

Alert Details

Coronavirus Information

Learn more about the

[coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>)

and connect

[resources for Pennsylvanians](#)

with (<https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>)

DEP offices closed for 14 days

(<https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Contact/Pages/default.aspx>)

In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices will remain closed for at least the next 14 days, beginning March 17. To report environmental emergencies, please call 1-800-541-2050.

DEP staff that are able are teleworking, and still fulfilling the mission of the department. This includes reviewing permits, responding to complaints and environmental emergencies, and other work. For general inquiries, please continue to

([contact DEP](https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Contact/Page))

Participate in the 2020 U.S. Census to shape your future in PA. Learn more at [PA.gov/census](#).

Our population count in the 2020 U.S. Census determines our voice in government and the

[PA.gov/census](#)

federal funding our communities receive. Learn more at (<https://www.pa.gov/census/>)

DEP COVID-19 Update

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is continuing to respond to environmental emergencies and complaints during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Residents should contact DEP at **1-800-541-2050 to report environmental emergencies or complaints.**

To limit exposure to and spread of the virus, DEP is currently prioritizing field inspections that are critical to public health and safety. DEP staff are working remotely, and responding to complaints related to issues critical to public health and safety. DEP will continue to respond in the field to environmental emergencies that present an immediate threat to public health and safety.

Conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly evolving. DEP is closely monitoring the situation and working to make the best decisions to protect public health and safety and the environment. As conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic evolve, it may become necessary for DEP to make operational changes to compensate.

Many industries in Pennsylvania have been ordered to suspend operations for the duration of the emergency declaration. For industries that can remain in operation the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania encourages operators of essential industries to employ social distancing practices and limiting activities as possible. All permittees and operators are expected to meet all terms and conditions of their environmental permits, including conditions applicable to cessation of operations. **DEP is committed to its mission of protecting public health and the environment and as such will continue to monitor these permitted facilities that have temporarily ceased operations.**

Entities operating under a DEP permit that have ceased or suspended operations or construction, please refer to your permit terms and conditions, as they contain regulatory obligations and details regarding cessation or temporary stoppage of work. This includes, but is not limited to, Chapter 102 earth disturbance permits and Chapter 105 encroachment permits. Permittees or operators with questions about specific permit or operating conditions should contact the entities identified on their permit or cover letter. If a point of contact is not provided in the permit or cover letter, a [current DEP directory can be found here](#)

(/About/Contact/Pages/default.aspx)

. In addition, DEP is suspending the timeframes for providing permit decisions established in the ***Policy for Implementing the Department of Environmental Protection Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee*** due to the office closures related to COVID-19. Please note that DEP staff will continue to process received permit applications. However; due to operational conditions, applicants may experience delays receiving decisions. Applicants may also experience delays in receiving permit decisions where the applications are processed by County Conservation Districts. DEP will provide emergency authorizations for projects that are critical to public health and safety.

For companies affected by the March 19 order to close all non-essential businesses, please use the following email addresses:

ra-dcedcs@pa.gov

For questions about what is affected, please contact (mailto:ra-dcedcs@pa.gov)

To inquire about waiver eligibility or to apply for a waiver, please contact

RA-dcexemption@pa.gov

(mailto:RA-dcexemption@pa.gov)

[For a list of The Commonwealth of PA's office closures and delays, please click here](#)

(http://www.oa.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx)