Protocol on Water and Health

Immediate response to COVID-19 and outlook for future work of the Protocol

Geneva Environment Dialogues

23 June 2020

Oliver Schmoll | Protocol Co-Secretary | European Centre for Environment and Health | WHO Regional Office for Europe
Immediate response

Water and sanitation

Hands-on assistance
- Guidance note on WASH and waste management
- One-to-one assistance to country authorities
- Webinar sessions

Drinking-water safety
- Survival of virus in the water environment
- Efficacy of treatment and disinfection

Sanitation and wastewater management
- Removal of virus
- Sanitation and field workers (reuse)

Recreational water use *(recovery)*

Re-occupation of buildings / schools *(recovery)*

Immediate response

Hygiene and health care facilities

Hand hygiene (HH) promotion at scale

- Provision of guidance and associated evidence on appropriate HH materials, practices and facilities
- Provide universal access to public HH stations
- Make HH obligatory in buildings and public transport facilities
- Provide access to HH facilities and practices in health care facilities

Safe practices in health care facilities

- Health care waste management
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
- Handling of faeces


23/06/2020

Immediate response to COVID-19 and outlook for future work of the Protocol
“The Seventy-third World Health Assembly ... calls on Member States, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:

... to take measures to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and infection prevention and control, ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings, including humanitarian settings, and particularly in health facilities ...”
Convene dialogue on experiences with WASH @ COVID-19
- Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting

Scale-up “culture of hygiene” in all settings
- Promote good practices in schools and health facilities
- Support situation assessments

Strengthen health system capacities
- Establish effective surveillance and response systems
- Explore wastewater monitoring as early warning system

Safe operation and monitoring of water supply systems
- Risk-based management and surveillance
COVID-19 considerations for Protocol

Analyse inequalities in access to essential WASH services under the pandemic
• Access for disadvantaged groups
• Affordability of services and materials

Strengthen COVID-19 sensitive target setting
• Reflection of gaps and lessons learnt
• Strengthen recovery, preparedness and long-term sustainability

Scale-up webinar format
• Keep networking and engagement alive
• Dissemination of information
• Webinar series starts on 8 and 22 July
Stay healthy and safe