

# Building COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance with the National Wastewater Surveillance System

CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) works with health departments to track SARS-CoV-2 levels in wastewater so communities can act quickly to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Health departments can partner with CDC NWSS, laboratories, and local wastewater utilities to get high-quality, community-level data they can use to protect public health.



## Standardized Data Collection

CDC provides NWSS implementing partners with sample collection and testing guidance for wastewater surveillance. The resulting standardized data make it easier to understand when it is appropriate to compare results over time and across locations.



## Collaborative Learning

Participants in the CDC NWSS Health Department, Utility, or Laboratory Community of Practice share successes, help shape best practices, and learn from other implementing partners.

Monthly meetings focus on:

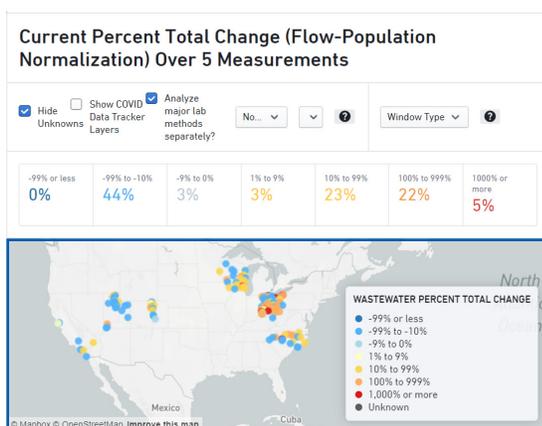
- Peer-to-peer sharing
- Data coordination, submission, and interpretation
- Public health action
- Relationship-building across utilities, public health departments, and laboratories

Public health departments at similar stages of wastewater implementation and geographic proximity also have more focused discussions during monthly cohort calls. Certain communities of practice also have digital platforms to engage outside of meetings.



## Analytics and Data Pipeline

NWSS implementing partners can easily access real-time data using the secure online CDC NWSS Data Collation and Integration for Public Health Event Response (DCIPHER) platform. This platform offers rapid wastewater data integration, analysis, and visualization that users can link to other surveillance data to help drive public health action. Only approved CDC NWSS DCIPHER users can see wastewater data on the internal dashboard, and users can download raw and analyzed data only from their sampled jurisdiction or community.



## Technical Assistance

CDC NWSS provides implementing partners with expertise to help them build systems and troubleshoot challenges.

CDC NWSS subject matter experts assist with:

- Site selection
- Sampling strategies
- Laboratory protocol development
- Data coordination and quality control
- Wastewater analytics and visualization
- Public health action

Implementing partners can access additional resources online and through the CDC NWSS DCIPHER platform.

Contact the CDC NWSS team at [nwss@cdc.gov](mailto:nwss@cdc.gov) to learn more and participate.



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