

Value H2O Coronavirus (COVID-19) response plan

Can the COVID-19 virus spread through drinking water?

The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Content source: [National Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)

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Reality check: COVID-19 mainly spreads through coughs and sneezes, not your water bottle.

The virus is believed to mainly spread through respiratory droplets created when an infected person coughs or sneezes, [according to the CDC](#)

Because this is the main way of transmission, Amesh Adalja, an infectious-disease expert at the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Health Security, said that minimizing exposure should focus on washing hands, not eliminating the use of a reusable water bottle at work.

"I don't think that people's office water bottles are going to be the way that this pandemic unfolds. It's coughs and sneezes," Adalja said. "But there are people that are worried about the most esoteric means of transmission, and I think that kind of detracts from the main message here, that this is a respiratory virus: Wash your hands, don't touch your face, cover your coughs."

As you know we regularly service and clean your Value H2O water cooler, your service person has been trained to clean and sterilize your cooler in the most hygienic manner, for your information and peace of mind, here are some things we are doing to ensure the highest standards of hygiene are maintained when we call on you.

Our service staff have been trained to thoroughly wash their hands when entering your premises. Rest assured they washed their hands at the completion of the last job and will do so when finished at your premises.

All our vans are equipped with hand sanitiser, used when entering the vehicle.

And of course, we will be complying with any procedures you, or the government, may implement.

When cleaning your cooler, we use a food safe product to sanitise all surfaces.

Because the water you are using is from the tap, it is of the highest safety standards in the world. If you have a refillable water cooler, the water in the large bottle on top is straight from the tap, it's been treated and purified, and still contains the disinfectant (chlorine) from the mains supply, it is not until you take some water from the cooler tap that the water moves from the bottle through the filter (of activated carbon) and into the sealed refrigerated tank. That water has no exposure to the outside after filtering.

In the case of plumbed in units, the water comes from the mains, through the filter and into the tank with no exposure to the outside.

In addition to personal cleanliness, health authority advice is to make sure surfaces are clean, below is a link to an article from the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) that deals with cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces. It recommends using disinfectant or weak bleach solution sprays.

The Centre for Disease Control recommends a solution of 1/3 rd. of a cup of bleach or disinfectant to 4 Litres of water.

Please be aware any of these sprays ARE SUITABLE TO SPRAY ON YOUR WATER COOLER. Feel free to do so anytime.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>

We hope these articles give you some comfort and ideas on how to ensure your workplace is as safe as can be.

Please be assured we are doing everything we can to help you have a healthy workplace.

On behalf of the team at VALUE H2O we wish you all the best in these testing times.