

# COVID-19: Drinking Water FAQs

Sources: U.S. CDC, Water Transmission and COVID-19 and U.S. EPA, Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater

The health and safety of our members and the people they serve are ASDWA's highest priorities. We understand that individuals in our communities are seeking timely and accurate information related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and many have questions about potential impacts to drinking water.



We hope the following information from our Federal partners at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO) will be of value to our membership, the public and the broader drinking water community.

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus survives the disinfection process for drinking water and wastewater.  
Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.

## Is Drinking Tap Water Safe? Should I Boil My Drinking Water?

The World Health Organization (WHO) stated 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."<sup>1</sup>

EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems to prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water. These treatments include filtration and disinfectants such as chlorine that remove or kill pathogens before they reach the tap. WHO notes that, "conventional, centralized water treatment methods which utilize filtration and disinfection should inactivate COVID-19 virus." Additionally, boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. 2020. Technical Brief. Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for the COVID-19 virus. March. Reference number: WHO/2019-NCoV/IPC\_WASH/2020.1

## Is Tap Water Safe to Use for Hand Washing?

According to the CDC, washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## What Should I Do If I'm Concerned About My Drinking Water?

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.

Homeowners with private wells who are concerned about pathogens such as viruses in drinking water may consider approaches that remove bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, including certified home treatment devices.