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# European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue

**Activities on the implementation of the UNECE-WHO/Europe  
Protocol on Water and Health in the context of COVID-19  
pandemic**

Nur-Sultan (Geneva, Paris and online), 20 November 2020



**UNECE**



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**WECCOOP**

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on  
Water – Environment – Climate Change

# WASH and COVID-19



- Safe and sufficient water is key to protecting human health during infectious disease outbreaks
- Frequent and correct hand hygiene prevents COVID-19 infection
- Need for a continuous supply of safe water and sanitation systems that are operational, in all settings and under challenging conditions
- Need to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized
- Environmental surveillance in wastewater: early warning, second wave detection



# Protocol targets as a means to achieve the SDGs while integrating COVID-19



## Coherence of approaches between Protocol and 2030 Agenda:

- ✓ Addressing the whole water and sanitation cycle
- ✓ Focus on intersectoriality
- ✓ Focus on inequalities
- ✓ Countries set their own targets
- ✓ Follow-up and review of progress

Concrete targets for **COVID-19 prevention, recovery and future preparedness** can be set on:

- ✓ Equitable access to water and sanitation
- ✓ WASH in schools and health-care facilities
- ✓ Environmental surveillance in wastewater
- ✓ Any other WASH aspect covered by Protocol target areas

Such targets would contribute to the 2030 Agenda

# COVID-19 considerations for Protocol

Response

Recovery

Preparedness

Sustainability



- **Convene dialogue on experiences with WASH @ COVID-19**
  - 2020-2021 Webinar Series under the Protocol



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



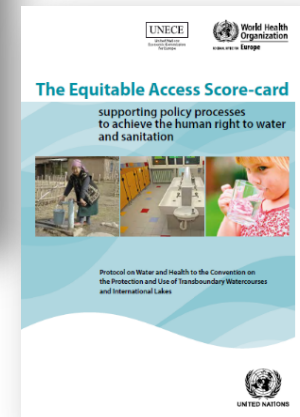
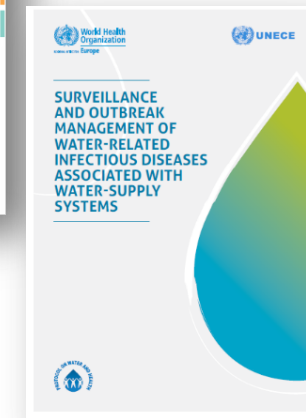
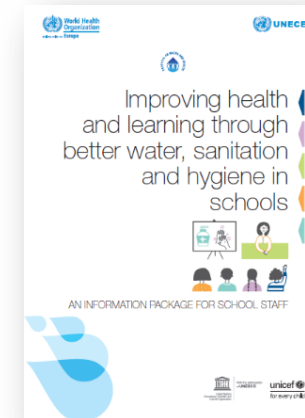
- **Analyse inequalities in access to essential WASH services under the pandemic**
  - Access for disadvantaged groups
  - Affordability of services and materials



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



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



# LINKS WITH EU ACQUIS



1. Links to EU WFD, DWD and UWWD
2. Links to EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy (2018) and EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (2019)
3. Risk-based approach and Water Safety Planning

# Thank you!

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<https://www.unece.org/env/water/npd.html>

[http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh\\_text/text\\_protocol.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_text/text_protocol.html)

<https://wecoop.eu/>

