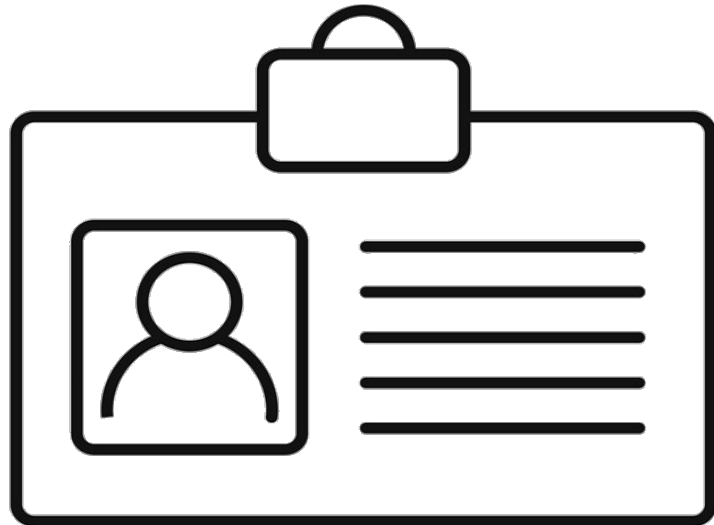




Georgia Department of Public Health:
Strike & Support Team Office Hours for Assisted Living
Facilities and Personal Care Homes
Friday, June 24, 2022 | 11 a.m. ET

Meet the Team



Presenter:

Regina Howard, BSN, RN, CIC

Georgia Department of Public Health
Infection Preventionist

Christina Meza, MPH

NWSS Epidemiologist II
Georgia Department of Public Health

Panelist:

Melody Brown, MSM

Patient Safety Manager
Alliant Health Solutions

Thank You to Our Partners

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



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Purpose

- These sessions will consist of a regularly scheduled monthly webinar for assisted living facilities and personal care homes. Office hours are your opportunity to come and learn, share, vent and more!
- Each month, we will have updates on infection prevention, clinical protocols and ideas for new tools and resources. This is your chance to access subject matter experts on infection control and clinical practice in long-term care.
- Come prepared to pose your questions to subject matter experts and learn from your peers about their best practices and barriers.

Trainings

There will be two training sessions per year focused on relevant infection prevention topics, updates and shared best practices.

Office Hours:

July Office Hours: C. diff Treatment and Prevention and Control Updates

August Office Hours: Cleaning and Disinfection of Shared Medical Equipment

Training 2: October/Dates TBD



Your Opinion Matters

Share in CHAT what is keeping you up at night related to infection prevention.

We want to provide you with information that is relevant to what you are doing everyday.

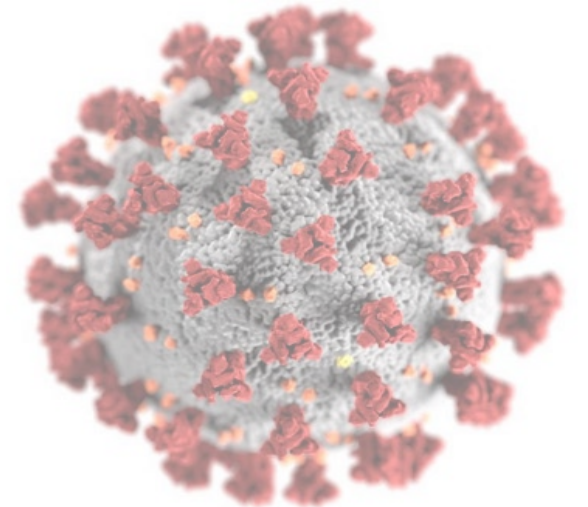
National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)

An Introduction to Wastewater Surveillance in Georgia

Alliant Solutions LTCF Presentation | Cristina Meza, MPH | NWSS Epidemiologist II | June 24, 2022

Overview of Topics Covered

- Why Wastewater?
- National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)
- Georgia Wastewater Surveillance Network/GA NWSS
- Big Picture: Wastewater-Based Epidemiology



Why Wastewater?

Wastewater Surveillance & Public Health

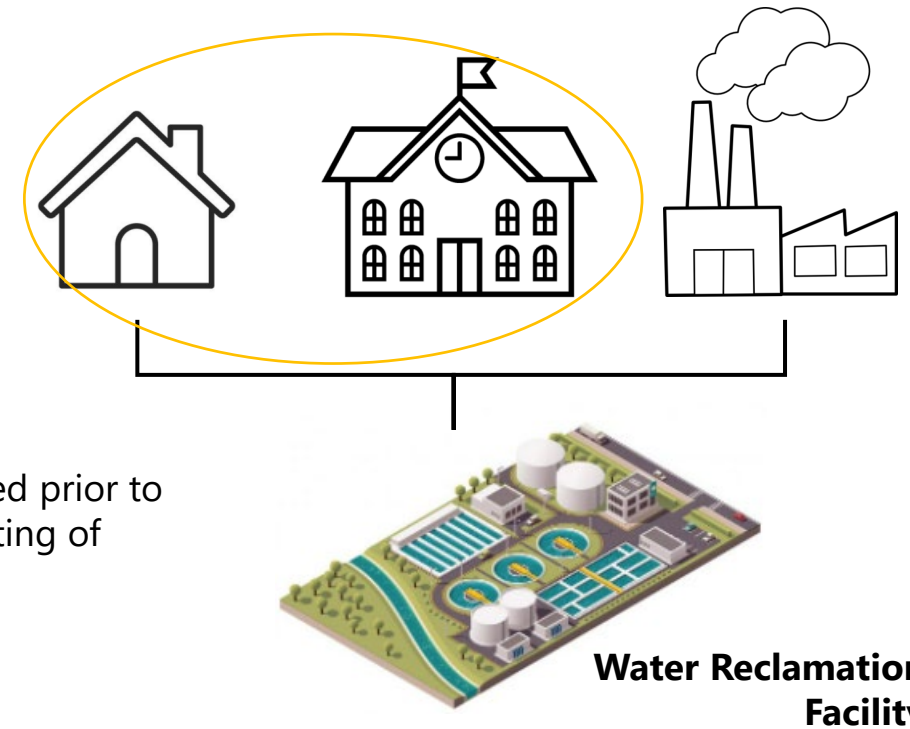
Using wastewater for COVID-19 surveillance allows us to:

1. Detect RNA regardless of symptoms status
2. Detect RNA regardless of testing availability or behaviors
3. Utilize data sooner than other surveillance or case-based data

Overall Goal

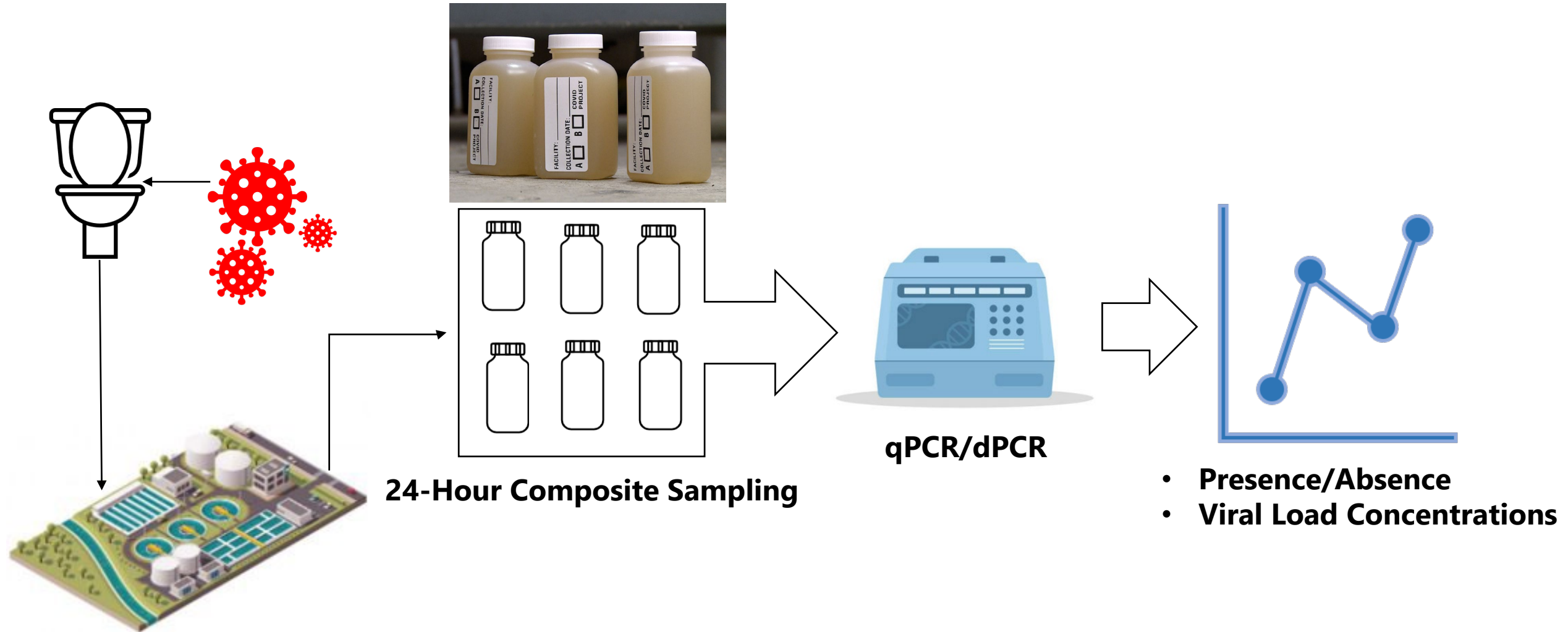
To complement existing COVID-19 surveillance & act as a sentinel surveillance system in times of low prevalence

Wastewater, or sewage, is collected prior to entering treatment facility for testing of SARS-CoV-2 RNA



Water Reclamation Facility

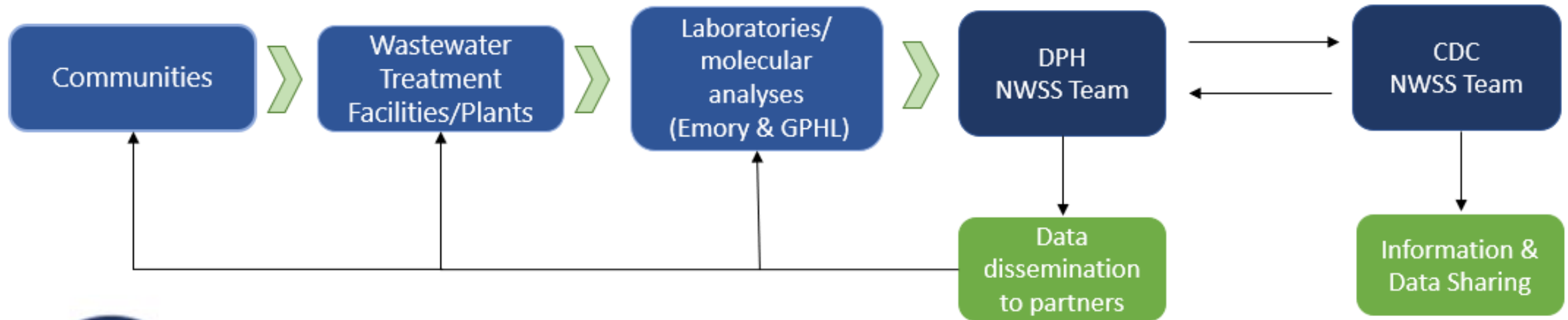
How Wastewater Surveillance Works



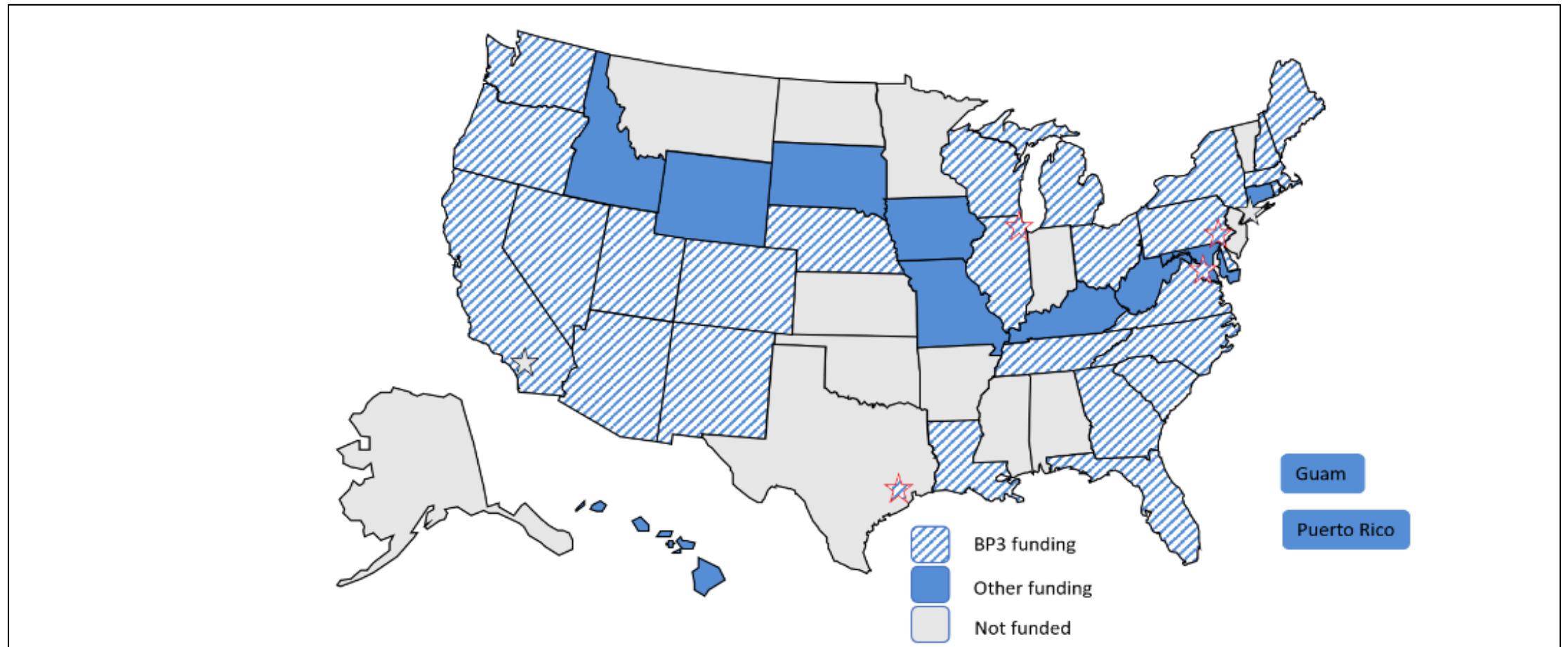
National Wastewater Surveillance System

https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/images/wastewater-surveillance/GettyImages-516587669-500px.jpg?_=68864
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/wastewater-surveillance/wastewater-surveillance.html>

CDC NWSS Structure



NWSS in the United States



Georgia Wastewater Surveillance Network

Wastewater Surveillance Activities in GA



- 1 Academic Partners (Emory & UGA)
- 2 CDC Commercial Contract Data & Short-Term Projects
- 3 Health Department-Led Wastewater Surveillance through CDC NWSS



Center for Global Safe
Water, Sanitation,
and Hygiene

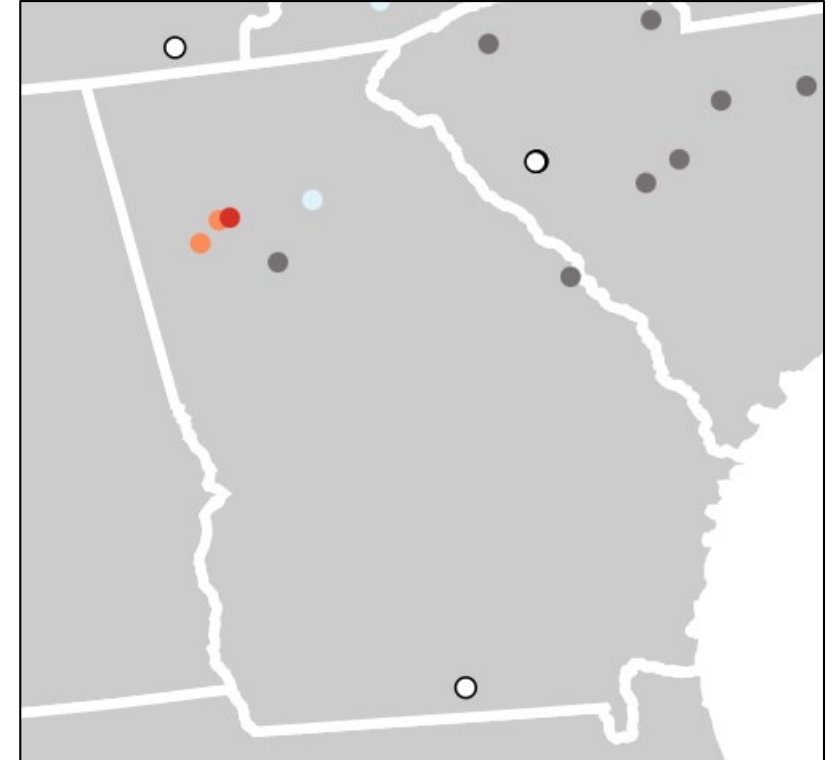
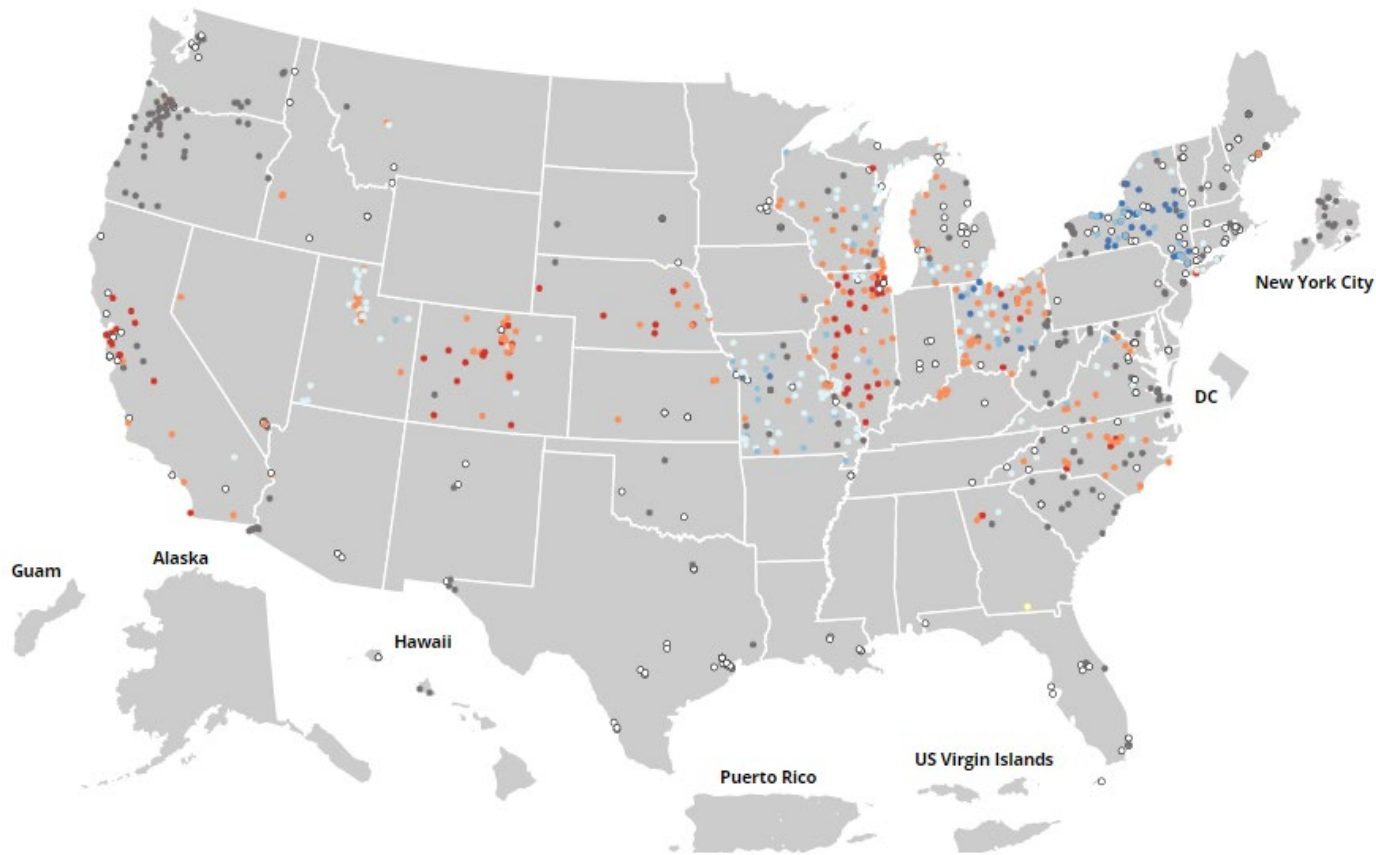


Center for the Ecology
of Infectious Diseases
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LUMINULTRA[®]
microbial monitoring

BIOBOT Biobot Analytics

CDC COVID Data Tracker



What Does the Data Show Us?

1. Current virus levels in wastewater:

- a. Shows us whether SARS-CoV-2 levels at this site are currently higher or lower than past levels at this site.
i. Interpretation: SARS-CoV-2 levels are 80-100% higher than the lowest levels of SARS-CoV-2 concentrations at this site, dating back to January 1, 2022.

2. Percent change in the last 15 days:

- a. Shows us how much normalized SARS-CoV-2 viral levels in wastewater at the site increased or decreased in the current 15-day period.
i. Interpretation: In the last 15 days, the normalized SARS-CoV-2 viral levels in the WWTF decreased to a level that is between 10%-99% of the previous sampling data.

3. Percent of wastewater samples with detectable virus in the last 15 days:

- a. Shows the percent of wastewater samples at each site that were positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA over the last 15 days.
i. Interpretation: 80-100% of samples collected within the last 15-day period, May 15 to May 30, 2022, were positive for SARS-CoV-2 genetic material.

Through Wastewater, Public Health Can...

1. Determine if SARS-CoV-2 concentrations are increasing or decreasing in a sewershed/WWTF. A sustained increase may indicate infections are also increasing.

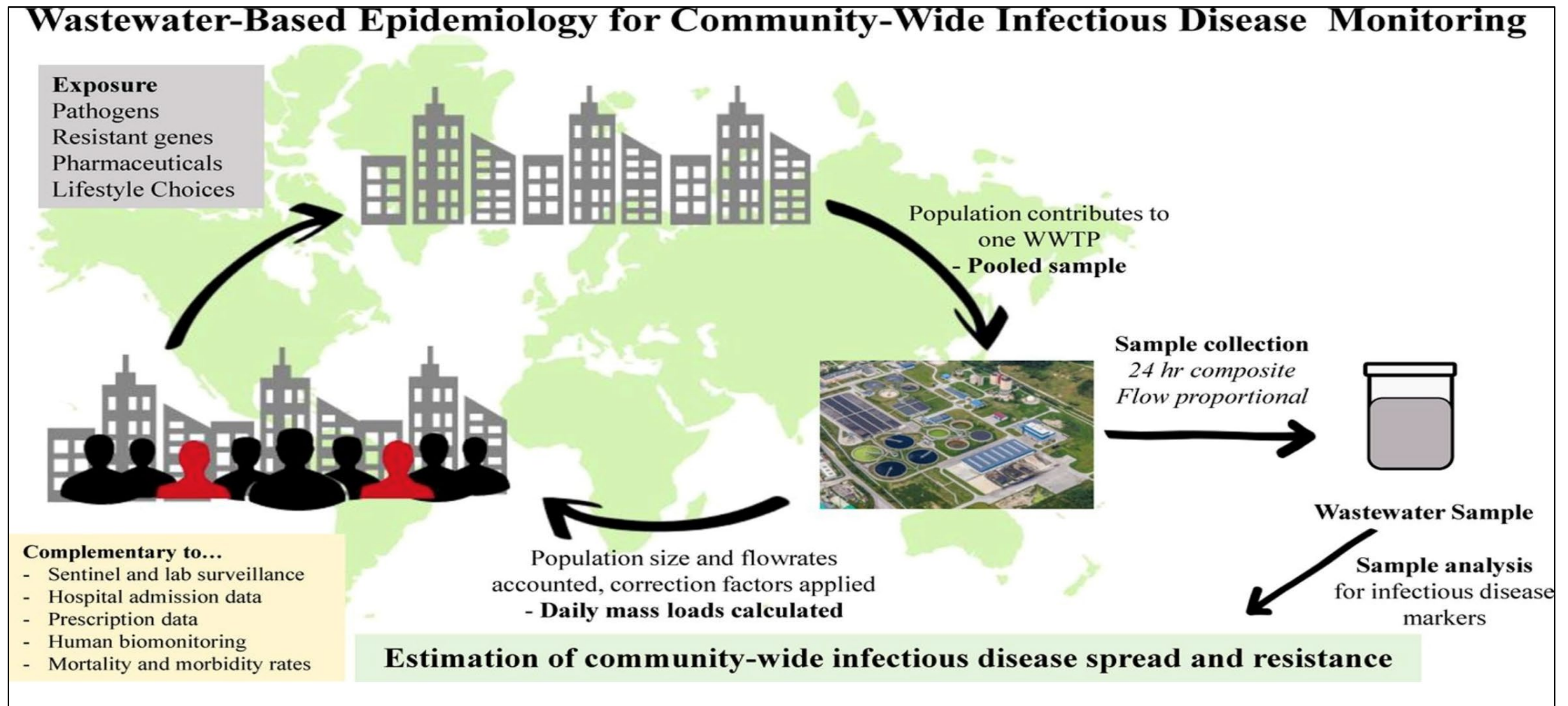
1. Use wastewater surveillance as an early indicator that the number of people with COVID-19 may be increasing or decreasing.

1. Use wastewater surveillance independent of healthcare-seeking behavior/access within a community.

1. Implement surveillance across a large geographic range (~80% of U.S. households are served by municipal wastewater collection systems).

Wastewater-Based Epidemiology

Wastewater-Based Epidemiology





of Georgia NWSS

Build infrastructure for wastewater testing in GA long-term

Develop the groundwork for utilizing wastewater surveillance for other pathogens of interest (e.g., MDROs, opioids, Flu/RSV)

Continue to collaborate and build capacity for wastewater surveillance



Acknowledgements

- Local and District Public Health
- DPH Data Analysis Team
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals
- University of Georgia, Lipp Lab
- Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Center for Global Safe WASH
- Other NWSS states
- Georgia Public Health Laboratory
- WWTF owners and operators
- And many more...

Questions?

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Melissa Tobin D'Angelo and Hope Dishman



Questions?



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Southeast (Columbia, Albany) Districts 8-1, 8-2	Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov (404-596-1940)
Southwest (Valdosta, Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2	Regina.Howard@dph.ga.gov (404 967-0574)
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Save the Date

Next Office Hours:

July 22, 2022

11a.m.



 ALLIANT |  
HEALTH SOLUTIONS
Readmissions Twitter Chat

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022 | 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. ET

[How to Participate in Alliant's Readmissions Twitter Chat](#)

Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



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Making Health Care Better



This material was prepared by Alliant Health Solutions, under contract with the Georgia Department of Public Health as made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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