

Wastewater COVID-19 Surveillance Partnership Activities

Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2022



Wastewater in the News

The New York Times

Australia to Detect Coronavirus Spread by Testing Raw Sewage

By Reuters

April 16, 2020, 3:30 a.m. ET



The New York Times

Is It Safe to Come Out of Lockdown? Check the Sewer

Wastewater could provide early, painless and localized data about the rise or fall of coronavirus levels.

Some scientists are using sewage to measure the prevalence of coronavirus in their communities

By Alec Snyder and Susannah Cullinane, CNN

Updated 7:45 PM ET, Sun April 26, 2020

CNN.com

The New York Times

CORONAVIRUS

Poop could help stop the pandemic. Really.

Wastewater offers a promising way to track the virus, a top CDC doctor says.

Politico

News // Bay Area & State

Wastewater data suggests COVID may not have peaked yet in 3 Bay Area spots



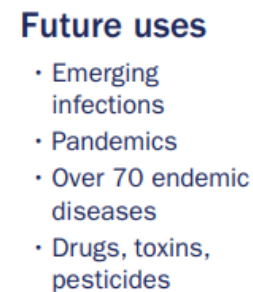
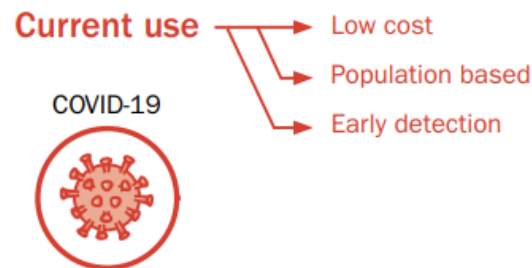
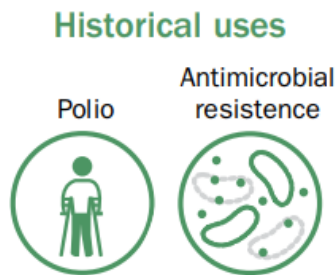
Amy Graff, SFGATE

Jan. 26, 2022

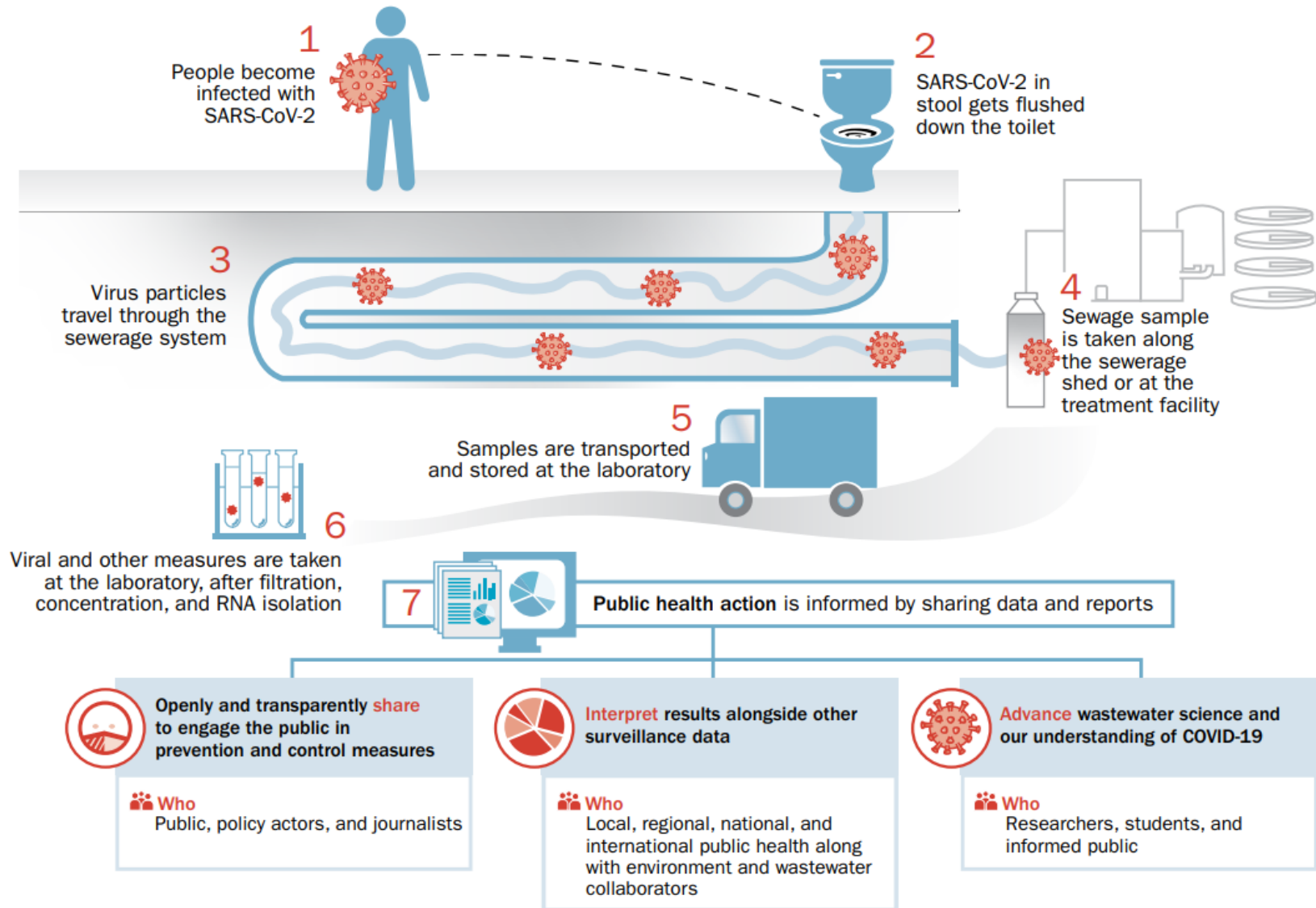
What is Wastewater Surveillance?

- “Wastewater Surveillance” is also known as Wastewater Based Epidemiology (WBE)
 - Analysis of wastewater for chemicals or biomarkers for purposes of public health monitoring
 - Infected individuals shed virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) in feces at detectable levels

A New Role for an Old Public Health Tool



How WBE Works



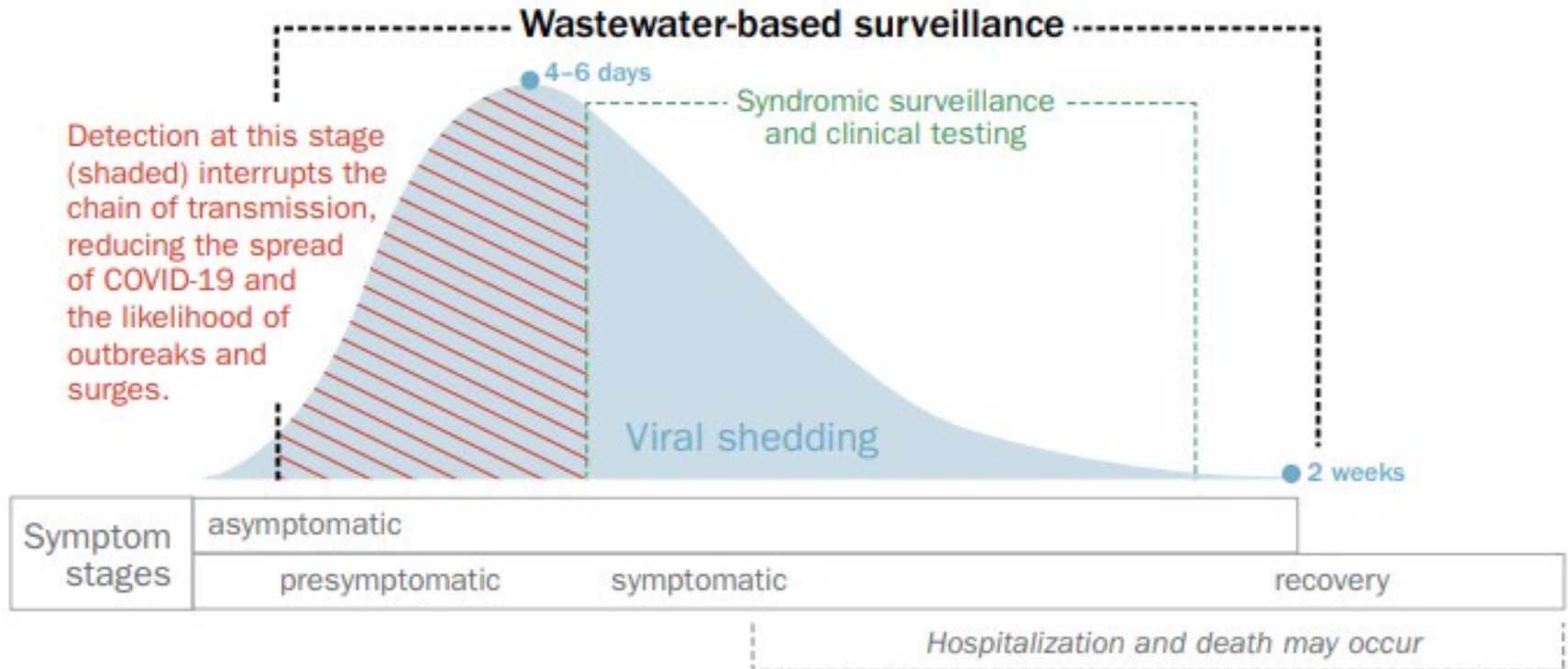
Why is WBE Useful?

- WBE is important tool in public health toolbox that complements clinical testing:
 - **Efficient** – One sample can monitor thousands of people
 - **Independent of Symptoms** – Can capture data about symptomatic and asymptomatic people
 - **Independent of Human Behavior** – Does not rely on people to get tested
 - **Fast** – Produces data within 5 to 7 days of flushing and can support public health decision making



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WBE Can Help Prevent Spreading



Manuel, Doug; Amadei, Carlo Alberto; Campbell, Jonathon R.; Braut, Jean-Martin; Veillard, Jeremy. 2022. *Strengthening Public Health Surveillance Through Wastewater Testing: An Essential Investment for the COVID-19 Pandemic and Future Health Threats*. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36852> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Collaborative District Partnership Activities



- **Covid-WEB (Wastewater Epidemiology for the Bay Area)**
 - Led by University of California, Berkeley
 - One to two samples/week from November 2020 through June 2022
 - Analytical results available at <https://data.covid-web.org/>
- **National COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Project**
 - Led by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Jointly developed the **National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)** in September 2020
 - Participated in Phase 2 of the program and sent two samples per week from June 2021 and August 2021

COVID-WEB Results



SARs-CoV2 Monitoring in Wastewater

[Home](#)

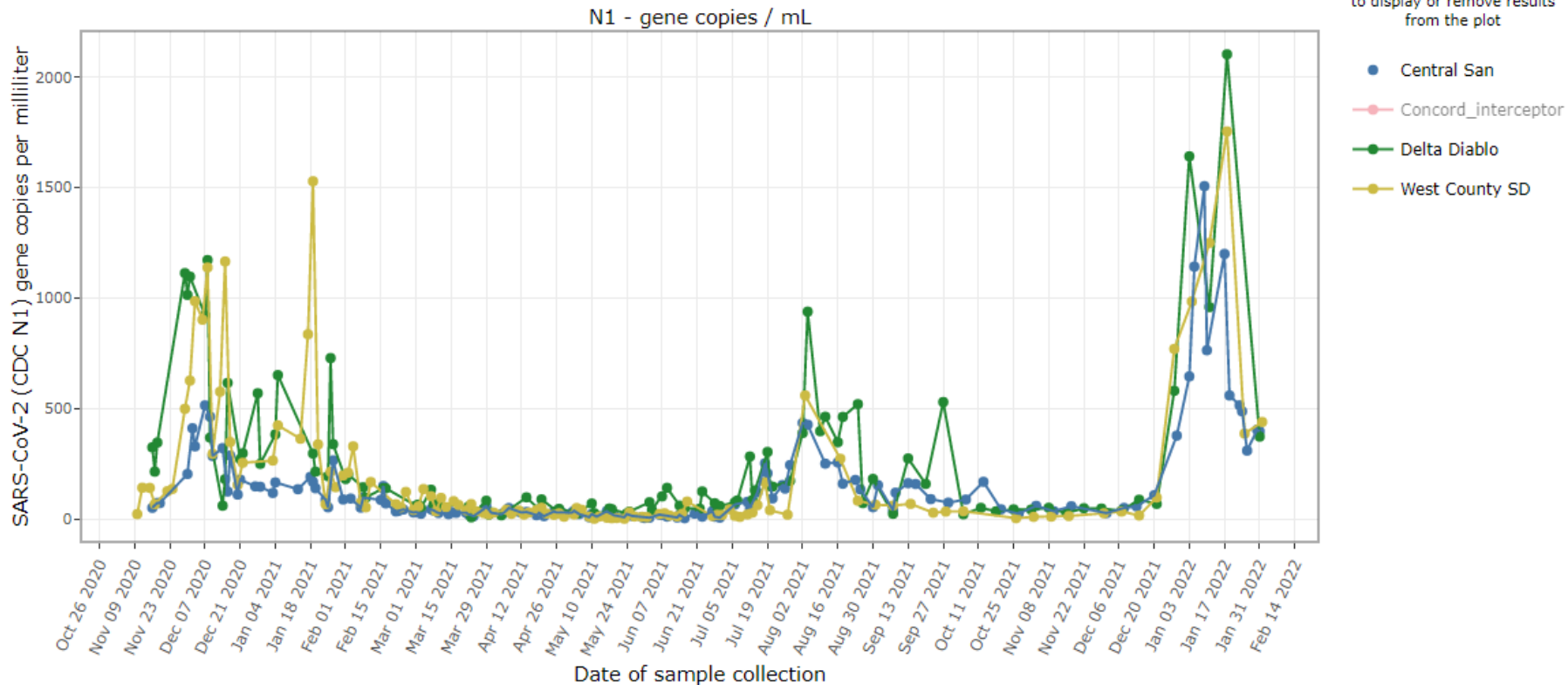
[FAQ](#)

[View Data](#)

[View Map](#)



Click each location to display or remove results from the plot



NWSS Phase 2 Results



Delta Diablo INF-001

Sample collection date: August 18, 2021

SARS-CoV-2 virus in wastewater

DETECTED

Virus concentration
(copies per liter of sewage)
478,521

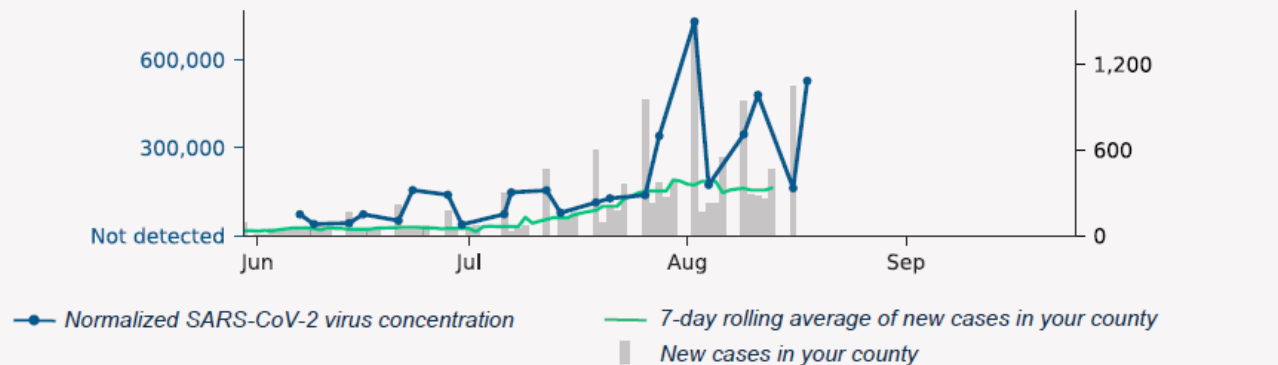
Normalized* virus concentration
(copies per liter of sewage)
527,628

**Normalized virus concentration value is derived by adjusting the raw virus concentration to the PMMoV fecal marker in order to account for dilution*

Normalized virus concentration over time

Normalized SARS-CoV-2 virus concentration (copies / L of sewage)

New cases in county on sampling date



Contra Costa Health on Wastewater Support

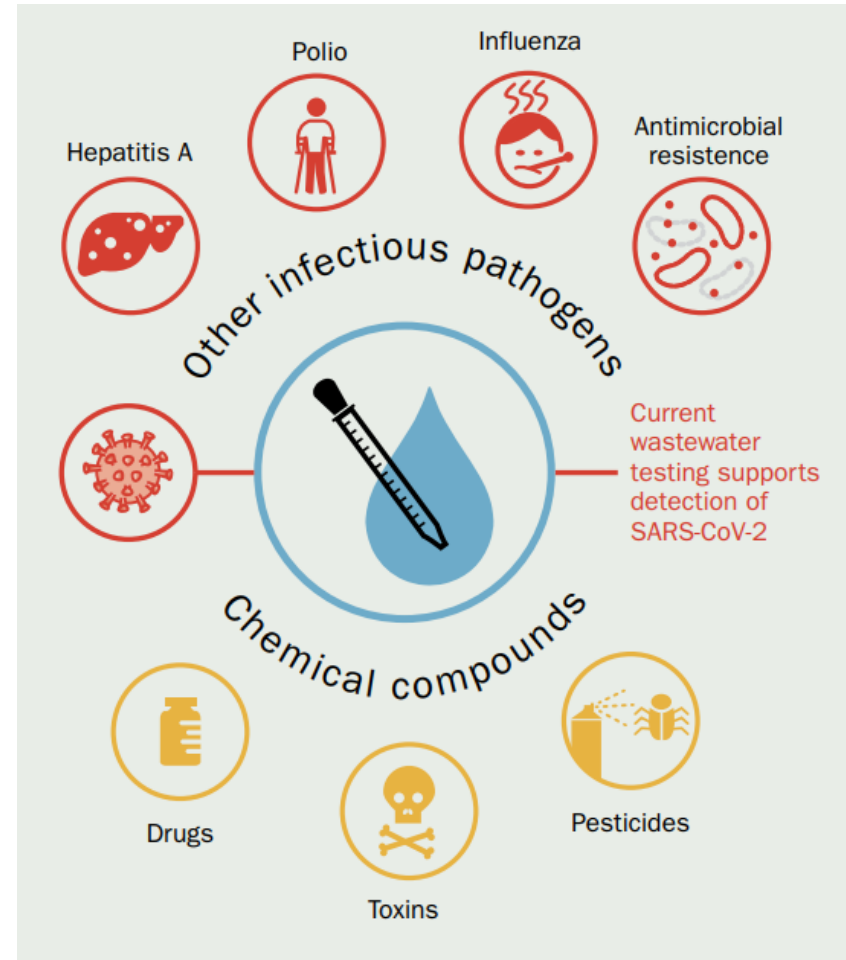


“I think the contribution has been immense - it gives a good idea of community transmission about a week before case numbers go up, and is particularly important now with testing resources being so limited. It helps us know when we are peaking and when we are dropping, and goes into direct staff planning for the testing branch as well as all of our hospital partners.”

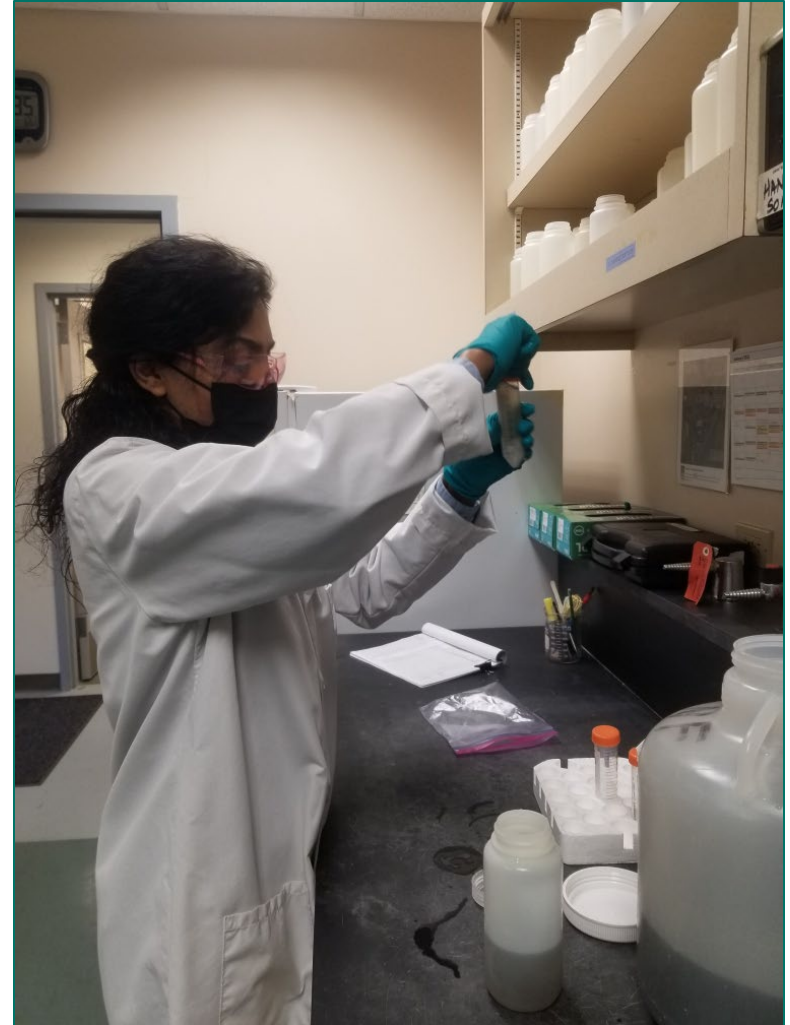
Ori Tzvieli, MD
CC Public Health Director

Next Steps

- Continue sending samples to UC Berkeley through June 2022
- Participate in next NWSS study phase – sampling starting next week
- Continue supporting future WBE efforts, as applicable



Thank You Lab Staff!



Acknowledgement



- Most graphics in presentation are courtesy of:
 - Manuel, Doug; Amadei, Carlo Alberto; Campbell, Jonathon R.; Brault, Jean-Martin; Veillard, Jeremy. 2022. *Strengthening Public Health Surveillance Through Wastewater Testing : An Essential Investment for the COVID-19 Pandemic and Future Health Threats*. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank.
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