



Frequently Asked Questions – Our Wastewater and Solid Waste Management Services & Construction Activities Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak

Does the wastewater treatment process destroy the novel coronavirus?

Our wastewater (sewage) treatment process includes disinfection to produce safe, clean water. To disinfect, we use chlorine or ultraviolet light, which kills harmful bacteria and inactivate viruses, including the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Ongoing monitoring and lab testing at each of our 11 wastewater treatment plants indicates that our discharged water meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements, including those for the destruction of viruses, bacteria and other pathogens.

Will the Sanitation Districts continue treating wastewater if COVID-19 spreads?

Yes. The Sanitation Districts' mission is to protect public health and the environment by providing wastewater and solid waste management services. We remain committed to our mission during this crisis. Our sewer system and treatment plants are fully functional and staffed 24/7. We also continue to accept industrial discharges and hauled liquid waste.

Are the Sanitation Districts' solid waste and recycling facilities still open?

Our solid waste facilities, including our landfills and materials recovery facilities (MRFs), remain open, but operational changes have been implemented in response to COVID-19 concerns. Hand contact with waste and recyclables has been suspended because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have indicated that the coronavirus may live on items for several days. As a result, the sorting line for recyclables at Puente Hills MRF has been stopped and the Recycle Center has been closed until further notice. We continue, however, to accept refuse for transfer to landfills, and green waste and food waste for recycling.

How are the Sanitation Districts protecting their employees?

Even without the current crisis, wastewater contains harmful pathogens and our staff has developed procedures to safely complete their work. These same procedures protect against the novel coronavirus. We have also implemented precautionary measures recommended by federal, state, and local health authorities to minimize potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. These measures include teleworking from home (where feasible), an emphasis on good hygiene, social distancing, cancellation of public events and tours, conducting meetings online, closing our offices to the public, and suspending non-essential business travel.

Are the Sanitation Districts proceeding with construction of its projects?

Yes. Infrastructure construction is considered an essential service by the state and can proceed. Our staff and contractors have implemented precautions recommended by federal, state, and local health authorities to minimize potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

Where can we get updates on coronavirus impacts to the Sanitation Districts?

For updates, please visit our website (www.lacsd.org) or follow us on social media (see above links on webpage).