



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
on Coronavirus and the Public Drinking Water Supply**

In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is advising customers that **the drinking water supply is safe**. Customers may continue to use and consume tap water as normal.

According to a technical brief issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 3, 2020, **COVID-19 has not been shown to be transmitted via treated drinking water:**

“The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies, and based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low.”

“Conventional, centralized water treatment methods that utilize filtration and disinfection should inactivate the COVID-19 virus.”

The Commission provides a centralized water treatment method that utilizes both filtration and disinfection. The Commission’s top priority is the protection of the water supply to maintain public health, and is committed to transparency in its operations. The Commission is proactively planning its operations and supply chains in the event of a local outbreak of the virus. **In the event a local outbreak occurs, the drinking water system will remain operational.**

Again, there is currently no threat to the public water supply from COVID-19. The Commission offers the following resources to its customers to learn more about COVID-19:

World Health Organization March 3, 2020 Technical Brief:

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>



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CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Mass.gov:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is a public regional utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley. Established in 1996, the Commission is committed to the protection and stewardship of the drinking water and wastewater systems in order to maintain public health. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, wholesale drinking water to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow, and peak/emergency drinking water service to five other surrounding communities. Retail wastewater service is provided to Springfield and wholesale wastewater service is provided to six other surrounding communities.

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