

# Re: Wastewater Testing Request

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From:

"Blanchard, Dominique" <dominique.blanchard@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

To:

"Jarvis, Mark" <mark.jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc:

"Wong-Fortin, Bonny" <bonny.wong-fortin@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Jarvis, Saskia" <saskia.jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Date:

Mon, 31 Aug 2020 17:00:13 -0400

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Thanks Mark! This is helpful. Looks to me as though Dr Nemer is just one player of many on this, no?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 31, 2020, at 4:56 PM, Jarvis, Mark <Mark.Jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca> wrote:

Hi Bonny and Dom.

Attached is the PHAC response on status of wastewater testing. Key parts follow.

It may be worth reaching out to Dr Nemer on the timing. At the analyst level either SDP or ERDP has seen anything from Dr Nemer or her office on this.

mark

## Status

The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) is currently validating the technology used to detect SAR-CoV-2 in wastewater samples. This work is key in understanding the detection capabilities of wastewater surveillance testing platforms and correlation of findings with clinical results as a prerequisite for wide scale deployment to provincial and municipal stakeholders. **This test validation should be completed by October 2020.**

The NML, in collaboration with F/P/T partners, is then planning to sample CoV-2 in wastewater in five high population centers (Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, estimating 8 million population), aboriginal communities (10 communities to be determined), and a pilot at an Ontario hospital to monitor sewage. The planning for this component is being finalized.

## Engagements

The Public Health Agency of Canada has engaged various organisations in deploying wastewater testing for COVID-19:

The Special Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Canadian Public Health Network – In June, SAC has expressed support for this initiative. An update to SAC is planned

shortly.

The Departmental Science Advisor Network – lead by the Chief Science Advisor for Canada, the DSA is actively engaged in providing scientific advice and considerations to this initiative.

The Canadian Water network - active engagement to mobilise stakeholders and researchers.

Environment and Climate Change Canada: leveraging existing programming for testing.

Statistics Canada - leveraging existing programming for testing.

Indigenous Services Canada – engaging on the possibility for testing on reserves and remote communities.

<Wastewater testing 2020\_08-31 final.docx>