

# COVID-19 Virus Precautions

## Community Wastewater Treatment

Recently, the virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in untreated wastewater. While data is limited, there is no information to date that anyone has become sick with COVID-19 because of exposure to wastewater.

Standard practices associated with wastewater treatment plant operations should be sufficient to protect wastewater workers from the virus that causes COVID-19. These standard practices can include engineering and administrative controls, hygiene precautions, specific safe work practices, and personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) normally required when handling untreated wastewater. No additional COVID-19-specific protections are recommended for workers involved in wastewater management, including those at wastewater treatment facilities.

JCSUD Wastewater Treatment Technicians follow these guidelines for safety:

- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling human waste or sewage.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while handling human waste or sewage.
- After handling human waste or sewage, wash your hands with soap and water *before* eating or drinking.
- After handling human waste or sewage, wash your hands with soap and water *before* and *after* using the toilet.
- Before eating, removed soiled work clothes and eat in designated areas away from human waste and sewage-handling activities.
- Do **not** smoke or chew tobacco or gum while handling human waste or sewage.
- Keep open sores, cuts, and wounds covered with clean, dry bandages.
- Gently flush eyes with safe water if human waste or sewage contacts eyes.
- Use waterproof gloves to prevent cuts and contact with human waste or sewage.
- Wear rubber boots at the worksite and during transport of human waste or sewage.
- Remove rubber boots and work clothes before leaving worksite.
- Clean contaminated work clothing daily with 0.05% chlorine solution (1part household bleach to 100 parts water).

Workers handling human waste or sewage are provided proper PPE, training on how to use it, and hand washing facilities. The following PPE is recommended for JCSUD workers handling human waste or sewage:

- **Goggles:** to protect eyes from splashes of human waste or sewage.
- **Protective face mask or splash-proof face shield:** to protect nose and mouth from splashes of human waste or sewage.
- **Liquid-repellent coveralls:** to keep human waste or sewage off clothing.
- **Waterproof gloves:** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.
- **Rubber boots:** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.