

Coronavirus and Water Safety

In this time of heightened concern about our health and safety, it is reasonable to ask: is the water supplied by the Red Lion Municipal Authority (RLMA) free of the new coronavirus and safe to consume? As explained below, the answer to both of these questions is yes: the water supplied by the RLMA does not contain the coronavirus that is presently of great public health concern and the water is safe to drink.

How do we know this?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have, for many decades, required municipal drinking water suppliers to treat drinking water using processes and technologies that are designed to remove viruses, bacteria and other organisms that cause sickness and disease. These processes include coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Each of these processes is explained briefly below.

Coagulation is the process of causing contaminants in raw water to bunch together into large clusters that weigh more than water and settle out by gravity, a process called sedimentation. Coagulation and sedimentation remove the larger contaminants in raw water.

Filtration involves taking the water first treated by coagulation and sedimentation and passing it through a filter that removes the smallest contaminants such as bacteria and viruses that may pass through the coagulation and sedimentation processes.

Disinfection is the process of adding a chlorine-containing compound to the filtered water to chemically kill anything that may have made it through the coagulation, sedimentation and filtration processes. RLMA is required to add sufficient chlorine to ensure that no organisms can survive or grow anywhere between our water treatment plant and your faucet.

The use of all four of these processes guarantees that the water supplied by the Red Lion Municipal Authority does not contain the coronavirus and is safe to drink.

Additional resources can be found below:

[Water Treatment Practices Effective Against COVID-19](#)

The World Health Organization states that current water treatment practices are effective against COVID-19.

The US EPA has a new [Q&A](#) available that answers the following questions:

- Is drinking tap water safe?
- Do I need to boil my drinking water?
- Is tap water safe to use for hand washing?
- What should I do if I'm concerned about my drinking water?
- Do I need to buy bottled water or store drinking water?

The Centers for Disease Control has a section on [water transmission and COVID-19](#).