

International Roundup of advice on Coronavirus and Sewer Operation

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We are keeping you updated with information concerning the effects of the Coronavirus on sewer and wastewater treatment operations.

In view of the level of interest generated in Germany by the [discussions about Coronavirus](#) between the 60+ sewer network owners that are members of **KomNetABWASSER** / ComNet WasteWater (Community Network WasteWater) the members decided to make **resources about corona virus and sewer network operation** more widely available. IKT, as co-ordinator of the network, is therefore providing and updating these links to online information available in different countries.

The resources of the KomNetABWASSER / ComNet WasteWater can be accessed at [the KomNetABWASSER website](#).

The **international links** we have identified so far are listed by country below.

What is available

The **information publicly available online** relating to sewer network operation comprises:

- Fact Sheets on the virus and its expected behaviour in water/wastewater
- Currently mainly inferred from known characteristics of similar viruses
- Advice on need to prioritise sewer operations
- Advice on organisation of delivery of services
- Advice on the protection of staff
- Discussions on what research is needed
- News articles on particular topics

Overall:

- WHO appears to be the most commonly cited high level Fact Sheet.
- Most sewerage specific guidance also refers to national public health authority guidance.
- National water/sewerage associations offer varying degrees of information to members and links to other sources.
- Those with health and safety committees are providing more detailed guidance, particularly on personal protection for staff.
- Some water/sewerage associations and companies provide online information for customers, often a fact sheet.

Advice for sewer operation:

- Being led by national water/sewerage associations and national water industry research organisations
- Some information from sector regulators

- In general what is published is high level advice to sewer network owners on actions.
- Particular focus on health and safety of employees
- Occasionally more detailed lists of actions are available.

WHO (World Health Organisation)

[Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for COVID-19 – Technical brief](#) (3rd March 2020)

Technical summary of information on the virus and actions

Advice in Australia

NEW Melbourne Water

[Melbourne Water helps lead national sewage testing project in fight against COVID-19](#) (20th April 2020)

Sample analysis will help inform COVID-19 controls by indicating disease prevalence in the community.

NEW Water Research Australia

[Improving current enteric viral surveillance through wastewater monitoring](#)

Fact sheet

NEW Central Highlands Water

[Central Highlands Water joins national sewage investigation to support Australia's coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response](#)

Fact sheet

Water Services Association of Australia

[COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#) (2nd April 2020)

Fact sheet for public on water and wastewater

Water Research Australia

[SARS-CoV-2 – Water and Sanitation](#)

Fact sheet for water and sanitation industry

Advice in Austria

NEW ÖWAV (Austrian waste water association)

[Abwasserentsorgung trotz Corona-Pandemie gesichert](#) (24th April 2020)

Wastewater disposal secured despite corona pandemic

ÖWAV (Austrian waste water association)

[Coronavirus: Informationen für die Betreiber von Abwasseranlagen](#)

Recommendations for sewer network operation

Landeshauptstadt St. Pölten (City of Sankt Pölten)

[COVID-19: Ver- und Entsorgung langfristig gesichert](#) (17th March 2020)

Advice note to public on water, waste and sewers

Advice in Belgium

NEW RTBF (Radio-Télévision Belge de la Communauté Française)

[Coronavirus : que révèlent nos eaux usées ?](#) (5th May 2020)

Belgian public service broadcasting organisation on what

wastewater reveals about the coronavirus

VLARIO

[Financiële implicaties van de COVID-19 crisis voor de riolerings- en waterzuiveringssector](#) (10th April 2020)

Statement on financial implications for Flemish sewerage and water treatment sector

Advice in Denmark

NEW Danva (Danish Water and Wastewater Association)

[Nyt fra medlemmerne: Spildevand kan gøre os klogere på coronavirus](#) (23th April 2020)

“News from members: Sewage can make us smarter about coronavirus”

Danva (Danish Water and Wastewater Association)

[Beredskab sikrer danskernes vand og spildevand](#) (12th March 2020)

Actions taken by Danva

Advice from the European Commission

European Commission

[Coronavirus response](#)

European Commission response, not sewerage specific

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

[National information resources for the public on COVID-19](#)

Webpage with links to each Member State's National information resources for the public

Advice in Finland

VVY (Finnish Water Utilities Association FIWA)

[Vesihuoltolaitokset ovat varautuneet turvaamaan riittävän henkilöstön epidemiatilanteessa](#)

Information and guidelines for water utilities

Advice in France

NEW France Bleu

[Forte concentration de coronavirus dans les eaux usées, les égoutiers inquiets pour leur santé](#) (13th May 2020)

French public service radio network on sewage workers worrying about their health because of high concentration of coronavirus in sewage

NEW APSAM – Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail, secteur « affaires municipales »

[COVID-19 : Spécifications lors de contact avec des eaux usées](#) (12th May 2020)

COVID-19: Wastewater Contact Specifications

NEW France Bleu

[Le coronavirus est-il présent dans les eaux usées ? Une étude lancée en Haute-Vienne](#) (8th May 2020)

Is coronavirus present in wastewater? A study launched in Haute-Vienne

NEW Eau de Paris

[Nous participons activement à la recherche sur le coronavirus](#)

(7th May 2020)

The Paris water and wastewater company about its active involvement in coronavirus research

Advice in Germany

NEW Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ)

[Integrales SARS-CoV-2-Abwassermonitoring – Team aus Wissenschaftlern und Betreibern von Kläranlagen will aus Abwasserproben auf den SARS-CoV-2-Infektionsgrad der Bevölkerung schließen](#) (8th May 2020)

Team of scientists and operators wants to draw conclusions from wastewater samples about the SARS-CoV-2 infection level of the population

NEW Bayerischer Rundfunk

[Frühwarnsystem: Was Abwasser über die Corona-Verbreitung verrät](#) (4th May 2020)

Bavarian public service broadcasting station on detection of Sars-CoV-2 in wastewater in minute quantities before corona infections became known in the region concerned

NEW DWA – Deutsche Vereinigung für Wasser, Abwasser und Abfall (German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste)

[Pandemiemaßnahmen in Abwasserbetrieben – Information des DWA-Fachausschusses BIZ-4 „Arbeits- und Gesundheitsschutz“](#) (20th April 2020)

Pandemic Measures in Sewage Plants – Information of the Technical Committee “Occupational Health and Safety”

DWA

[Gefährdung durch Coronavirus – SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 bei Arbeiten in abwassertechnischen Anlagen](#)

Handling the risk when working in waste water systems

KomNetABWASSER

[Kommunales Netzwerk Abwasser \(ComNet WasteWater – Municipal Network Wastewater\)](#)

Home page of the KomNetABWASSER, author of this web page

[Corona-Krise: Abwasserbetriebe teilen Arbeitshilfen](#)

Working aids being shared by KomNet members

Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung DGUV (German Social Accident Insurance)

[10 Tipps zur betrieblichen Pandemieplanung](#)

Business planning

Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe (Federal Office for Civil Protection)

[Handbuch Betriebliche Pandemieplanung](#)

Manual for pandemic planning

BAuA – Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)

[Antworten auf häufig gestellte Fragen zu Tätigkeiten im
Gesundheitswesen und in Laboren](#)

Risk assessment waste water operations

Robert Koch-Institut (RKI)

[SARS-CoV-2 Steckbrief zur Coronavirus-Krankheit-2019
\(COVID-19\) – Übertragungswege](#)

Transmission routes

EUWID Wasser und Abwasser (Special interest magazine on water and wastewater)

[Multibarrieren-System: Regeln der Technik schützen Trinkwasser](#)

[vor Coronaviren](#) (17th March 2020)

Multibarrier system protects drinking water from corona viruses

DWA

[Gefährdung durch Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 bei Arbeiten in abwassertechnischen Anlagen](#) (5th March 2020)

Protection when working in wastewater treatment plants

News from Israel

NEW ISRAEL21c

[Tracking coronavirus outbreak through sewage system](#) (5th May 2020)

New methodology to trace the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) virus through the sewage and wastewater systems

Advice in Italy

NEW Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri - IRCCS

[Covid-19: le acque reflue sono indicatori di diffusione](#) (29th April 2020)

About wastewater as an indicator of the diffusion of the coronavirus

ARERA (Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment)

[Emergenza Covid-19](#) (11th March 2020)

Statement by regulator

UTILITALIA (Federation of companies operating the public services of water, the environment, electricity and gas)

[COVID-19 – Comunicato ARERA dell'11 marzo 2020](#) (11th March 2020)

Refers to the above

ASPI – Associazione Nazionale Gestori Rifiuti - Manutenzioni e Spurghi reti fognarie ed idriche (National Association of Waste Managers - Maintenance and Drainage of sewerage and water networks)

[Coronavirus, acqua e servizi igienico-sanitari](#) (12th March 2020)

Statement on risk and requirements for H&S

Advice in The Netherlands

NEW KWR Water Research Institute

[COVID-19 Sewage Surveillance must-reads](#) (13th May 2020)

List of all KWR-publications on SARS-CoV-2 in sewage water

NEW Stichting RIONED (RIONED Foundation)

[Podcast Stadswerk: vijf vragen over riolering en corona](#) (11th May 2020)

A podcast answering five questions on sewerage and corona

NEW H2O Online (KNW Waternetwerk)

[RIVM test op 29 locaties rioolwater op aanwezigheid coronavirus](#) (11th May 2020)

National Institute testing wastewater for coronavirus

NEW KWR Water Research Institute

[Monitoring of coronavirus-RNA \(SARS-CoV2\) in sewage: an early warning system](#) (8th May 2020)

Monitoring the presence of the Coronavirus in sewage can give an early indication of the contamination within a whole population.

NEW KWR Water Research Institute

[Update COVID-19 Sewage research](#) (6th May 2020)

Summary of research results

RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)

[Novel coronavirus found in wastewater \(English version\)](#)

Article on results of testing in The Netherlands confirming presence of Covid-19 virus in wastewater

Stichting RIONED (RIONED Foundation)

[Urban water management and the corona virus](#) (10th March 2020)

Advice on safety

KNW – Koninklijk Nederlands Waternetwerk (Royal Dutch Water Network)

[RIONED: Riolering en afvalwaterzuivering cruciale processen bij omgang met coronavirus](#) (17th March 2020)

Article about waterboards postponing bills

STOWA

[Het Coronavirus & afvalwater](#)

Q&A on corona virus in wastewater and surface water in The Netherlands

Advice in Poland

NEW Izba Gospodarcza „Wodociągi Polskie”

[Przedsiębiorstwa wodociągowe w walce z koronawirusem](#)

Polish Chamber of Commerce for Water Supply on water supply companies in the fight against coronavirus

Portal Samorządowy

[Koronawirus w ściekach. IGWP zaleca ostrożność](#) (9th March 2020)

Advice

Wydawnictwo INŻYNIERIA

[Koronawirus: czy jest ryzyko dla pracowników branży wod-kan?](#)
(11th March 2020)

Article on risk for employees in the water and sewage industry

Portal Komunalny

[Wodociągi: należy lepiej oczyszczać ścieki ze szpitala](#) (17th March 2020)

Article about disinfection of sewage from a hospital

Advice in Spain

NEW iAgua Conocimiento

[En directo: Última hora del coronavirus en el sector del agua](#)

A constantly updated collection of links to articles on the effects of coronavirus on the water sector

NEW Valencia Plaza

[València, a la caza del coronavirus en las aguas residuales](#)
(11th May 2020)

Valencian newspaper on the search for the coronavirus in

sewage

NEW EMASESA (Empresa Metropolitana de Abastecimiento y Saneamiento de Aguas de Sevilla)

[Las actuales medidas de protección empleadas para trabajar de manera segura con aguas residuales son adecuadas para la protección frente al SARS-CoV-2](#) (8th May 2020)

“The current protective measures used to work safely with waste water are suitable for protection against SARS-CoV-2”

AEAS (Spanish Association of Water and Sanitation Supplies) and AGA (Spanish Association of Management Companies of Urban Water Services)

[AEAS y AGA ponen a disposición del sector varios documentos con recomendaciones y medidas a adoptar ante la crisis del COVID-19](#)

Series of related documents with recommendations and proposals for general measures to be adopted and specific information for water and wastewater

AGUASRESIDUALES.INFO

[Medidas, datos y recomendaciones de la OMS sobre el conoravirus para el sector del agua](#) (13th March 2020)

Advice to water and sewerage network owners

TECHNOAQUA

[Agua y coronavirus: medidas a aportar en las instalaciones de aguas residuales](#) (18th March 2020)

Article about the AEAS/AGA advice

Advice in Switzerland

VSA (Swiss Water Association)

[Infoblatt zum Corona-Virus – Fiche d'information sur le coronavirus – Opuscolo informativo sul coronavirus](#)
Fact Sheet for sewer networks

Advice in the United Kingdom

NEW Bangor University

[What our sewage can reveal about Covid-19 infection rates in the community](#) (11th May 2020)

Monitoring the background levels of coronavirus in wastewater treatment works within different areas

NEW University of Stirling

[Sewage poses potential COVID-19 transmission risk, experts warn](#) (6th May 2020)

Experts believe the virus could also be spread in wastewater.

UKWIR – UK Water Industry Research

[UKWIR Briefing Note on risks posed to the water industry by the newly emergent 2019 novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) (12th February)

Briefing note on risks to water industry

DWI (Drinking Water Inspectorate)

[Guidance on Drinking Water Supply Operations in Response to Coronavirus \(Covid-19\)](#) (6th March 2020)

Drinking water

Public Health England

[COVID-19: guidance for employers and businesses](#) (10th March 2020)

General guidance to business

NADC – National Association of Drainage Contractors

[Covid-19 Advice](#)

Advice to drainage contractors on continuing to work

Advice in the USA

WRF – The Water Research Foundation

[Coronavirus Research Update WEBCAST](#)
(12th March 2020)

Links to webcast on corona virus

MWRD – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

[Fact Sheet Coronavirus](#)

Fact sheet on risk associated with sewerage

KDHE – Kansas Department of Health and Environment

[COVID-19 Water and Wastewater Guidance](#)

Guidance for Drinking Water and Wastewater Operators

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Control and Prevention – Solid Waste and Wastewater](#)

Risk to wastewater treatment operators

tpo Magazine

[COVID-19 Guidance for Wastewater Workers](#)

(5th March 2020)

**Article on information and advice for
water and wastewater professionals
of Arizona, Water & Energy
Sustainable Technology Center
(WEST)**

**[Sewage Surveillance: WEST tests
wastewater to determine Coronavirus
presence in communities](#) (6th March 2020)**

**Article on sewage monitoring programme
[Sewage Surveillance for Coronavirus](#)**

**Article on testing sewage for corona
virus**

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