

Background on Wastewater Sampling Request

Together with researchers at MIT and Harvard, Biobot Analytics has launched a *pro bono* campaign to analyze sewage to detect the presence of COVID19.

They have reached out to ACWA with the following information and request for participation in a nationwide study of the virus in wastewater. Here is the background they provided...

We've already successfully detected the virus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID19 in sewage with samples from Massachusetts, and are now accepting samples from across the US to understand prevalence in different geographies. This information will be extremely useful in informing the severity and timing of public health interventions, policy, and in measuring the wind-down period of the outbreak.

We need to better track the outbreak

[New studies](#) show that SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, is shed in stool meaning it's collecting in our city sewers. We are establishing protocols to test sewage for SARS-CoV-2. If successful, this data will give communities a dynamic map of the virus as it spreads to new places.

Data from sewage will enable communities to:

1. **Measure the scope of the outbreak** independent from patient testing or hospital reporting, and include data on asymptomatic individuals,
2. **Provide decision support** for officials determining the timing and severity of public health interventions to mitigate the overall spread of the disease,
3. **Better anticipate likely impact** on hospital capacity in order to inform hospital readiness and the necessity of public health interventions,
4. **Track the effectiveness of interventions** and measure the wind-down period of the outbreak, and
5. **Provide an early warning for reemergence** of the coronavirus (if it does indeed have a seasonal cycle).

More information is available on our website, as well as an interest form so we can contact people:
www.biobot.io/covid19

Feel free to give me a call anytime at 857-756-5927 for more information.

Best,

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