

# International Roundup of advice on Coronavirus and Sewer Operation

(last update 15th May 2020, 16:27 h CET)



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 coronavirus 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**

## **Contact persons**

**· Iain Naismith**

**IKT & ComNet WasteWater**

**T: +44 (0) 7983 605219**

**E: [naismith@ikt.institute](mailto:naismith@ikt.institute)**

**· Marco Schlüter**

**IKT & KomNetABWASSER**

**T: +49 (0) 209 17806-31**

**E: [schlueter@ikt.institute](mailto:schlueter@ikt.institute)**