

**COVID Community Update**

**July 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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For information about EPA:  
[www.EPA.gov/region2/](http://www.EPA.gov/region2/)

Field work at the Genesee Valley Metal Finishing site in Rochester, NY is slated to resume at the end of July 2020. Work will include disposing of waste, dismantling former electroplating and waste treatment equipment, and decontaminating the facility interior.

Work had paused to await lab results and in part due to concerns over COVID-19. 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.

In February and March of this year, EPA improved conditions and addressed immediate threats at the Genesee Valley Metal Finishing site by testing, consolidating, and repackaging wastes found at the site so they could be transported off-site for disposal. All personnel demobilized from the site in late March to await the results of laboratory analyses and to subcontract the transportation and disposal of liquid wastes. The results have come back and based on EPA's

assessment of guidance provided by the State of New York, dismantling, decontaminating and waste disposal work at this site will resume at the end of July 2020. The work will involve approximately 8-10 EPA and contractor personnel primarily conducting work inside the former Genesee Valley Metal Finishing facility. EPA's contractors are implementing health and safety plans specific to preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus during these activities. These plans require best practices for site safety, including face covering, gloves, and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees, temperature checks of employees, tracking employees who might be ill, and social distancing. EPA is monitoring site operations and the contractor's health and safety practices.

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 EPA's response to COVID, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

For more information on the site, please visit: <https://response.epa.gov/GVMF>