

# COVID-19 Updates

People's Water Board is taking action to ensure government officials deliver on their promise to immediately restore water service to all residents who've been shut off. Government actions taken to date have been drastically inadequate to meet residents' needs. Thousands in Detroit and across the state remain without water as this virus continues to spread. Please check back here for updates, resources, and things you can do to support this work.

## Take Action:

**Call or tweet** at Congress to support a House Bill calling for a national moratorium on utility shutoffs! More info here. (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/24/help-us-show-support-for-a-national-moratorium-on-water-and-utility-shutoffs/>)

Call **Governor Whitmer** (517-373-3400) and **Mayor Duggan** (313-224-3400) to demand that **urgent action** be taken to restore water access to all residents.

Sign the petition: Tell Michigan Leaders – Turn on Water for All Now!

(<https://secure.everyaction.com/6nqucKcZtkCQJDB4FhOoqg2?snw=2&ref=d7440ff3-876d-4fb1-8265-569a77141028&fbclid=IwAR3C0y9ZS0Cqx9MdcR-SQAj4Lafar111wGwrN7iKT7FU-DGxQd1gVWiKlag#>)

We the People of Detroit is collecting cases of water for those without access. Please email: [info@wethepeopleofdetroit.com](mailto:info@wethepeopleofdetroit.com). If you don't have water to give, consider making a monetary donation ([https://www.wethepeopleofdetroit.com/get-involved?fbclid=IwAR1MIklgK7uN9\\_xPaQshGtiylyUHsuPbsOJiNxhhUzeiUNn0ek0sXFPqrgQ](https://www.wethepeopleofdetroit.com/get-involved?fbclid=IwAR1MIklgK7uN9_xPaQshGtiylyUHsuPbsOJiNxhhUzeiUNn0ek0sXFPqrgQ)).

## Updates:

Watch our Tele-Press Conference

(<https://www.facebook.com/peopleswaterboard/videos/3443125582775556/>) on March 20th on residential water access

Press Release ([https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/20200320\\_PWBPressRelease.pdf](https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/20200320_PWBPressRelease.pdf)) on Tele-Press Conference

Read our appeal to Gov. Whitmer's plan (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/16/appeal-to-gov-whitmer-in-light-of-covid-19-water-sanitation-needs/>) to restore water service and our list of demands

### **In the News:**

Water access urgent in Detroit during outbreak

(<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2020/03/25/opinion-water-access-urgent-detroit-during-outbreak/2901878001/>)

Detroit water activists urge Gov. Whitmer to provide free water stations during the coronavirus pandemic (<https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2020/03/23/detroit-water-activists-urge-gov-whitmer-to-provide-free-water-stations-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>)

Whitmer urged to ensure sanitation for all (<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2020-03-23/water/whitmer-urged-to-ensure-sanitation-for-all/a69643-1>)

More than 2,500 homes in Detroit still without water after city pledged to restore service amid coronavirus outbreak (<https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2020/03/20/more-than-2500-homes-in-detroit-still-without-water-after-city-pledged-to-restore-service-amid-coronavirus-outbreak>)

Coronavirus has brought a major warning about our water

(<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/coronavirus-has-brought-major-warning-about-our-water>)

The Detroit organizers long demanding water justice

(<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/03/17/detroit-organizers-long-demanding-water-justice>)

U.S. should stop water shutoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic – and forever

(<https://earther.gizmodo.com/the-u-s-should-stop-water-shutoffs-during-the-covid-19-1842426252>)

Being a good neighbor means protecting everyone's right to water

(<https://medium.com/@Vedachalam/being-a-good-neighbor-means-protecting-everyones-right-to-water-97fa05348546>)

Bankole: Water should be free throughout the pandemic

(<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2020/03/19/bankole-water-should-free-throughout-pandemic/2863480001/?fbclid=IwAR3iKbfGfdEw0rS9wzZ3ZASTvAVqw56LdLwqTf-99aFIEgQPQ5isEyRiSGI>)

Detroit man waits 2 days for water to be turned back amid coronavirus concern

([https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/detroit-man-waits-2-days-for-water-to-be-turned-back-amid-coronavirus-concern?](https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/detroit-man-waits-2-days-for-water-to-be-turned-back-amid-coronavirus-concern?fbclid=IwAR0cs2uN655WYzLWbwYVWVllqFNPkYV6MLyFbxf0d8upYNbr96g4n__p__3Q)

[fbclid=IwAR0cs2uN655WYzLWbwYVWVllqFNPkYV6MLyFbxf0d8upYNbr96g4n\\_\\_p\\_\\_3Q](https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/detroit-man-waits-2-days-for-water-to-be-turned-back-amid-coronavirus-concern?fbclid=IwAR0cs2uN655WYzLWbwYVWVllqFNPkYV6MLyFbxf0d8upYNbr96g4n__p__3Q))

Detroit off to slow start restoring water to homes as coronavirus hits

(<https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-health-watch/detroit-slow-start-restoring-water-homes-coronavirus-hits?fbclid=IwAR19z3BxYxppFUvJdjgSx1SFKEzjuu01rdpVS9ODlhxEcWS14TTI5CUVu0o>)

As coronavirus spreads, Detroit struggles to restore water to shutoff customers

(<https://detroit.curbed.com/2020/3/16/21182075/covid-19-coronavirus-detroit-water-shutoffs-moratorium>)

### **Our Demands to Governor Whitmer:**

We are in a frightening and dire state of crisis and urgently request these seven responses through the authority of the Office of the Governor:

1. Since you've declared a State of Emergency, please use your powers to deploy federal and state resources. Government aid would include the logistical expertise and capacity of the National Guard, as well as the deployment of water system personnel and plumbers from across the state; and a wider posting of public health information in non-digital formats accessible for low-income residents such as newspapers, billboards, leaflets and bus signs.
2. Establish immediately public water stations across the City of Detroit where residents can acquire gallon jugs of water, and where community groups can pick them up for delivery to homes that do not have the capacity to get it themselves. Also, (re-)establish government-funded water stations in Flint, Benton Harbor and other impacted communities across the state. Moreover, we strongly request that this water be derived from municipally sourced packagers and *not* from profit-making bottlers that thousands of Michigan residents have opposed in EGLE public hearings.
3. Make available at these water stations, gallon containers of bleach as well as sanitizers, disinfectants, and paper towels for impacted households to clean their homes properly.
4. Direct Michigan DHHS to expand and extend State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits to include more resources, less restrictions and quicker responses for benefits to include water heater replacements, water payment assistance (particularly when the moratorium ends), and essential household water line flushing; and to cease mandatory child protective service reporting requirements of households without water.
5. Extend the moratorium on shutoffs indefinitely and especially until DWSD has confirmed that it has been in contact with residents at EVERY disconnected home, and made significant efforts for restoration and plumbing repairs.

Additionally, as the immediate crisis is alleviated:

1. Ban future water shutoffs on vulnerable households, i.e., those where babies, children, pregnant women, elders, persons with disabilities and/or chronic health conditions reside.

2. Enact a statewide, low-income based water affordability program assessed on a household's ability to pay. This will allow impoverished customers to enroll in sustainable payment plans without service interruption.

## PAGES

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Water Affordability Program (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/water-affordability-program/>)

## RECENT POSTS

Opinion: Water access urgent in Detroit during outbreak – Elin Betanzo and Sylvia Orduño via @DetNews (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/25/opinion-water-access-urgent-in-detroit-during-outbreak-elin-betanzo-and-sylvia-orduno-via-detnews/>)

Help us show support for a national moratorium on water and utility shutoffs!! (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/24/help-us-show-support-for-a-national-moratorium-on-water-and-utility-shutoffs/>)

Administration Asks NJ Water Companies Not to Shut Off Service If Bills Go Unpaid (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/24/administration-asks-nj-water-companies-not-to-shut-off-service-if-bills-go-unpaid/>)

We Demand Emergency Water Stations With Bleach and Cleaning Supplies (<https://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2020/03/21/we-demand-emergency-water-stations-with-bleach-and-cleaning-supplies/>)