**CMC Statement on COVID-19**

First and foremost, we here at the CMC hope that you, your friends, and loved ones, and everyone who is a part of the CMC community are safe, healthy, and connected, even as the state of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. Your safety and well-being are always of the upmost priority to us. I’m sure that you, like the rest of us, are still figuring out how to best adapt to the recent stay-at-home and social distancing mandates. There is little doubt that the following weeks will coalesce into one of the most challenging moments of our lifetime.

With stay-at-home mandates being issued throughout much of the Chesapeake Watershed – including, but not limited to Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Pennsylvania – the CMC recommends stopping monitoring activities in alignment with the period that Stay-at-Home orders are in effect in your region. The one exception is if, and only if, monitoring activities can be safely conducted on your own property and with members of your own household. Please follow all local guidelines and restrictions in regard to access to public parks, beaches, and docks. We will update you if our recommendation changes, and we look forward to resuming our monitoring related activities with you when safe conditions return.

As the country works to flatten the curve, we encourage everyone to take this time to review their resources in preparation for field work, lab work and data analyses; review or update training materials; and/or upload data to the [Chesapeake Data Explorer](https://chesapeakemonitoringcoop.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5179786e92bb911cb0e2466f4&id=f7d1fc6499&e=c82d46af1d). Remember to reach out to your local CMC service provider for assistance: the CMC team is still hard at work (at appropriate socially distanced venues) supporting the Chesapeake monitoring community.

Please explore the rest of the newsletter to learn about the resources and opportunities the CMC will continue to provide over the coming weeks and months. Additionally, if you or your organization has content, resources, or words of wisdom you would like to share to the broader monitoring community, please share them with us!

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