

OWTS UPDATE 4.21.2020

Good Afternoon,

It has been a while since our last update, for that I apologize, as it has been extremely busy managing our involvement in response to COVID and continuing normal operations within the OWTS program. We sincerely appreciate your patience with us during this time. As some of you may know, the Governor spoke yesterday in reference to what's next for Colorado. While we do not have all the details of regarding the transition or the next phase of this process, we do know that the transition back to a sense of normalcy will be done so in very specific phases. Each phase will have to be assessed and monitored to determine the right time to continue along the transition process and path.

Although, we do not yet have a clear plan or guidance on what those transitions will look like right now, we do know that the Stay-at-Home order remains in effect through Sunday April 26, 2020. As of Monday April 27, 2020 we will begin transitioning to a Safer-at-Home mentality. In respect to this new phase there will still be limits to social gatherings of 10 or fewer, continuing to limit unnecessary trips into the general public, and the most vulnerable populations should remain in a Stay-at-home capacity.

What does that mean for our industry?

- Essentially, nothing changes with respect to the critical work you all provide, that work is able to continue as you have been:
 - o Maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible and limit interactions with the public and other employees to the greatest extent possible.
 - o All critical business and employees should wear a non-medical cloth face covering when interacting in close proximity with other employees or the public.
 - o Remember practice good hand hygiene and avoid touching your face. The normal steps and precautions you take when working in this environment on a daily basis are the same to protect against COVID as well.
 - o Most importantly: DO NOT WORK IF YOU ARE SICK!

General Reminders:

- This will be a phased in return to some form of normalcy
 - o There will still be some time before our building returns to full and normal operations.
 - o All applications should still be submitted via online and/or email
 - We do still provide an option to use a drop box outside of our door, on the 2nd floor of the CSC, if absolutely necessary
- Design documents:
 - o There have been numerous design documents not coming in complete or lacking some component, usually profile pits. Please be sure that you are submitting fully compliant documents to prevent delays in processing.
 - o I have attached a compliant design document for reference.
- Permit Issuance
 - o **Reminder: WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN EXPECTED TURNAROUND TIME**
 - While normal turnaround time is about 2-4 weeks for most permits, we have not exceeded that in the majority of cases, our priority remains in response to

COVID. Please know that we are working through these and attempting to get permits issued as quickly as possible but there may be times where this is delayed due to extenuating circumstances.

- Additionally, returning calls and emails may not always be timely. Please know this is not on purpose and that they will be returned as soon as feasible.
- Transfer of Title:
 - These turnaround times are currently being extended as processing these documents may be delayed under the current circumstances. Again we are working to issue these as quickly as possible.

As always, we appreciate your patience as we work through this frustrating and unprecedented event. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Stay safe and have a grate week!

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For local information about the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), visit [El Paso County Public Health's COVID-19 website](http://www.elpasocountypublichealth.org/covid-19).



2020 Census information can be found at:
<https://coloradosprings.gov/pikespeakcensus>

OWTS UPDATES 3.30.2020

Good Morning,

We have received a couple of questions regarding a certification, currently there isn't a specific designation process that is being followed. What we are doing is simply interpreting the intent of the order and applying it in variety of situations. In reference to the OWTS program the order specifically states:

*"Critical Businesses , as defined below, are exempt, subject to certain limitations , from this PHO and are encouraged to remain open. **Critical Businesses** must comply with **Social Distancing Requirements** at all times and implement tele-work or other strategies, such as staggered schedules or re-designing workplaces, to create more distance between workers unless doing so would make it impossible to carry out critical functions. **Critical Businesses** that serve the public such as grocery stores and other Critical Retail shall comply with **Social Distancing Requirements** at all times including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line."*

where you fall into the order is under a couple of categories:

III Definitions:

#2. Critical Infrastructure, Including: *Public water and wastewater*

And

#9. Construction, Including but not limited to: *Other related firms and professionals for who provide services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and critical operation of residences and other **Critical Businesses** or **Critical Government Functions** , and other essential services*

There is an attachment for Social Distancing Certification to this email, ultimately you can choose to fill this out and keep a copy with you for your records. This, however, specifically is related to business or businesses who are not considered a critical and for all intensive purposes our industry is considered critical. I just ask that everyone remain cognizant for the social distancing requirements while in the field and working.

If you have any questions please let me know. Response may be delayed but I will get back to you as soon as possible.

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OWTS UPDATES 3.26.2020

Good Afternoon All!!

I apologize for not getting this out to you earlier today, it's been a crazy whirlwind around here lately. There was a new Stay at Home order issued yesterday, I can imagine there may be some questions about how this affects OWTS work currently happening.

The answer is we are still continuing as previously communicated. We however, will not be able to take any paper payment at this time, meaning we can only take payment via credit card. As applications are submitted the Admin staff will contact you for payment, or send an invoice to you for payment.

Note that turnaround times are somewhat of a moving target still as we continue to navigate this changing environment.

Please let us know if you have any questions, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, for your continued patience with us as we try our best to keep serving you and the community.

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OWTS UPDATES 3.24.2020

Good Morning,

I understand there has been some concern related to the risk of getting the COVID-19 illness in relation to the work that you do for our industry. The current information relating to COVID-19 from the World Health Organization would indicate that *“there is no evidence to date that COVID-19 Virus has been transmitted via sewer systems, with or without wastewater treatment.”* Please find attached a document that provides some very concise and informative information regarding the risk to wastewater industry employees.

Industry professionals are exposed on a daily basis to numerous highly infectious pathogens through the work that the industry performs. The precautions that you take on a daily basis to ensure your safety from those “normal” pathogens of concern are sufficient to protect yourself from the COVID-19 illness.

Additionally, the services our industry provide are necessary for maintaining sanitation operations and are currently deemed as critical needs for continued operations through most of the Governor Orders

that are being issued. Please ensure that you and your employees are practicing social distancing while on job sites and in relation to your customers and clients.

As always please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Utilize the links below or in the previous email for any additional information specifically related to the water and wastewater industry. The below link also provides great information for you as well.

<https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus>

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through the changing environment. We will continue to do our best to ensure that we meet your needs regarding the OWTS work we are able to still conduct.

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