDING WATER

What you need:

- A plastic comb (or inflated balloon)
- A narrow stream of water from a tap
- Dry hair

Instructions:

Turn on the water so it is falling from the tap in a narrow stream. Run the comb through your hair just as you normally would when brushing it (around 10 times). If you are using a balloon then rub it back and forth against your hair for a few seconds. Slowly move the comb or balloon towards the stream of water (without touching it) and watch closely to see what happens.

WALKING WATER

What you need:

- Odd number of clear glasses of the same size
- Tap water
- Paper towels
- Food coloring
- Spoon
- Scissors

Instructions:

Line glasses in a row about two inches apart. Starting with a glass on one end, fill every other glass with water. Put a few drops of food coloring in each water-filled glass and mix (don't use the same color twice). Cut a paper towel in half and then fold it into quarters lengthwise. Stick one end of the paper towel into the colored water and one end into the empty jar. Let sit for at least one hour. Over time the water moves or "walks" up the paper towels into the empty jar until the water level in all the glasses are equal.

WATER CYCLE

What you need:

- Plastic bottle
- Plastic cup
- Ice cubes (optional)
- Blue food coloring

Instructions:

Remove the labels from the bottles. Add a drop of blue food coloring to each bottle and fill about 1/3 of the way with water. Screw the caps on tightly. Turn the bottle upside down inside a cup. Place a couple of ice cubes on top of the bottle and set it in a sunny location. Check the bottle after about an hour. There should be condensation on the top of the bottle, and there may even be a small cloud there! Watch as the droplets of water fall back to the bottom of the bottle.

Should you FLUSH IT?



CHANGES TO CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Course	Date	Location
Basic Water Treatment	April 7-9	Webinar by SDARWS
OpCert Exam CANCELLED	April 9 1:00 pm	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
OpCert Exam CANCELLED	April 23-12:30 pm	Pierre-Matthew Center
Small Water Treatment System Workshop	April 28	Webinar by SDARWS
Small Water Treatment System Workshop	April 30	Webinar by SDARWS
Stabilization Pond Workshop*	May 6	Huron-Crossroads/Events Center
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	May 19-21	Brookings-Days Inn
OpCert Exam	May 21-1:00 pm	Brookings-Days Inn
Intermediate Water Treatment	June 2-4	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
OpCert Exam	June 4-1:00 pm	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn
OpCert Exam	June 9-12:30 pm	Pierre-Matthew Center

SDWARN CALL TO ACTION

The current state of response to the COVID-19 virus means that water and wastewater systems must commit themselves as first responders to the protection of the public's health. The undisrupted continuation of water and wastewater service within all communities and regional providers is vital.

There may be systems, that due to an outbreak of COVID-19 require operational assistance. Accordingly, South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) and South Dakota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SDWARN) is compiling a pool (list of volunteers) of certified water and wastewater operators who might be available to provide emergency on-site assistance to other systems.

This assistance could require the responder to relocate to the requesting system for up to 14 days. Water/Wastewater systems and the responding operator should be prepared to keep detailed records of their response for reimbursement either through the requesting system or other available funding.

SDWARN is administered through the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS). Communications regarding this matter should therefore be through the SDARWS office. Your system need not be a member of SDWARN nor SDARWS to respond to this message. However, if activated, the system making the request and the systems responding to the request would need to become members of SDWARN as their mutual aid agreement would become the governing documents.

If an operator is available for this effort their name, certifications and certification levels along with contact information should be sent by email to Greg Gross at ggross@sdarws.com. There is no requirement that you respond if you reply to this request.

Thank you for your attention and assistance!

Due to the threat to public health posed by the coronavirus (CORVID-19) it was necessary to cancel/postpone the Basic Wastewater Treatment Course that was to be held in Huron, SD on March 24-26. We will try to reschedule that course in June of this year.

As for future certification courses the decision to cancel will be made the week prior to the exam dates. However, we are working on a system to offer online training. For those individuals who have registered and provided a viable email address you will receive a notice of how to register for the online class and where you can download the course materials.

Online classes will start at 8:00 AM Tuesday through Thursday and end at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Noon on Thursday. These online courses will be held on the same dates as the original course.

The email you receive will give you a link that will take you automatically to the website (Zoom) where you will have access to the class. You will most likely have to download the Zoom App on your phone or tablet, or download the software extension if using a computer.

It is very IMPORTANT that if you want to be included in this online training that you register on our website: www.sdarws.com and give us a viable email address.

MEET OUR NEW WASTEWATER TECH DANNY AYERS



SDARWS is pleased to announce that Danny Ayers has been hired as the Wastewater Technician for the east river area.

Danny has worked for the City of Winner, SD for about 30 years, and was the city's Water/Wastewater Superintendent until his recent retirement. Danny has multiple South Dakota Water & Wastewater certifications and is eminently qualified for the position. You can reach Danny at 605-291-2299, or email dayers@sdarws.com.



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HOW TO PROPERLY WASH YOUR HANDS

(scrub for at least 20 seconds - as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday")



1
WET HANDS



2
APPLY SOAP



3
RUB HANDS
PALM TO PALM



4
LATHER THE BACKS
OF YOUR HANDS



5
SCRUB BETWEEN
YOUR FINGERS



6
RUB THE BACKS OF
FINGERS ON THE
OPPOSING PALMS



7
CLEAN THUMBES



8
WASH
FINGERNAILS
AND FINGERTIPS



9
RINSE HANDS



10
DRY WITH A
CLEAN TOWEL



11
USE THE TOWEL TO
TURN OFF THE
FAUCET



12
YOUR HANDS ARE
CLEAN!