



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Bruno L. Pigott
Commissioner

A Message from the Commissioner

At the State of Indiana, the health and safety of our communities and employees is our top priority. We provide an essential service that is critically important and, much like many other states in the U.S. and across the globe, Indiana has established coronavirus (COVID-19) preparedness plans. As the COVID-19 situation continues to rapidly evolve around the world, I want to update you on some of the decisions we at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) made to ensure we are fulfilling our obligations to our employees while we continue our operational responsibilities for the citizens of Indiana.

We are closely following the recommendations from the Indiana State Department of Health as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to guide the steps we are taking across the state. Here are some of the steps we are taking:

Travel Directives – Governor Eric J. Holcomb has provided a clear travel directive: all official out-of-state and international travel will be limited for the next 45 days, effective March 12, 2020.

Flexible Work Arrangements – Governor Holcomb has encouraged state employees, including IDEM staff, to work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, IDEM will continue to carry out its vital oversight functions and emergency response capabilities throughout the state in order to protect Hoosiers' health and the environment.

Workplace Precautions – Governor Holcomb is requiring staff to keep work stations clean, wash their hands frequently, disinfect common areas, practice social distancing at work and in the field, and leave work to seek prompt medical attention if they feel ill.

Proactive Communication – IDEM managers are in regular communication with our staff as we continue to maintain our services during this rapidly evolving situation.

IDEM understands that regulated entities are rightly concerned about the health and well-being of their employees during this time, and many are instructing staff to work from home or are restricting access to their facilities by visitors. IDEM shares these concerns. That is why IDEM inspectors will cooperate and fill out surveys or answer questions regarding their health. IDEM will fully cooperate with these kinds of efforts to protect the health of employees, both yours and ours.

IDEM will, however, continue its operational responsibilities during this time. IDEM will continue to issue permits and assess environmental conditions. These functions are important to ensure the continued protection of public health and the environment. Please understand that IDEM also has a responsibility to inspect facilities to protect public health and the environment. **IDEM inspectors are authorized under IC 13-14-2-2 to enter**

public or private property to ensure compliance with Title 13 of the Indiana Code. The right to enter and inspect is mandated by statute and is not subject to preconditions of the property owner or manager. Additionally, the requirements of regulated entities to follow the terms in permits, to submit reports, conduct and report on sampling, and other activities, have not been suspended.

IDEM is hopeful that Indiana's regulated community understands the need for IDEM to continue to conduct this important work. If you have concerns about access to your facility, or have any other questions, please contact us at (800) 451-6027 or by e-mail at info@idem.IN.gov.