

COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



HPC HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL OF BIRMINGHAM, AL HEALTH FOCUSED COMMUNITY DRIVEN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Webinars:

Six Steps to Performing a Community Health Assessment

[Learn more here.](#)

Health and Disability 101 Training for Health Department Employees

[Learn more here.](#)

Mini-MPH For Public Health Professionals

[Learn more here.](#)

An Introduction to Zoonoses and Vectorborne Diseases and their Drivers

[Learn more here.](#)

An Overview of the Policy Process in Public Health and the Need for Systems Thinking

[Learn more here.](#)

Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater surveillance is an innovative approach involving monitoring and analyzing wastewater to detect and track the presence of viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). This method has gained significant attention as a complementary tool to traditional clinical testing, offering valuable insights into community-level infection rates and early warning systems for potential outbreaks. By examining the genetic material shed in human waste, scientists and public health officials can monitor and respond proactively to viral threats, making wastewater surveillance a powerful weapon in the fight against infectious diseases.

“In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC launched the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) in September 2020. CDC developed NWSS to coordinate and build the nation’s capacity to track the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in wastewater samples collected across the country.” - [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

Key Benefits and Applications:

- 1. Early Detection:** Wastewater surveillance provides an early warning system for viral outbreaks by detecting the presence of viruses before individuals may show symptoms or seek medical attention. This allows public health officials to implement timely interventions and control measures, potentially preventing the spread of infections within communities.
- 2. Community-Level Monitoring:** By analyzing wastewater samples from various locations, wastewater surveillance can provide a comprehensive overview of viral prevalence in a specific region or population. This information is beneficial for tracking viral transmission dynamics, identifying hotspots, and assessing the effectiveness of public health interventions.
- 3. Early Intervention and Resource Allocation:** Wastewater surveillance helps public health officials allocate resources more efficiently by identifying areas with higher viral loads. This information can guide targeted testing, contact tracing, and deployment of healthcare services, allowing for proactive interventions to limit viral spread and minimize the impact on public health.
- 4. Sentinel System for New and Emerging Viruses:** Wastewater surveillance serves as a sentinel system for detecting new and emerging viruses. By continuously monitoring wastewater, scientists can identify the presence of novel pathogens, including potential future pandemics. Early identification of these viruses facilitates prompt research, development of diagnostic tools, and preparedness planning.

With its ability to complement traditional clinical testing, wastewater surveillance enables proactive interventions, efficient resource allocation, and the potential to detect new viral threats. Integrating this technique into public health strategies can enhance our ability to safeguard communities, prevent outbreaks, and protect public health in an increasingly interconnected world.

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HPC HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
HEALTH FOCUSED COMMUNITY DRIVEN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Dealing with Stress in Disasters:
Building Psychological Resilience

[Learn more here.](#)

Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where to get the nearest vaccine and booster. For information on the COVID-19 vaccine, testing, guidance, and resources visit [swflvaccine.org](https://www.swflvaccine.org)

STAY
HEALTHY,
SUNSHINE

COVID VACCINE. YOUR BRIGHTEST BET.

Resources

COVID-19 Vaccination

Clinical Resources

- [CDC Report](#): Racial and Ethnic Differences in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Children and Adolescents Ages 5-17 Years and Parental Intent to Vaccinate Their Children
- [ProviderBridge.org](#) provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing by state as well as a provider portal to connect volunteer health care professionals to state agencies and health care entities.
- [Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program](#). Under the program, Medicare-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation.
- [One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County](#). Visitors to the site can enter their county and map nearby locations for masks, respirators, vaccines, boosters, and all testing and treatment options.

Promotion/Patient education materials

- Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida [COVID-19 Resource](#) website
- Health Council of Southeast Florida [Stay Healthy Sunshine Campaign](#) website
- "We Can Do This" [communications materials](#)
- [The Public Health Learning Agenda Toolkit](#): Facilitate deeper, more robust stages of learning that can increasingly impact systems change
- [National Resource Center](#) for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants creates COVID-19 communications materials in 40+ languages.
- [Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence](#) provides information and training on injury and disease related to agriculture. Their health professionals and educators created a social media toolkit that aims to provide clear messages about COVID-19 vaccination for agriculture, forestry, and fishing workers.
- [Talking Health: A New Way to Communicate About Public Health](#) provides new research-based tools to help health professionals communicate more effectively about public health, strengthen community partnerships, and improve health outcomes.