



A STUDENT-CENTERED VISION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

To: Institutions of Higher Education
From: New Jersey Department of Health
Date: March 8, 2023
Subject: Wastewater Surveillance Program Opportunity

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has a Wastewater Surveillance Program, which is part of the larger CDC National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) program. The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service (CDS) and the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL)—in partnership with wastewater treatment facilities, CDC, and local health departments—are expanding the statewide wastewater surveillance program to include targeted surveillance at New Jersey institutions of higher education.

NJDOH invites institutions to participate in this free program. All sample collection kits and shipping supplies will be provided at no cost to participating sites. The cost to ship samples will also be covered, as well as accommodations for courier transport, if needed. Wastewater testing can serve as an early warning of new cases in an area at risk and can serve as a cost- and time-efficient screening approach to complement individual testing. This can be of benefit to the institution as it can aid in detecting diseases that are present, provide early warning to guide policies and procedures, and allow officials at the institution to view the data in a weekly organized report.

If your institution is interested in participating in the NJDOH Wastewater Surveillance Program and/or has any further questions, please reach out to Michelle Bove, Health Educator at NJDOH (michelle.bove@doh.nj.gov).