

**COVID Community Update****April 2020**

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

EPA previously made the decision to continue cleanup activities on outdoor properties, but because of the growing concern over the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the heightened mitigation efforts that are needed to control the virus, EPA will pause work at the Sherwin Williams/Hilliards Creek site, the Route 561 Dump site, and the U.S. Avenue Burn site in Gibbsboro, NJ. Field crews were conducting work in two areas of Gibbsboro, a private Pond located off West Clementon Road and a Shopping Plaza located on Route 561. The work at the pond has paused, however it will take approximately one week to safely wind down

the work at the Shopping Plaza to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. EPA will continue to periodically review this decision and will restart field activities as soon as possible.

The decision to suspend work was made in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and with the Sherwin-Williams Company. EPA will continue to work closely with state and local health officials, and all partners and stakeholders, to make determinations about site work based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It's important to know that EPA maintains its ability to respond to environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to protect human health and the environment by responding to releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

For more information on Sherwin Williams, please visit:

<https://www.gov/superfund/sherwin-williams>

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](https://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)