



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

March 27, 2020

Dear Water Samplers:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program, in partnership with the Maryland Rural Water Association (MRWA), provides training to collect proper drinking water samples for compliance. Upon completion of the required training class, individuals who successfully pass an exam proctored by MRWA receive a certificate from MDE. The certificate needs to be renewed every 3 years. As public health risks associated with COVID-19 have resulted in social distancing recommendations and the Governor's Executive Order 20-03-19-01, dated March 19, 2020, which prohibits gatherings of 10 or more people, the Water Supply Program has cancelled all of its training related classes, including suspension of the sampler certification class, until further notice.

However, many water samplers are an integral part of the water utility workforce, and their certifications are of paramount importance to compliance sampling. Therefore, MDE, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order To Extend Certain Licenses and Other Governmental Authorizations, dated March 12, 2020, is administratively extending samplers' certificates by 30 days until after the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded. This action will allow samplers with certificates due for renewal, who cannot take the exam at this time, to continue performing their duties with a valid certificate pursuant to COMAR 26.08.05.05.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these challenging times. Please contact MRWA or the Water Supply Program(WSP) if you have any questions regarding this policy issue. You can reach the WSP at water.supply@maryland.gov.