**Public Communication Prompts**

The following templates for social media posts, website articles, and press release were adapted from the Ohio Department of Health’s [Wastewater Monitoring Network Toolkit](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-local-health-districts-and-governments/for-local-health-districts-and-governments) for local health districts. Feel free to use these as starting points for public engagement and communication.

**Social Media Post Templates**

**Informing the public about wastewater surveillance:**

🚽🔬 We're keeping a close eye on your wastewater! 🧫💧

Did you know that [HEALTH DEPARTMENT] is analyzing wastewater for disease. Wondering how this helps protect your community's health? Here's how it works:

👁️ Early Detection: Wastewater surveillance helps us spot signs of diseases in our community BEFORE they spread.

🤝 Community Safety: When we detect an increase, we take action to protect public health – more testing, better communication, and faster response.

📢 Transparency: We're committed to keeping you informed every step of the way.

Stay tuned for updates on how we're safeguarding your health through wastewater surveillance! 💪🔍 #CommunityHealth #WastewaterSurveillance #StayInformed

**COVID-19 Alert:**

Wastewater monitoring in the XXX community has indicated that COVID-19 may be on the rise. The virus can be shed in wastewater as early as 3-7 days before we see an increase in positive tests and hospitalizations. Read more: [INSERT LINK].

**Increasing COVID-19 trend detected:**

Early monitoring of the XXX wastewater sewershed, which services XXX, XXX and XXX, has indicated that COVID-19 may be on the rise. Wastewater detection can occur as early as 3-7 days before positive tests and hospitalizations. Read more: [INSERT LINK].

**Higher levels of COVID-19 detected in XXX:**

Wastewater monitoring in the XXX community has indicated that COVID-19 may be on the rise. The virus can be shed in wastewater as early as 3-7 days before we see an increase in positive tests and hospitalizations. Read more: [INSERT LINK].

**Update on wastewater data:**

🚽📊 **Update on Wastewater Data!** 📊🚽

We want to reassure you that [HEALTH DEPARTMENT] is still monitoring your wastewater diligently. 🧪🔬

**No significant changes** have been detected recently, which is great news! However, we encourage you to stay informed and check out our **dashboard for the latest updates.** 💻📈

Your health and well-being remain our top priority. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Together, we're keeping our community safe! 🙌❤️ #WastewaterData #CommunityHealth #StayInformed

*Feel free to include the actual link to your dashboard in the "[Link to Dashboard]" section.*

**Website Article Template**



**Possible COVID-19 Case Increase Detected**

A statewide wastewater monitoring effort has indicated that COVID-19 cases may be increasing in our community. Residents should be on alert and remain vigilant in their efforts to social distance, wear face coverings, and adhere to prevention efforts such as frequent hand-washing.

[LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT] is using this indicator, along with community case numbers and other COVID-19-related data, to inform decisions as we respond to the pandemic. At this time, we are [XXXXX] to help mitigate spread of COVID-19 before cases begin to occur.

If you experience any COVID-19-related symptoms, contact a healthcare provider. These could include fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea.

The monitoring network that detected signs of a possible spike is studying samples of wastewater across the state to look for the presence of fragments of the virus that causes COVID-19. An upward trend in an area served by a specific wastewater treatment plant could be an early indicator that cases of COVID-19 may increase.

Over the past [XX] days, levels in [XXX] community have increased [X%], [from XXX on X to XXX on X].

[insert trend image from dashboard and zoom in on the appropriate sewershed]

Research has shown that non-infectious RNA (ribonucleic acid) from the virus that causes COVID-19 can be detected in wastewater as many as three to seven days before those infections lead to increases in case counts or hospitalizations. We urge residents to act now to protect themselves and their families.

[HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S PROGRAM NAME] is a collaboration between the [ALL PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NAMES].

For additional local data and details on the network and its monitoring methods, visit

[WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE DASHBOARD OR WEBSITE]

**Press Release Template**



**PRESS RELEASE**

Monitoring of community wastewater detects elevated levels of COVID-19 in [XXXX community]

In a new effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, a network across [JURISDICTION] is studying samples of wastewater to look for the presence of fragments from the virus that causes the disease. An upward trend of viral gene copies has been detected in the [XXXX] sewershed, which serves [XXX, XXX and XXX] communities.

This trend is an early indicator that cases of COVID-19 in the community may be increasing. Residents should be on alert and remain vigilant in their efforts to social distance, wear face coverings, and adhere to prevention efforts such as frequent hand-washing.

This emerging information is being used by [LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT] in conjunction with our community case numbers and other COVID-19-related data to further inform decisions as we respond to the pandemic. At this time, [LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT] is [XXXXX] to help limit further spread of the disease before cases begin to occur. We also are alerting healthcare providers, nursing homes, and other shared-living facilities to be prepared for a potential increase in cases.

The increase of COVID-19 cases in communities is typically tracked by testing people with symptoms, an indicator that lags behind the actual spread of the disease. However, research has shown that non- infectious RNA (ribonucleic acid) from the virus that causes COVID-19 can be detected in wastewater as many as three to seven days before those infections lead to increases in case counts or hospitalizations. This means that monitoring raw wastewater in sewage collection systems can provide an early warning of disease increase in a community.

When interpreting this specific viral data in wastewater, it is only appropriate to monitor and observe the trends of viral gene copies detected in a community over time, not individual readings themselves. Over the past [XX] days, levels in [XXX] community have increased [X%], [from XXX on X to XXX on X].

[insert trend image, available by visiting [DASHBOARD] and zooming in on the appropriate sewershed]

[HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S PROGRAM NAME] is a collaboration between the [ALL PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NAMES].

For additional local data and details on the network and its monitoring methods, visit

[WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE DASHBOARD OR WEBSITE]