



NATIONAL
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION

NRWA™ *America's Largest Utility Membership*

National Water Utility Survey

Impacts of COVID-19 Emergency

Introduction:

Since distributed, 4,636 water and wastewater utilities across 50 states & U.S. Territories responded. Currently, the survey has a 100 percent completion rate.

Background:

Public water and wastewater utilities are essential to protect public health and the environment. Small and rural communities have done their part to meet the public's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic by maintaining and restoring customer access to services regardless of payment. Water utilities need assistance from Congress now to protect the public they serve.

NRWA estimates small water and wastewater systems will lose \$998 million in revenue by mid-July. Drinking water systems are projected to lose \$817 million; wastewater systems are projected to lose \$181 million. These losses in revenue will not be recovered by utilities and does not include emergency operational costs such as staging additional shifts, isolating staff, modifying procedures for regulatory compliance, purchasing PPE, and additional equipment for remote work.

Survey Overview:

- NRWA received broad response representing different sizes and types of water and wastewater utilities.
- The surveyed system's customers include 29,016,515 individuals and 1,286,787 businesses.
- More than 50% of surveyed systems provided both water and wastewater services.
- Over half of surveyed systems were municipalities.
- Almost 59% of surveyed systems are having trouble obtaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Revenue loss to date of the surveyed systems amounts to \$67,269,577 in total and \$34,112 per system.
- The anticipated revenue loss in the next 90 days amounts to \$171,619,108 in total and \$86,502 per system.

Conclusion:

The National Rural Water Association urges Congress to take action now to include these essential public services in the next stimulus bill and/or take independent action to ensure their sustainability and financial solvency.