



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Crumbles
Secretary

DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Environmental Health Directors
Regional Consultants

FROM: Nony Howell, Chief
On-Site Systems Division
Wastewater Permits Program

RE: Delegated Programs/Coronavirus Outbreak

In order to provide guidance to the local Approving Authorities regarding their role and responsibilities with respect to the recent coronavirus disease outbreak, the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water & Science Administration, On-Site Systems Division would like to provide this guidance. As everyone in the health field is aware guidance may change as additional information is forthcoming.

All field work involving applications that require soil evaluations/ perc test and subdivisions should be suspended at this time. For applications requiring testing during seasonal wet weather the status of the applications will be reviewed at the time the suspension is lifted. All applications for soil evaluations/field work will be impacted by this action however protection of the staff and public must be the priority.

Regarding the well construction permitting for emergency basis please update your well drilling community on the local emergency call number for verbal authorization especially during off-work hours. As a reminder the regulations require staff to approve the site but does not place a time period on when that approval is to be provided, therefore verbal permit approval is based on the master well driller's compliance with the regulations and the verbal authorization procedures.

The On-Site Systems Division including the Regional Consultants and BAT staff are available by phone or email, in addition meetings can be set up on the goggle meet app or conference calls. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 410-537-3779.

CC: MDE Regional Consultants
Cliff Mitchell, MDH
Ed Stone, Program Manager WWPP