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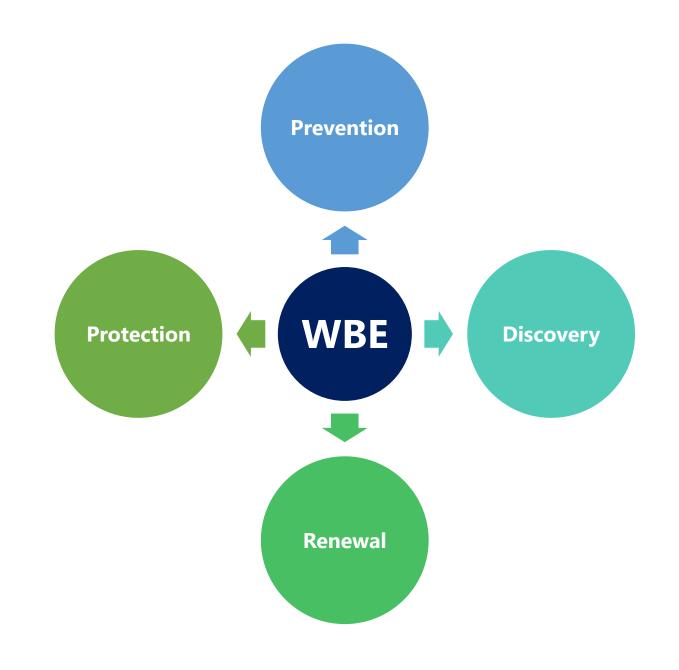
Wastewater Monitoring in the Workplace

Early detection of viral outbreaks and drug-use in the mining industry



How does WBE Enhance Health & Safety





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Remote towns and municipalities may not have: - Similar access to health care as Urban centers

- Available funds and resources

The public health of a rural town directly impacts the health of the surrounding economy



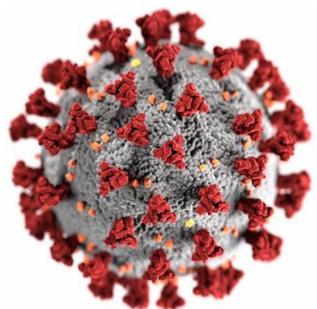
What is Wastewater Epidemiology (WBE)?

WBE: Wastewater-Based Epidemiology

- Uses information from wastewater and translates the presences/absence as well as quantification of parameters to the over-all state of public health in that sampled community.
- SARS-CoV-2 RNA is excreted in stool for ~7 days prior to testing positive using traditional swabbing tests

Benefits of WBE:

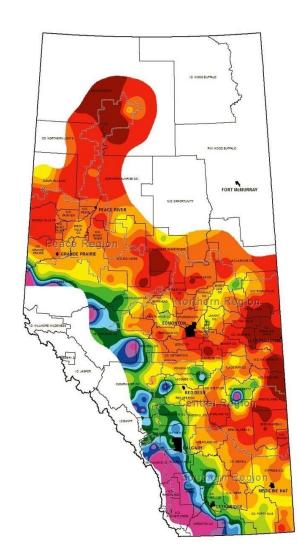
- Allows proactive identification of cases, prior to symptom onset and clinical testing
- Allows testing of whole populations
- Non-intrusive (sampling happens in the background)
- Provides institutions with an additional risk management tool
- Identify first cases before they turn into outbreaks
- Allow institutions and provincial health authorities to proactively respond
- Real-time monitoring of affected populations
- Monitor effectiveness of interventions



More data allows for more informed decisions....







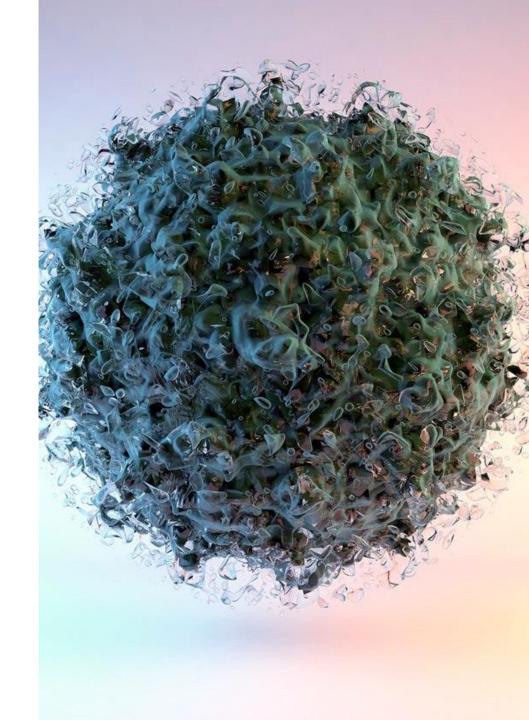


Why WBE is not a common practice?

- Wastewater has always been viewed as 'out of site, out of mind' and simply as a waste product with no value
- There has been little to no links to public health within industry

Link between Wastewater and public health

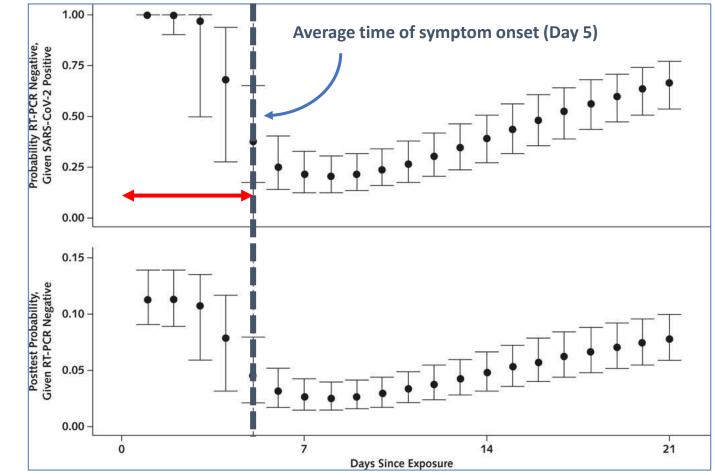
- The link between wastewater and public health is critical and the study of wastewater epidemiology will become intertwined with enhanced work place safety strategies in the near future.
- Historical uses of wastewater epidemiology:
 - Polio outbreak
 - Salmonella outbreak
- More recently wastewater epidemiology has taken the spot light in the fight against SARS-CoV-2



Notable Current and Future Uses for WBE

Focuses:

- Monitoring SARS-CoV-2 and <u>variants</u>
- Other viruses (influenza)
- Other bacterial infections (tuberculosis)
- Antibiotic resistance bacteria



(Kucirka, L., Lauer, S., Laeyendecker, O., 2020)

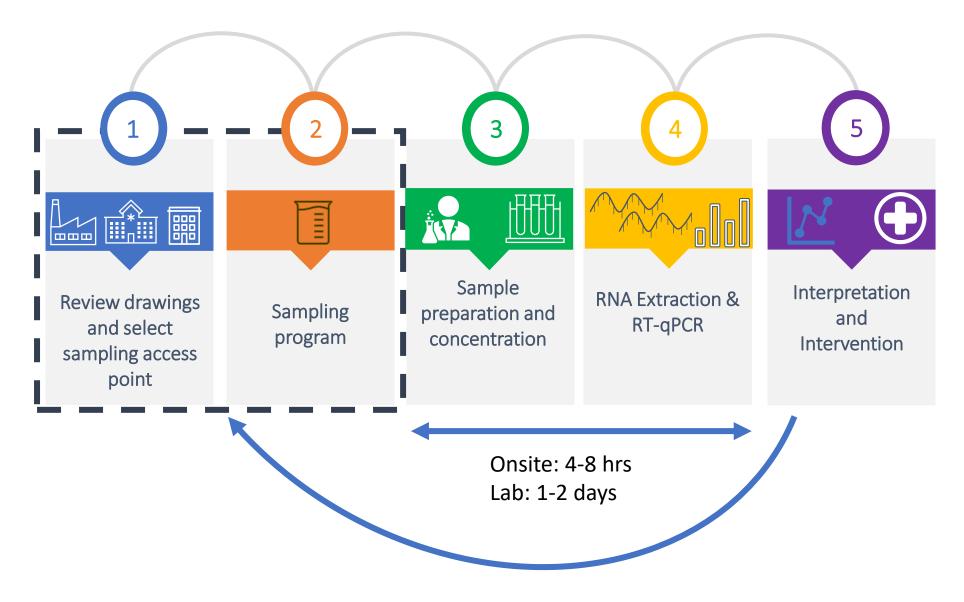
What locations are we currently testing

- Schools
- Long-term Care homes
- Hospitals
- WWTP infrastructure
- Remote Camps (Energy and Mining)
- Dormitories
- Residential properties (Condominiums)

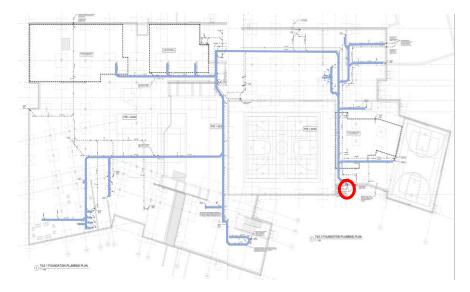




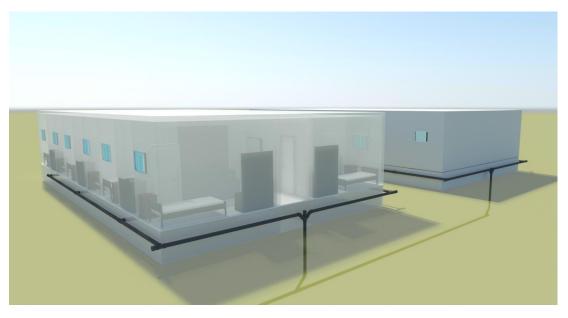
How it is done



Sampling using a tailored approach



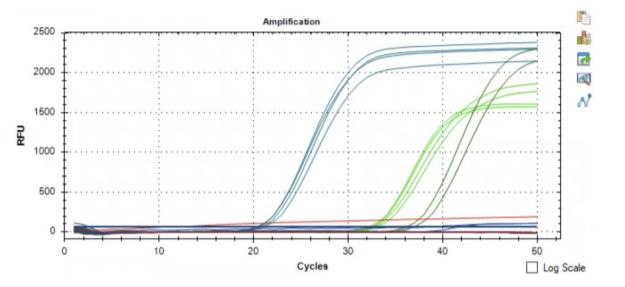


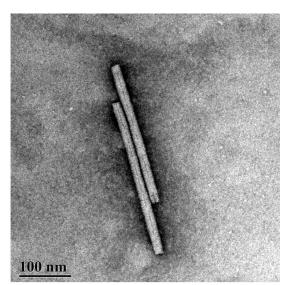






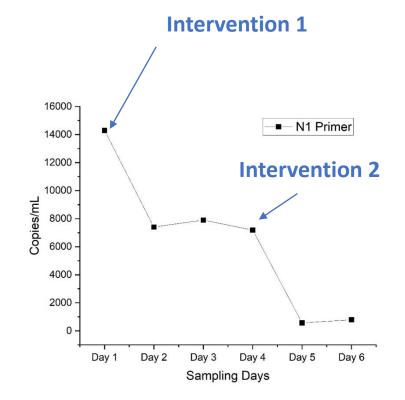
Data Analysis





 N1, N2
 These are two different targets in the nucleocapsid gene of SARS-COV2 virus

 Ct
 Cycle threshold: # of cycles required for the signal to cross the threshold (i.e. exceeds background level). Ct ≤ 40 positive reaction, indicative of the presence of the nucleic acid target (N1 or N2).



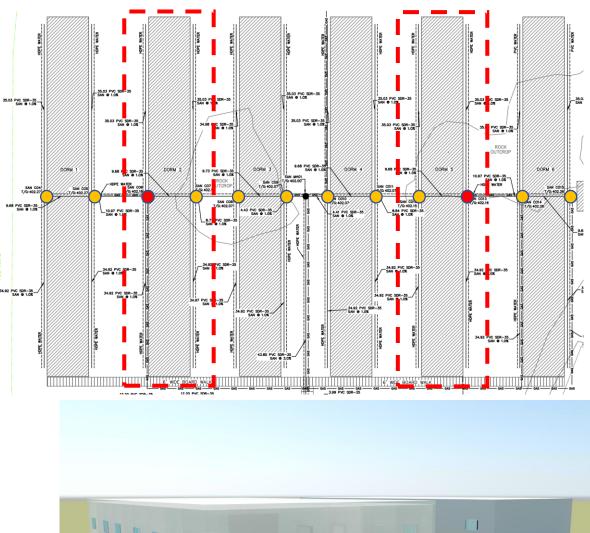
Incorporating Pepper mild mottle virus (PMMoV)

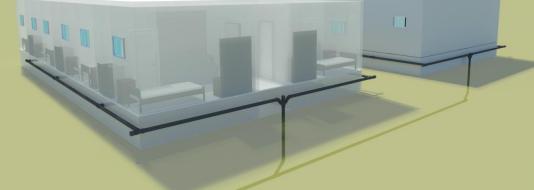
Mine Site Case Study

Remote Camp:

- 6 dormitories
- 12 samplers were required for high resolution sampling
- Sampling period was tailored around day/night shift and rotations



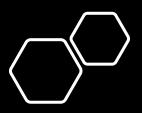




Main Points to Consider for Worker Safety

- Early Detection of SARS-CoV-2 (up to 7 days before breakout)
- Proactive monitoring
- Maintain a healthy workplace, avoiding costly shut downs and shift disruptions
- Additional and complimentary monitoring method for swab tests
 - Can be more sensitive and specific during early onset of infection
- Non-invasive and consistent sample collection
- Provides client with **additional risk management tool** which can lead to a faster and more effective response
- Sampling can be done at **any industrial location**. Each one of these facilities has a sanitary line.
- Reduce organizational risk and liability

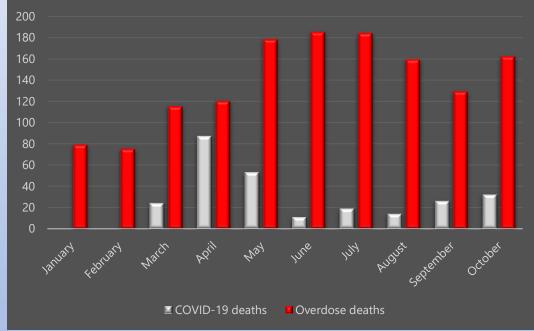




Beyond COVID-19

- C.E.C. Analytics has started the feasibility of non-invasive drug analysis for estimation of drug consumption in facilities and remote camps
- Targets:
 - Opioids
 - Cocaine
 - Heroin
 - Drug precursors for methamphetamines

COVID-19 deaths vs. overdose deaths in B.C. (2020)



Beyond COVID-19

• Recent data show that drug overdoses at work are increasing at a rate of 24% annually within industry (CDC, 2020).



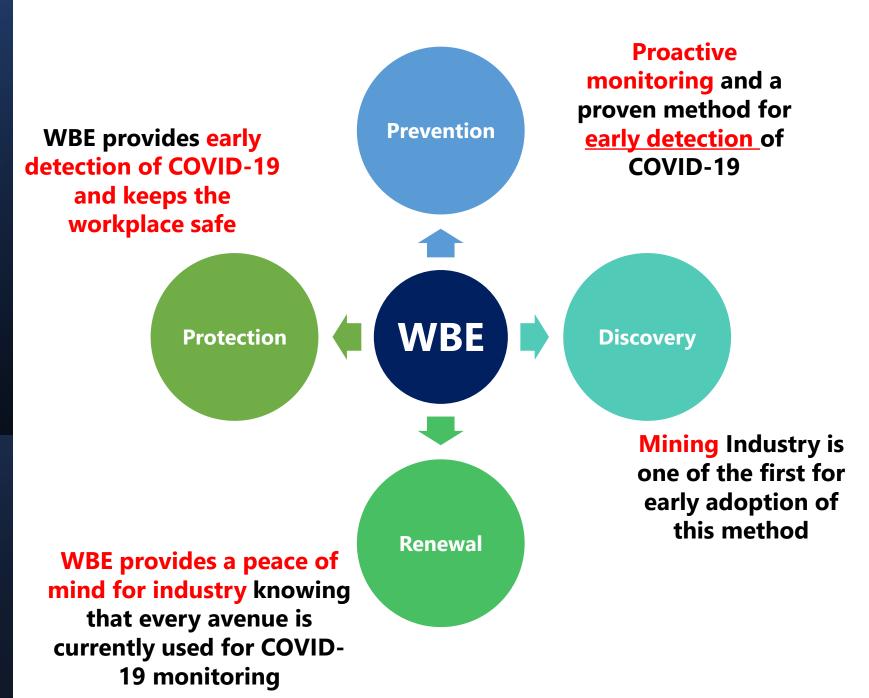
 Provide opioid awareness peer training for high risk worker groups and identify other additional opportunities to implement workeroriented opioid overdose prevention strategies.

Illicit Drug Monitoring

- Monitoring wastewater is a **nonintrusive** and inexpensive way to obtain real-time data that accurately reflects community-wide drug usage while **ensuring the anonymity of individuals**.
- WBE studies raise no ethical issues because WBE data are not collected on individuals (ethical research guidelines for sewage epidemiology, 2015).

How does WBE Enhance Health & Safety





How to start

• C.E.C. Analytics is a full service provider

- Develop a sampling plan that is tailored to your operations
- Provide equipment and materials to collect samples
- Onsite and/or remote support for installation of samplers
- Coordinate with laboratories and assist with analysis and intervention strategies



WBE in Canada

- <u>Calgary engineer develops portable wastewater sampler that tests for COVID-19 constructconnect.com</u>
- <u>Wastewater is a COVID-19 'early warning system,' Ontario spends \$12M to test sewage (yahoo.com)</u>
- Sewage surveillance: How scientists track and identify diseases like COVID-19 before they spread | National Post
- Testing sewage for COVID-19 could be 'early warning' system, Ontario researchers hope | CBC News
- <u>COVID-19 found in Yellowknife wastewater Winnipeg Free Press</u>
- <u>Researchers monitoring wastewater for COVID-19 at Edmonton long-term care facilities (msn.com)</u>
- <u>Sewage surveillance: How scientists track and identify diseases like COVID-19 before they spread</u> <u>Canadian Geographic</u>
- University of Guelph testing campus residences' wastewater to detect COVID-19 | CTV News
- Testing wastewater could give early warning of second wave of COVID-19 | CTV News

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