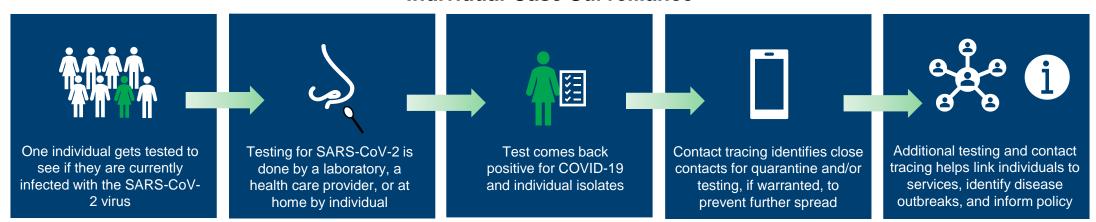# How does wastewater monitoring fit in with overall COVID-19 surveillance?

Individual Case Surveillance

One individual gets tested to see if they are currently infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is done by a laboratory, a health care provider, or at home by individual

Test comes back positive for COVID-19 and individual isolates

Contact tracing identifies close contacts for quarantine and/or testing, if warranted, to prevent further spread

Additional testing and contact tracing helps link individuals to services, identify disease outbreaks, and inform policy

Surveillance timeline

Individual case surveillance results available

Wastewater surveillance results available

Wastewater testing results can provide an **early warning** to public health agencies before they might be notified of positive cases.

Population-Level Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater is collected from a treatment plant or sewershed, which represents all the people in that area

Wastewater is tested at a laboratory for the presence and amount of SARS-CoV-2

Results determine if the level of virus is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same within this community

Increased positive detections can help public health officials target interventions

Interventions can include:
- Increased messaging/public awareness
- Targeted clinical testing
- Increased vaccination efforts

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
Contact **MDHHS-SEWERNetwork@michigan.gov** for more information.

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