



Best Practices for Groundwater Professionals During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Michigan Groundwater Association (MGWA) values its members, employees, and customers as well as the public. Safety is critical during this COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, and you are encouraged to take extraordinary steps to protect your teams and customers based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations.

All employers need to consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact in the workplace. This will include activities in one or more of the following areas:

- Reduce transmission among employees
- Maintain healthy business operations
- Maintain a healthy work environment.

The following measures are recommended but not limited for members to protect their teams and customers:

- **Clean and disinfect frequently.** Clean and disinfect frequently—and touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
 - In addition, all tools and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after *each job site use*.
 - Put sanitizing hand-rub dispensers in prominent places around the workplace including the shop. Make sure these dispensers are regularly refilled.
 - Display posters promoting hand washing. Ask your local public health department for these or consult *CDC.gov*.
- **Practice social distancing.** Each employee should minimize interaction with other team members and customers through maintaining a minimum of a 6-foot distance between each person. This includes not congregating in the break room, shop, or other places where employees may gather.
- **Separate sick employees.** Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the workday should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home or to their medical professional.



- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Make clear to employees that they will not be penalized if they are sick.
- Utilize the National Groundwater Association Health Checklist by visiting https://www.ngwa.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/covid-19/employee-health-check.pdf?sfvrsn=53037a33_2

Low Risk Activities

Most wells are drilled outside and allow for the greatest safety from exposure to the coronavirus.

Most work equipment and vehicles can be serviced or repaired by individuals rather than teams of workers.

Safety protocols:

- Clean and wash your hands regularly.
- Practice social distancing as work duties permit.
- Clean and disinfect tools used on the job site.
- Limit only one person per service vehicle.
- Limit the interaction via documentation. If you can send a receipt or well registration in by mail at a later date rather than hand-delivering it to a customer/sanitarian, do so.
- Restock your service vehicles only as necessary to avoid returning unused parts or materials to the stock room. This will help reduce possible transmission.

High Risk Activities

Indoor work, including servicing wells, pumps, or equipment in buildings, and entering customer homes on jobs is a high risk.

Steps should also be taken to avoid any type of gathering where the risk of exposure/transmission will be greater such as congregating in the shop, break room, or office.

Safety protocols:

- Clean and wash your hands regularly.
- Practice social distancing as work duties permit.
- Clean and disinfect tools used on the job site.
- Limit one person per service vehicle.



- Limit the interaction via documentation. If you can send a receipt or well registration in by mail at a later date rather than hand-delivering it to a customer/sanitarian, do so.
- Restock your service vehicles only as necessary to avoid returning unused parts or materials to the stock room.
- Change your work clothes after a job. For clothing, towels, linens and other items, they should be laundered as soon as possible. Launder items according to the the manufacturer's instructions, and if possible, use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely. Care should be taken to not shake dirty laundry and laundry hampers should be cleaned and sanitized.

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY



Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Disinfect surfaces around
your home and work.



Wash your hands for at
least 20 seconds.



Sneeze or cough?
Cover your mouth.

