

ACWA JPIA COVID-19 PANDEMIC FAQs

Pandemic Response Plans



Is there a checklist on how to respond to a Pandemic?

The EPA has produced the “Incident Action Checklist—Pandemic Incidents”. The checklist is for water and wastewater utilities, and broken into three sections—Prepare, Respond and Recover.

Information/Resources:

[EPA Incident Action Checklist for Pandemic Incidents](#)

What actions should my agency take to protect workers in this and future Pandemics?

According to Cal/OSHA’s Interim Guidelines, Water and Wastewater workers fall under the general guidelines for protection from COVID-19, and should follow CDC recommendations. Each member should also develop an Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan utilizing Federal OSHA, Cal/OSHA, and CDCs COVID-19 guidance documents. The response plan is part of an agencies larger Continuity Plan.

Information/Resources:

[OSHA’s Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

[Cal/OSHA Interim Guidelines for General Industry on 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease](#)

[CDC’s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19](#)

Is there documentation for essential workers to carry with them?

The EPA has provided a template that state, localities, and water utilities can use to provide documentation to workers that are considered essential.

Information/Resources:

[Water Utility Template: COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Is there a sample template for a social distancing and sanitation plan?

The County of San Diego has created a plan that districts can utilize.

Information/Resources:

[Sample Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol](#)

<https://www.acwajpia.com/covid-19-info/>

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Can we shut off or lock out a customer's meter for non-payment during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

No. Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order on April 2, 2020 that will restrict water shutoffs to homes and small businesses while the state responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Information/Resources:

[Executive Order N-42-20](#)

This factsheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.