

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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