

News Release



**Foothill Municipal Water District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Your Drinking Water is Safe

As our country, state, and local communities address Coronavirus (COVID-19), Foothill Municipal Water District (Foothill MWD) wants to reassure the public that your drinking water is safe and reliable. The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has no impact on the quality of your drinking water.

California requires high levels of treatment for drinking water. Safe drinking water standards require a multistep 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. Because of the high-level water treatment, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not detected the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in any drinking water systems.

Foothill MWD performs ongoing water quality testing. The District conducts 780 water quality tests per year that are independently analyzed at advanced state of the art laboratories. These tests are done in addition to the tests performed by Metropolitan Water District and the District's retail agencies before the water gets to your tap.

While it is necessary to stock bottled water during emergencies, the Coronavirus will not disrupt water service to the 80,000 people in Foothill MWD's service area.

Foothill MWD is also taking preemptive measures to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus in the communities we serve. The District's response includes suspending

events and classes, implementing social distancing requirements for staff and hosting committee and board meetings via virtual meetings.

The District's COVID-19 policy will remain in effect through the end of this emergency and is subject to change based on new information and guidance released by federal, state and county health officials.

For additional questions and information please feel free to call the District at (818) 790-4036 or email at MLE@FMWD.COM.

Foothill Municipal Water District provides imported water to Crescenta Valley Water District, La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities (formerly Mesa Crest Water company), Valley Water Company, Lincoln Avenue Water Company, Las Flores Water Company and Rubio Cañon Land & Water Association. Kinneloa Irrigation District, another retail agency, takes no water from Foothill.

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Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 and Water Supply

Can the COVID-19 coronavirus get into my water?

The novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, does not present a threat to the safety of Metropolitan's treated water supplies. Metropolitan's multi-step treatment process includes filtration and disinfection using ozone and chlorine. This advanced process removes and kills viruses, including coronaviruses, as well as bacteria and other pathogens. Ongoing monitoring demonstrates that Metropolitan's treated water meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards and regulations, which require removal of over 99.99% of viruses. COVID-19 is transmitted person-to-person, not through water, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Can Metropolitan continue treating and delivering water if COVID-19 spreads?

Metropolitan maintains an extensive system of reservoirs, water treatment plants, canals and pipelines to deliver safe and reliable water supplies to communities across Southern California. This system includes multiple layers of redundancy to ensure continued deliveries, even during a disruption. Metropolitan also maintains frequently tested plans and systems for emergency response and business continuity to guide operations, including responding to pandemic outbreaks.

To address the concerns about COVID-19, Metropolitan has taken several steps to protect the health of its employees, minimize potential exposure and avoid widespread impacts to our workforce. Metropolitan has also ensured it has the necessary backup equipment, supplies and treatment chemicals in the event of disruptions to the supply chain for these items. Metropolitan also continues to build its already robust supply of water in storage.

So why are people stockpiling bottled water?

General emergency preparedness encourages a two-week supply of bottled water in the event of a supply disruption. While other emergencies may necessitate backup water sources, water supplies are not a concern in this particular situation.

Where can I learn more about COVID-19 and water?

EPA: "Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual."

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

CDC: "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>