

COVID-19 AND TAP WATER

Frequently Asked Questions

Is tap water safe for drinking?

Yes. Tap water will continue to be reliable and safe to drink and use. According to the California Water Boards, the water treatment and distribution methods already used by the County kills bacteria and viruses, including the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)¹. Tap water is of the highest quality, and the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) recommends continuing to use and drink tap water as usual². COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water supplies and according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through drinking water³.

Is tap water safe to wash hands?

Yes. In fact, washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and tap water is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The [County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department](#) describes the coronavirus as being protected by a fat membrane that soapy water and the motion of scrubbing breaks apart, inactivating the virus⁴.

Are water systems regularly monitored and tested?

Our water systems are routinely monitored and tested to ensure our drinking water systems meet all State and Federal drinking water standards and regulations.

Is source water tested for COVID-19?

There are many safety measures in place to protect drinking water and its sources adhering to the [Safe Drinking Water Act \(SDWA\)](#)⁵. Source water for public drinking water supplies include groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams, reservoirs and springs.

Do I need to store drinking water?

Although it is recommended to keep a three-day water supply per person as an emergency preparedness measure, COVID-19 poses no threat to drinking water supplies.

Will water continue to be available?

Yes. The County continues to provide a reliable and safe supply of water while meeting necessary staffing requirements at all facilities. Social distancing practices are in place to maintain the health of all employees and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Can COVID-19 spread through pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds?

Proper maintenance and disinfection using chlorine and bromine should inactivate viruses and prevent the spread of COVID-19 through pools, hot tubs or spas, or water playgrounds

How can I pay my water bill?

In order to adhere to physically distancing recommendations, payments can be made online at: <https://paydirect.link2gov.com/SLOPublicWorksWeb/ItemSearch>

For questions about your bill or if you need financial assistance, please call (805) 781-5252 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/covid-19/covid19_drinking_water_factsheet_english.pdf

² <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/SLOpublichealth.org/videos/557078251599720/>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa#targetText=The%20Safe%20Drinking%20Water%20Act,to%20ensure%20drinking%20water%20safty.>