



New Mexico Environment Department

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Drinking water laboratories and COVID-19: What you need to know

March 23, 2020

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has advised all public water systems to continue monitoring water quality by collecting their routine compliance samples and providing sample results to the Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) as normal. The DWB sampling team will also continue to collect all required drinking water chemical samples for compliance purposes. A safe supply of drinking water is critical for protecting public health. Continuing to monitor your water supply to ensure the quality of your water continues to be extremely important.

If you are a laboratory under contract with the NMED DWB, we recommend that you:

- Conduct an inventory of essential chemicals and reagents to ensure that you have a sufficient supply. Place orders for additional chemicals if needed so you will have backup on hand that is ready for use in case shipping services (FedEx, UPS, etc.) and/or courier services are affected.
- Contact your customers so they can make alternate arrangements for their required sample analysis if your laboratory is unable to accept samples for any reason. You may refer them to this link listing the laboratories currently certified and under contract with NMED DWB:
https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/certified-labs/.
- Notify the NMED DWB Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program if your laboratory must shut down or diminish capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the list of certified laboratories under contract with NMED remains up-to-date.
- DWB has also put together a flier for distribution to New Mexico public water systems. This flier includes guidance for the water system operators regarding emergency response plans and the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (NMWARN). The flier may be found online at https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/.

Contact us:

NMED DWB

drinking.water@state.nm.us

Lab Certification Program

NMENV-DWBlabcert@state.nm.us

Additional resources:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:

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

New Mexico Department of Health:

<http://cv.nmhealth.org/>

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact us.