

MRWA REQUESTING INFORMATION - Please Read MRWA COVID-19 Emergency Response Statement



Water utilities provide an essential service every day of the year and that service is necessary for people isolated in their homes to survive the COVID-19 pandemic

Minnesota Rural Water Association is there for you with resources, assistance, and emergency response capabilities. Working together, being proactive, and taking all necessary precautions for health protection will be the winning combination to overcome this virus. **Call our office at 800-367-6792** or your technical advisors directly.

We are asking and recommending the following:

- 1) **MRWA is compiling a listing of certified water and wastewater operations specialists** who may be able to assist impacted systems in the event of an emergency. Please **RESPOND TO THIS [RESPONSE REQUEST FORM](#)** for details on getting on this response list. ***PLEASE CONSIDER***
- 2) **We encourage our utility members to reach out to neighboring systems and develop informal mutual aid networks in case critical utility staff are unable to perform their duties or supplies are needed.** At this point we do not know what the impact of this new virus will be and hardships it will cause. We all must be prepared to assure continuity of services, no matter the scenario. It is in the best interest of each utility, the public, and our nation.
- 3) **If your system is NOT a member of MnWARN, consider joining NOW.** In the event of an emergency, it will be difficult to coordinate a special Council meeting to approve the MnWARN Mutual Aid Agreement and Joint Resolution. Both documents are available on the MnWARN website: www.MnWARN.org for download OR you can call MRWA's office for assistance in obtaining those.
- 4) **Stay informed and Review Minnesota Department of Health's information and resources** for public water systems (PWSs) about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water at:
www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/pwscovid.html

MnWARN's *COVID-19 Response Statement*

In the event of an emergency, MnWARN could and should be activated; however, it should be stressed there is no guarantee a volunteer will come forward. In the event the State were to experience Pandemic Management Phase, many Minnesota communities would likely see a shortage of personnel to provide essential public services. That said, MnWARN is committed in our Mission of Utilities Helping Utilities, and would reach out to the 400+ MnWARN Members in an attempt to secure any requested resource. Now is the time for municipalities, regardless of size, to update or draft Emergency Operations Plans (EOP's), reach out to our neighboring communities to discuss Continuity of Operations (COOP's), and most importantly, refresh and enforce preventive measures.

Minnesota Rural Water Association continues to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and recommends all water and wastewater utilities review the best and latest information on the following trusted websites:

- Minnesota Department of Health: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/action.html>
- Governor Walz Office: <https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp>
- CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html
- OSHA: www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste
- WHO: www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19
- CISA: www.cisa.gov/insights

We must all be prepared, be informed and take all precautions necessary to protect our workforce and our families. Our industry motto is: Quality on Tap—Our Commitment, Our Profession. Our collective commitment should be to stay healthy and remain available to provide essential water services during the coming days, weeks and possibly months of this national health emergency.