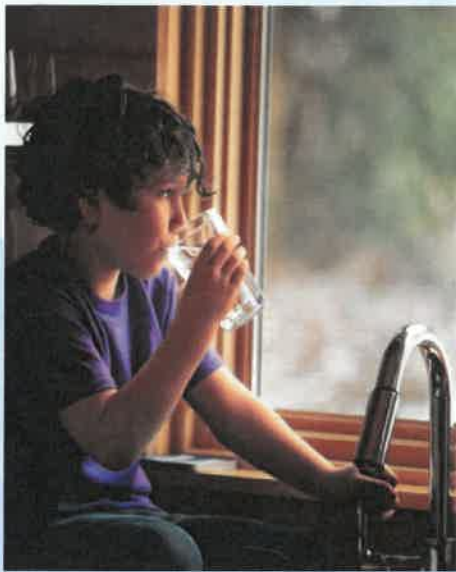


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) & THE WATER SUPPLY

▶ SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT MY HOME TAP WATER SUPPLY?



According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and not through water. The CDC has also stated that the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water.

The Water Replenishment District has taken several measures to ensure your tap water is safe and reliable, even in times of crisis. In addition to treatment facilities like WRD's Albert Robles Center, which produces 13 million-gallons-a-day of highly purified water; WRD operates programs like our Safe Drinking Water Program to ensure agencies and municipalities can provide safe and clean drinking water to our communities. WRD also recently completed our Water Independence Now program (WIN) to ensure a 100% reliable and drought-proof groundwater supply for the region.

The EPA recommends that Americans continue to drink tap water as usual. Disinfection and standard treatment processes are especially successful at removing coronavirus, the virus that causes COVID-19. The EPA has firm requirements for monitoring and treating public water systems that prevent pathogens from contaminating drinking water. Rest assured that WRD, along with municipal agencies and water companies, collect tens of thousands of samples per year, and water quality must meet strict state and federal guidelines for drinking. In addition, tap water is required to be tested more frequently and stringently than bottled water.

▶ HOW IS MY GROUNDWATER SUPPLY TREATED AND SECURED?

You may be interested to know that water treated at facilities like WRD's Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning is treated utilizing a 3-step disinfectant process including ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and UV light. This process removes contamination from water including viruses.

In addition, WRD maintains a Groundwater Monitoring System comprised of over 300 wells which routinely test for over 120 contaminants throughout the basin. Ongoing monitoring demonstrates that WRD's advanced treated water meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards and regulations, which require removal of over 99.99% of viruses. Purified water from WRD facilities is blended with other natural supplies in the underground aquifers prior to being pumped out of the ground by water providers months or years later. We will continue this rigorous testing process to ensure water is free from contaminants and pathogens which may impact public health.

▶ WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?

The best way to keep you and your family safe from this virus is to practice social distancing to limit person-to-person contact. Using soap and hot water to wash your hands frequently is also an effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health urges you to wash your hands for 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.

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Reminder About California's Drinking Water Systems *State-Required Treatment Process Removes Viruses, Including COVID-19*

- California's comprehensive and safe drinking water standards require a multi-step treatment process that includes filtration and disinfection. This process removes and kills viruses, including coronaviruses such as COVID-19, as well as bacteria and other pathogens.
- The State Water Board's [Division of Drinking Water](#) establishes and enforces drinking water standards that ensure the delivery of pure, safe, and potable water. In addition to health-based water quality standards, treatment facilities must comply with stringent performance measures to ensure treatment processes are continuously operating at peak performance.
- The treatment process must destroy at least 99.99% of viruses. The limited number that might pass through the removal process are quickly inactivated in the disinfection process, typically in less than 10 minutes. All treatment facilities for surface water sources in California are required to maintain disinfection facilities sufficient to destroy *giardia cysts*, which are much more resilient than viruses.
- COVID-19 is transmitted person to person, not through water, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).
- Public water systems that utilize groundwater sources maintain protective physical measures, including soil barriers, to ensure that water sources are protected from pathogens, including viruses. In addition, most of these systems use chlorine disinfection to inactivate viruses or bacteria that might find their way into the water.
- All public water systems in California are routinely monitored for bacteria to ensure that water delivered to customers is free of disease-causing agents. Other parameters, including temperature, pH, turbidity, chlorine residual, electrical conductivity, lead and copper, corrosion indices and disinfection byproducts, are monitored to alert operators about changing water quality conditions and avert potential problems.
- The State Water Board works closely with local water systems to ensure the safety of water that flows through public water systems to residential customers.

Contact your [local water agency](#) for more specific information about the drinking water treatment process. Refer to your water bill for your water provider's website, phone number and email contacts.

In addition, California has established a [COVID-19](#) website with prevention tips all Californians can take to protect themselves from COVID-19. They include staying home, washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Additional Resources

For more information and frequent updates about what California is doing to prepare for the impacts of [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), please visit the [Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) and the [California Department of Public Health](#).

[United States Environmental Protection Agency](#): "Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual."

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>

[Federal Centers for Disease Control](#): "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."

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

(This Fact Sheet was last updated on March 19, 2020)