

## Operating Small Drinking Water System (SDWS) During the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SDWS which are open are still obligated to comply with Regulation 319/08 and provide potable water (except where specifically exempt in their Directive). Labs are open and accepting samples. Call your usual lab before dropping off a sample to confirm arrangements. Due to physical distancing requirements you will likely not be able to speak to a lab technician. It is therefore critical that your chain of custody form be properly completed before you drop off your sample(s).

The situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve. These questions will be posted at our website [peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://peterboroughpublichealth.ca) and will be updated as needed. If you have further questions, please call us at 705-743-1000, ext. 225.

### Am I allowed to be open?

SDWS include a wide variety of business types. The list of essential workplaces can be found here: [www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces](http://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces). If you are open, staff and guests must follow physical distancing guidelines which can be found here: [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid19](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid19)

### Are seasonal trailer parks and campgrounds allowed to open?

**YES.** Seasonal trailer parks and campgrounds are allowed to open as of May 16, 2020 provided the following conditions are met:

- campsites are made available only for trailers and recreational vehicles that are:
  - i. used by individuals who do not have another residence in Canada and are in need of housing during the emergency period, or
  - ii. permitted to be there by the terms of a full season contract;
- only campsites with electricity, water service and facilities for sewage disposal are provided for use;
- all recreational facilities in the campground, and all other shared facilities in the campground such as washrooms, are closed; and
- other areas of the seasonal campground are closed to the general public and are only opened for the purpose of preparing the seasonal campground for reopening.

For information on accommodating snowbirds, click here: <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Accommodating-Snowbirds-at-Seasonal-Trailer-Parks.pdf>

### Are seasonal rental cottages allowed to open this spring?

**YES.** But only for rentals booked prior to April 4, 2020. Any rentals booked after April 4, 2020 are only to be provided to individuals in need of housing during the emergency period. The list of essential workplaces can be found here: [www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces](http://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces)

### Are golf courses allowed to open?

**YES.** Golf courses are allowed to open as of May 16, 2020 provided the following conditions are met:

- clubhouses, restaurants, pools, meeting rooms, fitness centres and other recreational facilities on the premises remain closed to the public
- note that this does not apply to any portion of a building that:
  - a) is used to provide first aid services;
  - b) contains a washroom; or
  - c) provides access to an area described in (a) or (b).
- restaurants on the premises may provide take-out or delivery service only

### Are water treatment service companies open?

Check with your service provider. Some may be operating at a reduced capacity. Water treatment service companies are an essential service as they are considered a “utility and community service” (provision of potable drinking water).

### Are labs open?

**YES.** Labs are an essential service and remain open.

### Do I still have to submit samples during the pandemic?

**YES.** If you are open and providing water to your customers, residents, visitors, etc., you must still submit samples at the frequency specified by your Directive.

### If I have closed do I still have to submit samples?

**NO.** If you are closed and the customers/guests/visitors cannot access the water, you do not have to submit samples. If you close for more than 60 days, before you reopen, Peterborough Public Health must be notified and sample(s) submitted as per s. 5(6) of O.Reg. 319/08. This notification can be performed by completing the form “Notice to Operate or Reopen a Small Drinking Water System” which can be found here: [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/your-health/food-water-safety/water-safety/drinking-water-systems/](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/your-health/food-water-safety/water-safety/drinking-water-systems/)

### My Directive specifies a deadline by which I must complete a training course. Do I still have to comply with this deadline?

Since all courses are cancelled right now, the deadline to complete your training has been extended by 180 days.

### My Directive specifies a deadline by which I must make changes to my treatment system. Do I still have to comply with this deadline?

Due to the wide variety and configuration of treatment systems, each system will have to be evaluated and considered on a case-by-case basis. Please call Peterborough Public Health at 705-743 1000, ext. 225.

### Is there anything else I should be doing at this time?

Whether open or closed, ensure that you record all activities in your log book – dates that you open or close, sampling dates, maintenance activities and any issues you experience such as a shortage of replacement parts or challenges with collecting or submitting samples.

What should I do if I am unable to obtain replacement parts for my treatment system (or I am unable to get my service provider to come out for maintenance)?

Do the best that you can, but if your treatment system can no longer function in a manner that properly disinfects the water, you must follow the corrective actions specified by s. 26(1) of O.Reg. 319/08:

- Immediately restore the disinfection (or as soon as reasonably possible given the current circumstances)
- Notify the users of the system to use an alternative source of water or bring the water to a rapid rolling boil for at least one minute before use
- Notify Peterborough Public Health at 705-743 1000, ext. 225

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If you have any questions, please contact:

Chris Eaton, Public Health Inspector

705-743-1000, ext. 225 or [ceaton@peterboroughpublichealth.ca](mailto:ceaton@peterboroughpublichealth.ca)