Frequently Asked Questions
Southern Nevada Water Supplies and Emergency Readiness

COVID19

Can the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) continue providing water if COVID19 causes wide-spread community illness?
Yes. Southern Nevada’s water treatment and delivery system consists of two advanced water treatment facilities that are capable of treating and delivering up to 900 million gallons of drinking water per day. The water distribution system includes more than 6,800 miles of pipelines and numerous reservoirs, pumping stations and wells, that can provide water to Southern Nevadans under any number of emergency situations and scenarios. SNWA’s emergency response and readiness plans are in place, tested regularly and include provisions for providing water during emergency conditions that includes community-wide illness.

Should I stockpile bottled water as a result of COVID19?
While SNWA and LVVWD are prepared to provide water for the community under any number of emergency situations, including an outbreak of COVID19, Southern Nevadans may implement their own individual readiness and preparedness plans for emergency situations as they deem appropriate. Our community’s drinking water supplies meet or surpass federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Even under extreme circumstances, provisions are in place to make water available from groundwater wells and/or through other operational strategies.

Are there any risks of COVID19 being transmitted through drinking water supplies?
According to health officials, COVID19 is primarily transmitted person-to-person – there is no indication that transmission can occur via drinking water supplies. Southern Nevada’s drinking water is treated using a combination of ozonation, filtration and chlorination, which are on the leading edge of water treatment processes and effective at removing contaminants from water. Chlorination, which is used throughout Southern Nevada’s water distribution systems, is extremely effective at destroying virus and microorganisms during the water treatment process and maintaining disinfection throughout the water system.

What steps is SNWA taking to ensure COVID19 does not interrupt water system operations?
SNWA and LVVWD maintain robust emergency response and readiness plans to help maintain water system operations during natural disasters, community-wide illness, and other emergency situations. These plans are tested and updated regularly. Provisions are also in place to ensure appropriate water treatment supplies and resources are available to sustain water delivery for an extended period of time, even if supply chains are temporarily disrupted during an emergency.