***COVID-19 and Drinking Water and Waste Water***

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is **low**. Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual. The EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems that prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water and wastewater. Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19, is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection and standard treatment and disinfectant processes are expected to be effective.

**Is drinking tap water safe?** EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another. EPA’s drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

**Do I need to boil my drinking water?** No, boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19.

**Is tap water safe to use for hand washing?** EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. Make sure to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, this will help 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. At this time, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or will affect eh reliable supply of water.

**What is EPA’s role in ensuring drinking water remains safe?** EPA has established regulation 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, World Health Organization notes that, “conventional, centralized water treatment methods which utilize filtration and disinfection should inactivate COVID-19 virus.”

**Can I get COVID-10 from wastewater or sewage?** WHO has indicated that “there is no evidence to date that COVID-19 virus has been transmitted via sewerage systems, with or without wastewater treatment.”

**Do wastewater treatment plants treat COVID-19?** Yes, wastewater treatment plants treat viruses and other pathogens. COVID-19 is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection. Standard treatment and disinfectant processes at wastewater treatment plants are expected to be effective.

**Will my septic system treat COVID-19?** While decentralized wastewater treatment do not disinfect, EPA expects a properly managed septic system to treat COVID-19 the same way it safely manages other viruses often found in wastewater. When properly installed, a septic system is located at a distance and location designed to avoid impacting a water supply well.

*Conservation Corner,*



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