

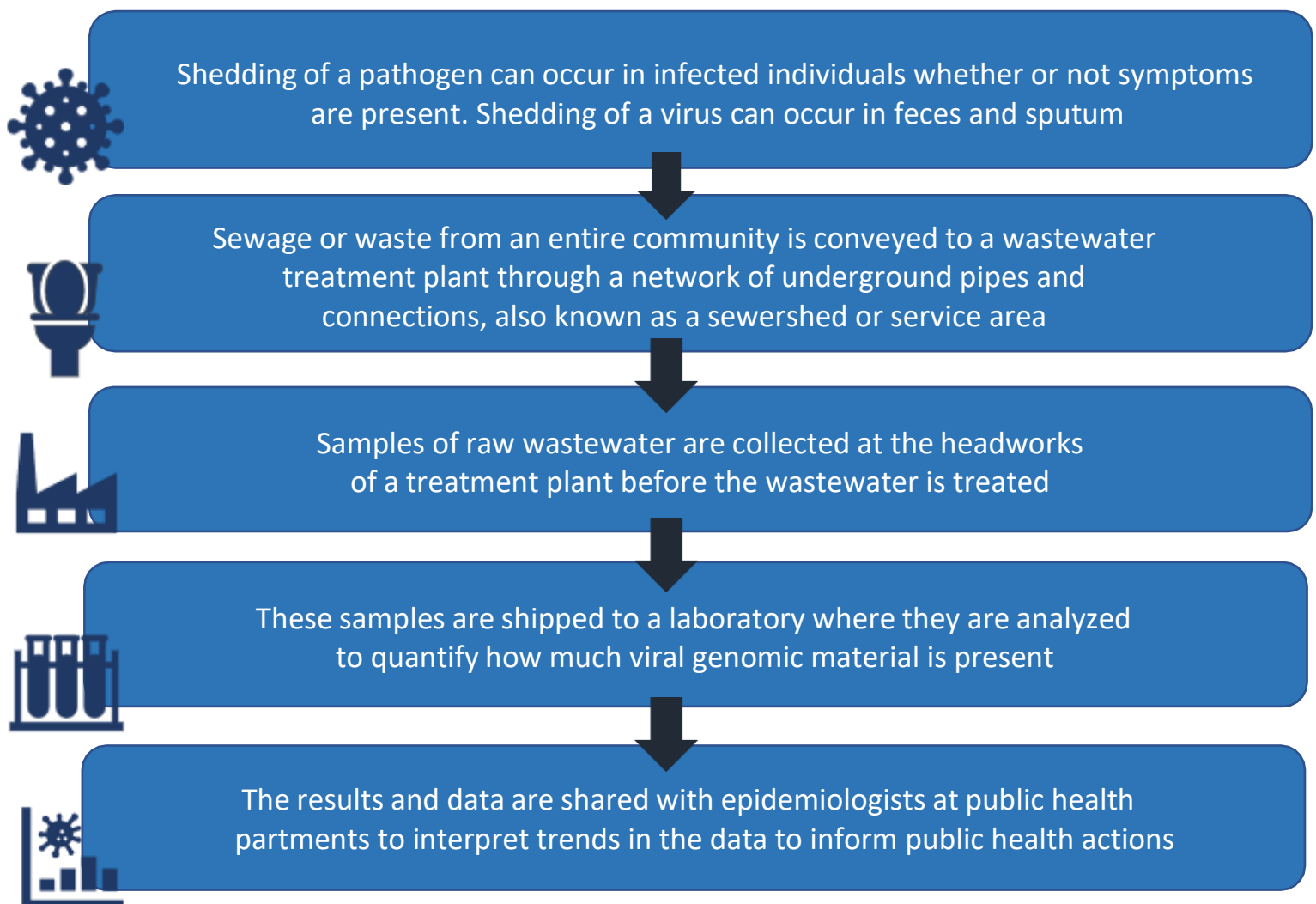
# California Department of Public Health Wastewater Surveillance

## Using Wastewater Surveillance to Inform Public Health



Wastewater surveillance, or wastewater-based epidemiology, is a public health tool that can track the presence and amount of pathogens (e.g., viruses, bacteria, etc.) in wastewater samples. These data can provide important information about the spread of diseases within a community or potentially as an early warning, even when people are not tested for a disease. This can be an especially important tool for diseases that are not reportable to public health, that are not routinely tested for, or if people rely on at-home testing, which often does not get reported to public health.

### Here is how wastewater surveillance helps to inform public health:



For additional information visit the [CDPH webpage on Wastewater Surveillance](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Wastewater-Surveillance.aspx)  
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