Can COVID-19 Coronavirus Live In Water? What About Drinking Water And Swimming

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How safe is swimming during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic? (Photo: Getty)  🤔
Americans are told to wash hands to fight coronavirus. But some don’t trust the tap.

Cassandra Chavez, 19, had a lung condition in her early teens. The Chavez family suspects that the ailment was caused by the nitrate-contaminated well water at their small ranch. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)
America's tap water is an essential part of the nation’s health infrastructure. Although delivery of that water is now under stress because of the coronavirus crisis, it also presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to significantly improve our drinking water.
Waste not: Poop will be key in mitigating a second wave of coronavirus

Sewage testing, successfully used by Israel to head off polio outbreak in 2013, is a cheap, effective way to detect an outbreak even before the first cases are clinically confirmed

By AMÉLIE BOTTOLIER-DEPOIS
26 April 2020, 9:35 pm | 0

A doctor holds a container used to collect a sample from a patient during a demonstration of a drive-through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab test for the COVID-19 coronavirus in Fujisawa in Kanagawa prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, Japan, on April 27, 2020. (Philip Fong/AFP)
Talking points for Discussion:

**Role of water quality in the coronavirus pandemic**
- Can coronavirus spread through drinking water?
- How safe is swimming in recreational facilities?
- Can the virus spread through wastewater?

**Safe water access for vulnerable communities**
- Many water utilities are understaffed
- Maintenance work is difficult in lockdown
- Many communities are already water starved

**Implications for the Global South**
- Populations with insufficient safe water access
- Cities that produce untreated wastewater effluents

**Developing early warning in anticipation of second wave**
- Can Earth Observations-based tools or indices help?
- How can geoscientists and health professionals inform?
- Can we identify vulnerable communities ahead of outbreaks?
- Can wastewater testing help detect community level infection?
Useful resources:

**WHO: WASH and Waste Management for the COVID-19 virus**

**Water and COVID-19 FAQs**

Recent news articles:

**Use the COVID-19 crisis to fix the water crisis**

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**Waste not: Poop will be key in mitigating a second wave of coronavirus**

**Americans are told to wash hands to fight coronavirus. But some don’t trust the tap**