

Bottled water during the COVID-19 pandemic

Demand for bottled water has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. To meet this surge in demand, IBWA member companies have expanded production in order to provide their home and office customers and retail consumers with the bottled water they need.

In addition, bottled water companies are donating bottled water to charitable community organizations and other groups. As examples: bottler member Aqua Filter Fresh, Inc. came to the aid of Pittsburgh's Allegheny County Police Department, supplying bottled water that was handed out along with 340 large pizzas for a social distancing drive-through party in Wilmerding, a town financially hard-hit by the pandemic. DS Services of America, Inc. is contributing to the United Way's efforts to help people in need with food, shelter, and critical services, along with donating water to hospitals, first responders, and food banks in highly impacted U.S. communities.

In New York City, Niagara Bottling has donated more than a half a million bottles of water to relief efforts, as well as bottled water for numerous hospitals, food banks, and shelters throughout the United States. Danone Waters of America has also stepped in to provide support to New York City, donating almost 500,000 bottles of water for those working on the frontlines at local hospitals. Nestlé Waters—in addition to donating water to communities in New York City; Flint, Michigan; and other locations—is providing bottles to local distilleries (distinguishable from bottles that contain water) to be filled with hand sanitizer for healthcare workers, first responders, and the public.

IBWA's member companies are working tirelessly around the clock to ensure the bottled water products are available to consumers. They've done this by:

- increasing bottling capacity
- acquiring extra packaging and materials
- working with retailers to determine demand
- hiring additional drivers and bottling plant workers

The bottled water industry is always at the forefront of providing needed assistance before, during, and after emergencies and natural disasters. Every year, millions of gallons of bottled water are provided to those in need.

Bottled water companies are well-prepared to respond to a crisis situation, such as COVID-19. In past years, we've been able to successfully supply bottled water during a succession of severe hurricanes affecting different parts of the United States during a single hurricane season—in addition to handling all of the tap water boil alerts that occurred around the country, and other emergencies such as wildfires, etc.

It is important to note that no authority has directed consumers to stock up on bottled water in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak. (For information about preventative actions to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19, visit www.cdc.gov.) However, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends people should be prepared for the unexpected by having on hand:

- safe drinking water (at least 1 gallon of water per person per day)
- extra food
- other essential items, such as prescriptions and sanitary supplies.

Bottled water is always there when you need it—in good times and in bad, such as public health emergencies. Watch: [“Bottled water: it’s there when you need it,”](#) a video that highlights bottled water’s role during emergencies or natural disasters.