

Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA)

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Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Tap Water Information

As COVID-19 infections spread, some people have inquired about the safety of their water supply. This document provides answers to some common questions.

Is my tap water safe?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence that COVID-19 virus survives in drinking water (1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) states that “Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual” (2). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) note that COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water (3).

Can the CLCJAWA treatment process remove viruses from water?

The WHO states that filtration and disinfection should inactivate COVID-19 (1). The treatment process at CLCJAWA is world class, far exceeding the basic treatment requirements suggested by WHO or required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (4).

At CLCJAWA, virus removal is calculated daily to assure a minimum removal of 99.99%. In fact, CLCJAWA achieves this regulation at all times, typically more than 25 times better. This is before treatment with two additional pathogen barriers including ozone and ultraviolet light (UV). There is no other water plant on Lake Michigan or the midwest that employs more water treatment technology, and only a handful in the United States. Lake Michigan tap water from CLCJAWA is ozone purified, carbon filtered, UV treated, and chlorine disinfected. Read more about our process at www.clcjawa.com.

Is CLCJAWA water quality tested?

The CLCJAWA monitors water quality with automated instrumentation and through lab

tests in our Illinois Department of Public Health certified testing laboratory. Our tap water is monitored daily for biological contaminants that indicate the presence of pathogens. No biological contaminants have been detected in the finished tap water.

Do I need to buy bottled water?

The USEPA recommends that citizens continue to use and drink tap water as usual (2). The Mayo Clinic points out that the use of bottled water is mostly a matter of personal preference (5). CLCJAWA produces tap water more rigorously treated and tested than most bottled or store bought water (6) which are sourced from the same places as tap water.

Do I need to boil my drinking water?

Boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19 (2).

References:

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