

September 29,2020

EPA COVID-19 Water Sector Survey

Overview: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a voluntary survey to help assess the economic and operational challenges faced by the nation's water and wastewater systems as a result of COVID-19.

Survey objectives:

- Identify and gauge the severity of the past, current, and expected future challenges faced by drinking water and wastewater utilities as a result of the COVID-19 national health emergency.
- Collect information that would facilitate planning for a rapid response, if necessary, should there be significant future challenges in the water sector due to COVID-19.

Target Audience: Survey participants will include community water systems and publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities of all sizes, including American Indian and Alaska Native Village utilities.

Survey Distribution: EPA will email an individualized survey hyperlink to a statistically representative sample of several thousand drinking water and wastewater utilities around the country. EPA will work with states and associations to encourage utilities to respond to the survey.

Survey Design: The survey draws a sample from statistical groupings which are based on population served, system type (i.e., drinking water or wastewater), and jurisdiction (i.e., state-regulated, American Indian, and Alaska Native Village utilities). The survey also includes at least one utility from each State and territory to ensure wide geographic representation.

Survey Questions: The survey questions fall into four main categories: supply chain disruptions, workforce issues (including cybersecurity), financial impacts, and analytical concerns. In each section, the questions address the utilities' experiences during two periods of time - January 1, 2020 through present day and expectations for the remainder of the calendar year. EPA estimates the survey will take 45 to 90 minutes to complete, on average.

Estimated Release: October 2020. Recipients will have approximately two weeks to respond.

Additional Information: EPA will be available to provide technical assistance to water and wastewater systems with completing the survey and answering questions. Information concerning how to request assistance will be provided in the survey. EPA will use the survey data to guide the development of technical assistance. This effort is not associated with or intended to inform any statutory requirement or regulatory action.

Questions: Send an email to COVID-19survey@epa.gov