



INAWWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE

PLANNING / PRECAUTIONS FOR UTILITIES

- **Understand the wellbeing and availability of water system operators is paramount, and protect them accordingly.**
- Require operators to disinfect common work stations (SCADA station, control consoles, lab equipment, truck steering wheels and shifters, common door knobs, bathrooms, etc.) after each shift.
- Operators should practice social distancing to reduce virus exposure. Restrict nonessential outside visits such as vendors, plant tours, contractors, etc.
- Suspend nonessential construction activities if contractors are in usual contact with operators or sharing common facilities (rest rooms, meeting rooms, equipment).
- Update critical standard operating procedures so other operators with little familiarity could come in and run the plant.
- Ensure all certified operators and other critical staff have smart phones at home so they can be consulted even if in quarantine.
- Ensure an adequate supply of materials (treatment chemicals, lab reagents, lab standards, generator fuel, and other consumables).
- Make sure sample site plans are up to date and accessible. Modify sample plans to avoid operator contact with certain facilities (densely populated places, immune-compromised populations, schools, etc.) during the emergency.
- Make sure operations staff are communicating frequently with management staff about the health status and availability of all employed/contracted operators.
- Provide water treatment cross training to other capable public works personnel who may be available to assist with the aid of remote guidance if there is a shortage of WTP operators.
- Communicate with chemical suppliers on product availability. Many supply chains are being impacted by the pandemic.
- Schedule and complete any urgent maintenance activities while O&M staff are available.
- Review INWARN mutual aid agreements, any other local or community mutual aid agreements, and update contacts.
- Identify experienced operators familiar with your facility and/or living nearby. Reach out to see if they are willing and available to help out in an emergency.
- Supply necessary provisions (showers, rest areas, food, etc.) for extended shift operations if necessary.
- Prepare communication materials for the public about virus transmission in drinking water. CDC has some info at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>