

Position on the Human Right to Water

Background

The United Nations recognizes access to clean drinking water and sanitation as a basic human right and essential to the realization of all human rights. Further, [Sustainable Development Goal 6](#)—"CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION"—of the UN 2030 Agenda urges all societal players to come together to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

Relevance

As a global manufacturer, we recognize our role in helping protect natural resources. As a leader in the healthcare industry, we know that human health is inextricably linked to the health of the planet—we can't have healthy people and communities without a healthy environment, and that includes clean water. Respecting the human right to water means minimizing our water footprint across our operations, especially in areas of high-water stress, and managing our water impacts with consideration of the needs of others.

Guiding Principles

As stated in [Our Credo](#): "We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well ... We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources."

Our Position

Johnson & Johnson recognizes the human right to water, which, as defined by the United Nations, entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. We also recognize that the actions of companies can impact water quality and quantity. Water is critical to life and, at the same time, essential to producing healthcare products, ensuring sanitation and securing livelihoods. Because both people and companies rely on clean, plentiful water, we must all work to ensure supplies are adequate and quality is assured.

Johnson & Johnson is committed to respecting human rights and complies with the local laws protecting those rights in all the countries where we are present. We operate according to the following principles to ensure that our businesses respect the human right to water:

Sufficient water: We strive to operate in a manner that will not diminish community water resources. We consider the availability of water when selecting new business locations and we seek to achieve efficient use of water resources at all operational locations. Since 2001, Johnson & Johnson has had long-term water-use

reduction goals. Our companies conduct water audits, implement best conservation practices and use technology to increase the use of recycled water.

Safe and acceptable water: We seek to preserve the quality of water resources in the communities in which we do business. To further this, we consider relevant local and community water standards, and consistently apply our own internal quality standards to our operations worldwide. We welcome open engagement with local communities regarding our water usage and conservation initiatives.

Physical accessibility of water: We will not knowingly adversely impact the ability of people to access community water resources and we will address community concerns in a prompt, cooperative and open manner.

Affordable water: In conversations with governmental bodies, we support the principle that safe water supplies should be affordable and available in a fair and equitable manner to all members of a community.

Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#).

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