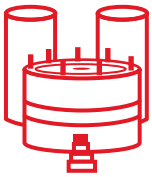
HOW DOES
WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE WORK?

STEPS TO UNDERSTANDING WASTEWATER DATA

1

Both **asymptomatic** and **symptomatic** individuals shed virus (such as the virus that causes COVID-19) in their stool.

2 

Stool in wastewater (sewage) is transported through the system and enters a **wastewater treatment facility**.

3

Prior to treatment, wastewater samples are taken and sent to the **laboratory for analysis**.

4

Through analyses, we are able to determine the **amount of virus present in the wastewater**.

5

Wastewater data is used with other surveillance methods to help make decisions about actions needed to **protect the health of a community**.

HOW WASTEWATER DATA INFORM PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

1. Improve disease monitoring by providing data where individual testing may be unavailable or underused

2. Provide information about entire communities, providing insight on many different populations

3. Works with existing surveillance systems and methods

4. Helps direct resources and information

ADVANTAGES

- Non-invasive, inexpensive, and unbiased
- Includes everyone (not based on testing or access to healthcare)

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:

County, State, and Federal government agencies such as public health departments, county government, and many more.

CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) program which includes other states and city health departments as well as CDC staff and subject matter experts.

Academic + Public Health laboratories and researchers

For more information visit:
dph.georgia.gov/wastewatersurveillance

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH