

# Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater

There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA is providing this important information about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water and wastewater to provide clarity to the public. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. **Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.**

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. EPA is coordinating with our federal partners, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and will continue to provide technical assistance and support, as appropriate.

## Is drinking tap water safe?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The 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.”<sup>1</sup> Additionally, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another. [Read more from the CDC about transmission of COVID-19.](#) Further, EPA’s drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. 2020. Technical Brief. Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for the COVID-19 virus. March. Website: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>. Reference number: WHO/2019-NcOV/IPC\_WASH/2020.1