Join the WastewaterSCAN Learning Cohort:
Expanding Wastewater Monitoring to Communities Across the U.S.

National League of Cities (NLC) is partnering with WastewaterSCAN to expand wastewater monitoring for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), its variants, monkeypox (MPOX), and other viruses to more municipal wastewater systems. This national initiative will create early detection and monitoring systems that support city leaders and public health officials across the U.S. in critical decision-making for future and ongoing infectious disease outbreaks.

While COVID-19 has been the primary driver of wastewater monitoring expansion in the U.S., this increasingly important public health tool is also being used to detect influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and most recently MPOX.

NLC's partnership with WastewaterSCAN is a natural extension of our past and ongoing work to help elected and appointed city officials protect the health and safety of community members.

For this partnership, NLC is establishing a WastewaterSCAN Learning Cohort to bring together 50 participating communities to implement wastewater monitoring using WastewaterSCAN's approach; identify and share best practices; and strengthen collaboration among municipal leaders, professionals managing wastewater treatment facilities, and local health departments — all focused on improving community health outcomes.

Participation Requirements for NLC's WastewaterSCAN Learning Cohort:

- Serve a sewershed district of 25,000 persons or greater
- Form a cross-sector team consisting of at least one city official, a local public health official, and local wastewater facility
- Collect and ship wastewater samples three times per week (all materials provided)
- Engage in NLC learning and peer-to-peer activities

What to Expect:

- Technical assistance to facilitate implementation of and sustaining wastewater testing in your community
- Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 and variants, MPOX, influenza, and RSV
- Free test kits and shipping for three samples per week
- Results posted on data dashboard within 48 hours of shipment
- Guidance for using the data to drive public health action
- Engagement of subject-matter experts for technical assistance, peer-to-peer, and specialized coaching activities

Time Commitment Following Application:

- Participate in orientation and onboarding process by the end of this calendar year
- Wastewater treatment plant collection and shipment of samples three times a week
- Participate in ongoing monthly engagements throughout 2023 (either peer-to-peer or technical assistance forums)
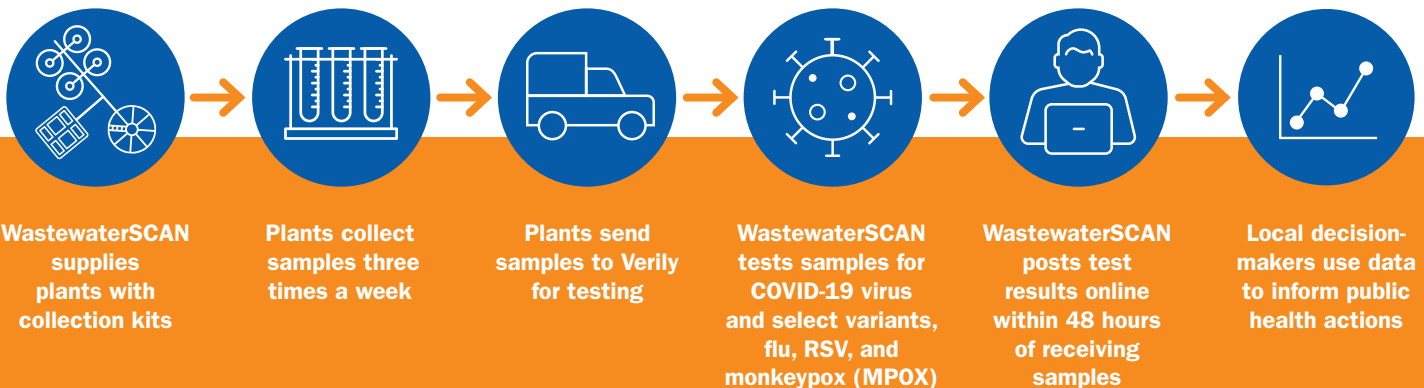- Provide information to inform project evaluation activities

Cost:

- No fees to participate in NLC's WastewaterSCAN Learning Cohort and implement a wastewater monitoring program
- Stipend available to defray labor costs associated with sample collection ($200 per solid sample, $150 per liquid sample)

Learn more and apply to join at
nlc.org/initiative/using-wastewater-to-detect-covid-19-and-other-pathogens/

WastewaterSCAN
HOW IT WORKS

- A community and its wastewater treatment system ask to participate by applying at emailmeform.com/builder/emf/NLC/Wastewater.

- WastewaterSCAN sends participating facilities sampling kits that will allow each one to take samples and send them for lab analysis three times each week; the sampling materials and shipping will be provided free of charge.

- A facility takes two 50 ml samples of wastewater grab or composite solids, preferably from a plant's primary clarifier. For facilities that can only sample liquid wastewater, WastewaterSCAN will provide sedimentation equipment to allow them to settle solids locally.

- A facility ships the samples using the packaging and postage provided as quickly as possible to preserve the quality of the sample.

- WastewaterSCAN uses testing that is more sensitive than other programs currently available to detect SARS-CoV-2 and specific variants, as well as flu, MPOX, and RSV.

- WastewaterSCAN posts test results on a web dashboard within 48 hours of receiving a sample. Under these parameters, the analysis can identify 3-6 COVID-19 infections per 100,000 people served by the treatment plant.

- Community leaders and public health officials use the data to inform public health actions for addressing future and ongoing infectious disease outbreaks.

WastewaterSCAN supplies plants with collection kits → **Plants collect samples three times a week** → **Plants send samples to Verily for testing** → **WastewaterSCAN tests samples for COVID-19 virus and select variants, flu, RSV, and monkeypox (MPOX)** → **WastewaterSCAN posts test results online within 48 hours of receiving samples** → **Local decision-makers use data to inform public health actions**

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact us at
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