



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Date: 3/25/2020

To: Officials and Operators of Public Water Systems

From: MS State Department of Health
Bureau of Public Water Supply

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, please be aware that on March 19, 2020, U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a Memorandum on the Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response. In that Memorandum, Christopher Krebs, Director of the CISA issued guidance for State and local officials regarding the identification of critical infrastructure workers that play key roles protecting their communities, ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The developed guidance included a listing of those workers deemed to be critical including those in the drinking water, wastewater, and public works areas.

Furthermore, taking note of these critical workers, in response Governor Tate Reeves issued Mississippi Executive Order No. 1463 on March 24, 2020. The order further reiterates the memorandum and its associated guidance by identifying water and wastewater utilities as “Essential Businesses or Operations” that cannot be impeded from their duties of providing the vital services of potable drinking water and wastewater disposal.

Therefore, your utility has been deemed a vital and essential service and is critical to the health and welfare of the customers that you serve. During this State of Emergency, no orders, rules, or regulations will be imposed that will prevent you and your utility from providing these essential services.

Please note that all required water quality monitoring and testing will continue during the State of Emergency.

For your convenience and review the memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security can be found here:

<https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>

Governor Tate Reeves Executive Order regarding Essential Business and Operation can be found here:

<https://www.sos.ms.gov/Education-Publications/ExecutiveOrders/1463.pdf>

For other updates visit our website.

MS State Department of Health www.HealthyMS.com

or <http://HealthyMS.com/covid-19>

Bureau of Public Water Supply emergency/after hours (769)-798-4258

Normal business hours 8am-5pm (601) 576-7518