Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control

NPDES Permit Holders,

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is beginning to receive inquiries regarding COVID-19 and procedures wastewater treatment systems should take to address the outbreak.

The State is actively monitoring this situation. Illinois EPA is actively working with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and its State Partner Agencies and will provide any updates regarding this issue to our wastewater systems.

Maintaining critical wastewater treatment functions and services are necessary to protect public health in the event of widespread staff absenteeism that could be associated with an event like COVID-19. Things to consider should you experience staffing issues are working with neighboring utilities or others to provide backup operators, isolating healthy staff at your facility, and any other actions to ensure protection of public health by providing properly treated wastewater.

Illinois EPA recommends the following resources for those of you looking for more information related to COVID-19.

Water Environment Federation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Handling Sewage

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – COVID-19

U.S. EPA’s list of registered antimicrobial products for use against COVID-19

We ask that if you do experience any widespread staffing issues that will impact your treatment system that you contact your regional office using the primary telephone number listed below:

Region 1 (Rockford) 815-987-7760
Region 2 (Des Plaines) 847-294-4000
Region 3 (Peoria) 309-671-3022
Region 4 (Champaign) 217-278-5800
Region 5 (Springfield) 217-557-8761
Region 6 (Collinsville) 618-346-5120
Region 7 (Marion) 618-993-7200