

Testing Wastewater (Sewage) for Coronavirus - 2/23/23

In April 2020, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts began testing for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in wastewater to help public health officials manage the pandemic.

Since then, we have partnered with other labs and the program has expanded to involve sampling from two treatment plants (the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant that serves 3.5 million people in the Los Angeles Basin and Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant). Testing now also includes Influenza A and B, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), MPox, Norovirus and Human Metapneumovirus.

Years of data show that increases of coronavirus genetic material in wastewater are followed by increased in new cases and hospitalizations. Thus, sewage testing can provide an early warning system of surges in disease. Samples from our Joint Plant track infection trends for 3.5 million people, making this program a timely and cost-effective tool for health officials.

Test results are posted at: <https://data.wastewaterscan.org/> and <http://publichealth.verily.com/#Los%20Angeles%20County,%20CA> (see LA County or Lancaster for our data).

For data about new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, see the [LA County Public Health Community COVID19 data](#).

We hope the community uses this information to stay informed and stay healthy. For more information about this program, please contact us at info@lacsdsd.org or 562-908-4288, ext. 2300.