

Can COVID-19 Coronavirus Live In Water? What About Drinking Water And Swimming

COVID-19 and Water Quality

GEO CoP Telecon on May 19th



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[Healthcare](#)

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How safe is swimming during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic? (Photo: Getty) GETTY

Ali S Akanda, URI

National

Americans are told to wash hands to fight coronavirus. But some don't trust the tap.



Cassandra Chavez, 19, had a lung condition in her early teens. The Chavez family suspects that the ailment was caused by the nitrate-contaminated well water at their small ranch. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

By **Frances Stead Sellers**

Ali S Akanda, URI

Use the COVID-19 crisis to fix the water crisis

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BY SETH M. SIEGEL, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 05/18/20 07:00 PM EDT
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America's tap water is an essential part of the nation's health infrastructure. Although delivery of that water is now under stress because of the coronavirus crisis, it also presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to significantly improve our drinking water.

TD Ameritrade

Don't just unwind with your favorite things. Invest in them.

Consider investing in what matters to you.

Ali S Akanda, URI

Waste not: Poop will be key in mitigating a second wave of coronavirus

Sewage testing, successfully used by Israel to head off polio outbreak in 2013, is a cheap, effective way to detect an outbreak even before the first cases are clinically confirmed

By **AMÉLIE BOTTOLLIÉ-DEPOIS**

28 April 2020, 9:35 pm | 0

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A doctor holds a container used to collect a sample from a patient during a demonstration of a drive-through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab test for the COVID-19 coronavirus in Fujisawa in Kanagawa prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, Japan, on April 27, 2020. (Philip Fong/AFP)

Talking points for Discussion:

Role of water quality in the coronavirus pandemic

- Can coronavirus spread through drinking water?
- How safe is swimming in recreational facilities?
- Can the virus spread through wastewater?

Safe water access for vulnerable communities

- Many water utilities are understaffed
- Maintenance work is difficult in lockdown
- Many communities are already water starved

Implications for the Global South

- Populations with insufficient safe water access
- Cities that produce untreated wastewater effluents

Developing early warning in anticipation of second wave

- Can Earth Observations-based tools or indices help?
- How can geoscientists and health professionals inform?
- Can we identify vulnerable communities ahead of outbreaks?
- Can wastewater testing help detect community level infection?

Useful resources:

WHO: WASH and Waste Management for the COVID-19 virus

file:///Users/asa/Downloads/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_WASH-2020.3-eng.pdf

Water and COVID-19 FAQs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

Recent news articles:

Use the COVID-19 crisis to fix the water crisis

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/498343-use-the-covid-19-crisis-to-fix-the-water-crisis>

Can COVID-19 Coronavirus Live In Water?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2020/05/03/can-covid-19-coronavirus-live-in-water-what-about-drinking-water-and-swimming/#5eea2aff4360>

Waste not: Poop will be key in mitigating a second wave of coronavirus

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/waste-not-poop-will-be-key-in-mitigating-a-second-wave-of-coronavirus/>

Americans are told to wash hands to fight coronavirus. But some don't trust the tap

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/americans-are-told-to-wash-hands-to-fight-coronavirus-but-some-dont-trust-the-tap>