

Everybody is talking about the H1N1 virus (swine flu). This might be a good opportunity to remind you that as water and wastewater operators you are considered first line responders. Take a few minutes to contact your local Health Department or Public Health Nurse to introduce yourself and register as a first line responder. We need to remind them about how important clean water services are to a community in crisis.

As far as we know Wyoming health officials are treating this as another flue season. Do not let the media spin your family and employees into a frenzy – this is not a pandemic. Wash your hands frequently. The virus is very unstable and is very easily destroyed. Just about anything will kill the virus that is a household product labeled as a disinfectant. Bleach and water is the least expensive method and works well. Begin and end you day be using a disinfectant on your phone, keyboard and doorknobs. If you are sick do not go to work. Encourage others not to come to work sick.

On our web site is a checklist that was prepared by NRWA several years ago in anticipation of the avian flu pandemic. It is located on our web site www.warws.com under down loads. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns or have suggestions that you think might be helpful to your fellow WARWS members.