



## Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

### Event Open to All Tomorrow WEF Webinar Kick Off of COVID / Wastewater Research Network

WEF's Research Coordination Network on SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance plans a kickoff webinar for anyone interested tomorrow, Wed., Sept. 2 from noon until 2 p.m. The network is funded by the National Science Foundation.

To participate, [visit this link](#).

In announcing the webinar, WEF noted that there has been much interest in this topic, but that "critical research questions... remain to be addressed."

The SARS-CoV-2 RCN is aimed at connecting researchers with the sector. WEF says "the meeting will include an overall introduction to Research Coordination Network activities and several short lightning talks to give an overview of the status of the SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance field."

For more information: Beth Conway, WEF Integrated Technical Programs, Technical Project Manager, [econway@wef.org](mailto:econway@wef.org).

In related news: Microbiologist Rob Newby of the NJDEP Division of Research and Science is scheduled to speak on this topic at the fall AEA conference in November.

Planning for the conference, which is likely to be held as an entirely virtual event, is now underway.



### EPA Tool Can Assist Water Utilities in Assessing the Financial Impacts of COVID

Perhaps now more than ever, robust financial planning is essential if water utilities are to successfully fulfill their mission.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering help with that essential activity via a tool water utilities can use to assess the financial impact of COVID-19 on operations. The Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool gathers together relevant information about the financial and operational health of water utilities. The tool was created by the EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency

Finance Center. It leads water utilities through a series of questions about revenues, expenses, and cashflow.

[Link to the relevant EPA page is here.](#)

## AEA Continues its Weekly "COVID-19 Check-in Calls" -- Authorities and Municipal Utilities Welcome

A reminder that AEA continues to hold its weekly check in calls on Wednesdays. The time is usually 9 a.m. but it can vary if there are significant scheduling conflicts.

The Zoom meetings are offered as a benefit to members -- there are announcements and status reports from Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the NJDEP, and from AEA.

The check-in call's open forum format allows for participants to raise questions or seek advice from other members about the many emerging issues that are associated with COVID-19. If you have not been participating, you might wish to check it out and can do so by emailing Karen Burris.



## News Links

We gather industry news from throughout the state so you don't have to! Explore the following headlines and more at this news link

- o [The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health](#) - Gov. Murphy's re-opening plan for New Jersey
- o [The Financial Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on U.S. Drinking Water Utilities](#)
- o [Covid 19 coronavirus: Warning after coronavirus found in Dutch sewage water](#)
- o [Coronavirus traces found in Massachusetts wastewater at levels far higher than expected](#)
- o [NJ DEP adopts new protections for 600 miles of rivers and streams](#)

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