





ICS Org Chart	
Incident Commander Public	_
Safety Officer - information Officer -	
Operations Planning Section Finance Section Logistics Section Chief	
Divisions and Groups	
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### Wastewater-Based Epidemiology for Averting COVID-19 Outbreaks on The University of Arizona Campus



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### WASTEWATER-BASED EPIDEMIOLOGY (WBE)

- Rapidly growing discipline formerly known as "sewage surveillance"
- Relies on testing wastewater from a given community for the presence of a particular virus
- Answers the questions: "Is the virus in that community?" "Is there a pandemic?"
- Concentration of the virus gives an indication of the severity of the pandemic

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### WBE: CONCEPT FOR CORONAVIRUS

- Infected individual shed the virus in feces which then enters wastewater (sewage)
- Shedding occurs up to 7 days prior to visible symptoms
- Shedding at a maximum at onset of symptoms
- Shedding continues 2-4 weeks after disappearance of symptoms

### **BENEFITS OF WBE**

- One test monitors defined community such as wastewater treatment plant service area or student dorm
- Highly sensitive: can detect 1 infection in 10,000 individuals
- Gives total virus load shed into wastewater including virus from symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals
- Is a leading indicator can be detected in sewage up to 7 days prior to symptoms developing

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### **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF WBE**

Useful for detecting onset of a pandemic

- Quantitative data over time determines if pandemic is  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$
- Allows determination of whether or not a community could/should return to work
- Can be used to evaluate the success (or lack thereof) of
  interventions such as mandated mask usage or social distancing
- Correlation of virus wastewater concentration (gene copies) with the number of clinical cases allows for future predictions of #s of infections

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### LIMITATIONS WITH CLINICAL DATA

- · Limited test availability
- Test negative on Monday What about Tuesday?
- Asymptomatic carriers often not tested
- Lag in reporting cases
- Test efficacy: False –ve and False +ve results

COVID-19 DISEASE				
Coronavirus	COVID-19 Disease Symptoms			
4.50	Common	Uncommon	Rare	
A STATE	Fever	Headache	High fever	
24 4 M A & A	Dry cough	Nasal congestion	Coughing up blood	
	Fatigue	Sore throat	Decreased white blood cell	
		Shortness of breath	Kidney failure	
CONTRACT.		Pain in muscles/joints		
3. A		Chills		
S 4 30		Nausea and/or vomiting		
- 4 4		Diarrhea		
		More recently: long haulers?		

# BUT

- 70-80% only mild symptoms or asymptomatic (we think!)
- Hence, mortality rate compared to number of infections is unknown
- Young individuals are infected less frequently and with milder symptoms (usually!)

COVID-19 CASE	S WORLDWIDE
Most Cumulative Cases	Most Cases per Capita
U.S.	U.S.
Brazil	South America
India	Europe





 WASTEWATER-BASED EPIDEMIOLOGY

 Virus concentration
 Virus concentration

 Virus concentration
 Output

 Virus concentration
 Output
 Output
 Output
 Output
 O

### WEST CENTER MONITORING OF COVID IN SEWAGE FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

- WEST WEBSITE (March 2020): offer to test samples nationwide for a fee
- March  $\rightarrow$  August 2020, over 300 samples analysed
- Samples from all over U.S. including Los Angeles, New York, Seattle Jacksonville (FL)
- Raw wastewater samples often +ve
- Always –ve after 2° treatment and disinfection

## META DATA

- Basic collection data: date, time, location
- Type of sample: raw sewage or after treatment
- WWTP service area
- Number of individuals served
- Number of cases in service area (on that date)
- Number of deaths (on that date)
- Look for correlations with virus concentration in wastewater











### SENSITIVITY OF WBE: AGUA NUEVA WWTP

"Stay at home" order in Arizona

 Approximately 2-4 weeks later, virus concentrations and case count decrease

- "Re-open economy" order in Arizona
  - Approximately 7 days later virus concentrations increase
     Approximately 2 weeks later, case count increases
- Three National holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day
   Approximately 1 week after each holiday virus concentrations increase
  - Approximately 2 weeks after each holiday case count increases





	Compare		tau	р	Z			
	conc	model	0.898933	0.000328	3.5921			
	conc	infection	0.6	0.01667	36			
	model	infection	0.595437	0.007348	2.6806			
	conc	new	0.466667	0.07255	33			
	model	new	0.473296	0.03311	2.1308			
<ul> <li>Modeled data is synonymous with observed data</li> </ul>								
Modeled data positively correlates with total infections								
<ul> <li>Model data positively correlates with new cases</li> </ul>								
<ul> <li>Observed RT-qPCR does not correlate with new cases, modeled data is more 'accurate'</li> </ul>								

### UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA STUDENT RE-ENTRY PLANS FOR FALL 2020

- 7 teams established:
- COVID-19 testing of humans (RT PCR)
- Antibody testing (Elisa IgG Antibody Test)
- Contact tracing (In person and app. Based)
- Isolation (segregated dorms or hotels
- Health Data Management and Communication (HIPAA and FERPA compliant data management)
- Thermometry (temperature measurement of individuals)
- WBE: US! (Dormitory testing for early detection of in-house infections)

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### **CURRENT DORMS TESTED**

- Maricopa
- Kaibab/Huachuca/Arizona
- Sonora
- Arbol de la Vita
- Graham/Greenlee
- La CienegaSan Pedro
- Santa Cruz
- LIKINS

• La Paz

# Collecting Wastewater from Dorms

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### HOW WBE REDUCED EXPONENTIAL SPREAD OF COVID-19

- The two infected students were asymptomatic
- Without WBE detection and isolation, they would have spread COVID-19 to other students
- This scenario has been repeated multiple times
- Now in 8<sup>th</sup> week of the semester: case count minimal
- University has successfully remained open
- Influence of "Shelter in Place" reflected in wastewater virus concentrations

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### **EFFICACY OF WBE**

- To date, false positives rare
  - Positive wastewater = someone infected
- False negatives can occur more frequently
  - No shedding or low shedding rates
  - PCR inhibition

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### **OVERALL STORY RESULTED IN MEDIA FRENZY!**

- Broadcasts with CNN, NPR, CBS, NBC, ABC
- Publications in "The Atlantic" and "Politico"
- · 300 media hits in September

### **National Headlines**

The University of Arizona says it caught University Of Arizona Prevented a dorm's covid-19 outbreak before it Coronavirus Outbreak On Campus By Testing Wastewater started. Its secret weapon: Poop. Poop tests stop COVID-19 How the University of Arizona used No. 2 outbreak at University of Arizona to solve its No. 1 problem: The coronavirus UA wastewater testing finds COVID-19 cases in dorm University of Arizona's wastewater testing halts potential surge in COVID-19 cases at dorm University of Arizona wastewater testing finds virus at dorm prevents outbreak finds virus at dorm, prevents outbreak University of Arizona catches asymptomatic Wastewater helps find positive COVID-19 cases at UA dorm coronavirus cases through wastewater testing

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### What have we learned – sewage monitoring for SARS-CoV-2 at the University of Arizona and Tucson

- · Grab samples collected in the morning work sufficient no need for composite sampling
- Can identify as few as 2 infected student dorms of ~300
- No viruses detected in sewage after infected students removed
- Four-day lead on identifying cases before positive clinical test by student health center
- · Concentration of virus increases in community sewage after Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day before increase seen in clinical cases
- · Social distancing and use of masks decreased concentration of virus

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# **ESTIMATION OF # OF ASYMPTOMATIC CASES** Sewage concentration x Wastewater flow rate

Infected People

i heoretical d

Amount of feces x fecal shedding rate

Theoretical # infected people minus actual reported cases = # asymptomatic cases

- Big unknown fecal shedding rate
- BUT from Student Dorm Study
- # cases known (clinical tests)
- Back calculate shedding rate
- Use equation to predict total # cases
- Limitation = issues with clinical testing

# WASTEWATER-BASED EPIDEMIOLOGY



# **POOP NEVER LIES!**

University of Arizona