Virginia Wastewater Surveillance Program: Community of Practice

WWS Team
VDH | Office of Environmental Health Services
First meeting: May 26th, 2021
Agenda

Introduction & Objectives of CoP (5 mins)
Introduction of Group Members (5 mins)
Updates & Funding Options/Form (10 mins)
Open Discussion: Questions & Special Topics (10 mins)
CoP Introduction & Objectives

Who?

All those involved in surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater within the state of Virginia.

[utilities, labs, researchers, public health, government, etc.]

Why?

Collaboration and data sharing.

[data, questions, concerns, innovations, etc.]
## Why Focus on Community of Practice?

### For Members
- Help with challenges
- Access to expertise
- Confidence
- Fun with colleagues
- Meaningful work

### For Organizations
- Problem solving
- Time saving
- Knowledge sharing
- Synergies across sectors/districts
- Reuse of resources

### Short-term Value
- Personal development
- Enhanced reputation
- Professional identity
- Networking

### Long-term Value
- Strategic capabilities
- Keeping up-to-date
- Innovation
- Retention of talents
- New strategies

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*Source: Wenger's Cultivating Communities of Practice Quick start up guide*
VDH WWS Team Members

Rekha Singh, PhD, MPH
Wastewater Surveillance Manager

Marcia Degen, PhD, PE
Project Coordinator

Haniyyah Majeed, MS
Wastewater Surveillance Technical Program Specialist

Michelle Yancey, MPH
Wastewater Surveillance Data Analyst
Utilities

Researchers

Labs

Public Health

Others
Introducing Group Members

Utilities:
Harrisonburg Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority, Stafford County, Upper Occoquan Service Authority (Fairfax), Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (Albemarle), Western Virginia Water Authority (Roanoke), AlexRenew (Alexandria), Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Norman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant (Fairfax), Pepper's Ferry Wastewater Treatment Authority

Labs:
DCLS, Biobot, Pace National Analytical, Innova Prep
Continued......

Researchers:
University of California Merced,
University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University, Radford University

Public Health:
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology

Others:
DEQ, Metropolitan Council (Twin Cities MN), Town of Purcellville, AquaLaw, City of Martinsville, City of Richmond, City of Chesapeake, Virginia Department of Corrections, City of Roanoke, City of Danville
Purpose

To bring the Virginia wastewater community together for sharing of ideas and data, ultimately enhancing WWS.

The CoP can be used to support policy for improving community health and developing recommendations for Standards of Practice.
All Testing & Active Workgroups - We want you!
Format

- Monthly online meetings
- ~30 minutes
- **Focus**: Information & Collaboration
- **Min requirements**: Virginia WWS updates, open discussion time
- **Options**: Rotating group member topics, educational presentations, breakout sessions

Send us questions/topics you’d like to discuss!
### Virginia Goals Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 1. Data Collection</th>
<th>Goal 2. Data Analysis and Visualization</th>
<th>Goal 3. Community of Practice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Created <strong>data template</strong></td>
<td>Explore data <strong>analysis</strong> options</td>
<td>Hosted several <strong>information sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Disseminated <strong>HHS Phase 1 data</strong></td>
<td>Weekly data <strong>uploads</strong> to <strong>NWSS</strong></td>
<td>First <strong>steering committee</strong> meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compile data from <strong>ongoing projects</strong></td>
<td>Retrieve <strong>case data</strong> and <strong>sewershed boundaries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monthly</strong> <strong>CoP meetings</strong>!</td>
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Special Topic: Funding

New Project Proposal: August 2021

- Sentinel monitoring
  - Influent monitoring at 25 wastewater treatment plants
- Localized projects
  - Sewershed monitoring upstream of influent
- Variant surveillance
  - Monthly sampling at upwards of 20 sites for variants of concern

Utilities can apply here!
Sentinel Monitoring

SARS-CoV-2 monitoring at influent to 25 wastewater treatment plants statewide

Utility must submit application to be considered

- **Application** will determine utility’s ability to meet necessary DCIPHER NWSS data requirements
- **Reimbursements** for analytical and shipping costs
Localized Projects
VDH will select a subset of positive samples from sentinel monitoring sites for variant detection and tracking using:

- Targeted mutation: RT-ddPCR
- Target enrichment: amplicon-based sequencing
Questions Received on Funding

- What are the costs to the utility?
- Is it just for plant influent monitoring, or are looking at removals through the process?
- Will the utility get their data in a timely manner?
Open Q&A/Discussion

Questions?
Comments?
See you next month!

Send inquiries / topics to: rekha.singh@vdh.virginia.gov