

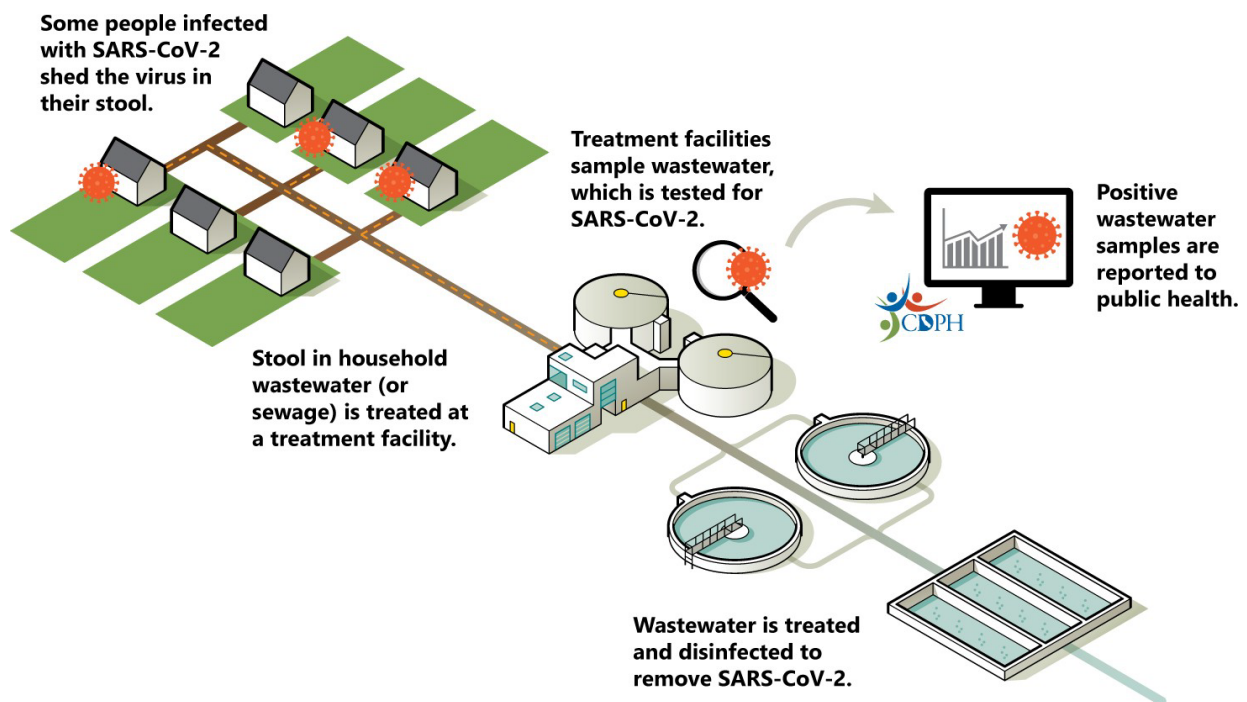
California Department of Public Health Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2



Wastewater surveillance, also known as wastewater-based epidemiology, is a supplementary public health tool that can track the presence and concentrations of a virus, such as SARS-CoV-2, in wastewater. This data can provide insight about the spread of COVID-19 within a community, as people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus can shed viral material in their feces, with or without symptoms. This has become an important tool for public health departments as more people rely on unreported at-home testing.

Here's how wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 works:



Benefits of Wastewater Surveillance

- Timely; early indicator
- Provides information even when people don't seek or have access to healthcare
- More cost-effective than trying to test entire community
- Helps prepare local hospitals
- One sample can represent disease activity for an entire community
- Increases awareness of disease burden and circulation
- Useful for resource allocation (tests, vaccines, therapeutics, etc.)

