

The Wastewater Surveillance Program' began testing wastewater for SARS-CoV-2 during the COVID-19 pandemic and quickly expanded to as many locations across the state as possible to help monitor the pandemic. After the pandemic, CDC recommended wastewater surveillance programs nationwide develop sustainable programs with the capability to monitor for multiple pathogens and capacity to rapidly respond to emerging threats if needed. CDC also reduced federal funding for wastewater surveillance nationwide.

In response, our Wastewater Surveillance Program (WSP) has reduced the number of community wastewater facilities regularly tested from 83 to 44, based on criteria such as the size of the system, the distribution around the state, and the population of each sewershed. WSP has notified these partners. Looking at these factors, locations that were removed tend to be smaller, but not tiny, communities where we were already getting similar surveillance coverage elsewhere in the region. This reduction has minimal impact on the overall percentage of the Missouri population covered (from 55% to 50%) and maintains good geographic representation. The program projects current funding to support this revised level of activity through July 2027.

The program plans to continue to monitor for SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) weekly, as well as monitoring for other pathogens of concern in communities as needed.

In addition, WSP recently sent out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to our current wastewater facilities and health departments that send us samples. An MOU was created to assure transparency and certainty about what is being tested for by DHSS, after learning that some wastewater facilities and health departments were contacted about sending in samples to third parties. WSP wanted to ensure that the wastewater facilities and health departments that WSP works with understands that WSP is not involved with those third parties and if a wastewater facility or health department sends samples to third parties then it would be separate from WSP.

Wastewater Facilities (retained):

KC Blue River, MSD Lemay, LBVSD Atherton, MSD Bissell Point, MSD Missouri River, Springfield SW, MSD Coldwater Creek, Columbia WWTP, MSD Grand Glaize, KC Birmingham, MSD Lower Meremac, KC Westside, Duckett Creek Sanitary District Plant 1, Duckett Creek Sanitary District Plant 2, Wentzville Water, Jefferson City, Joplin Turkey Creek, Cape Girardeau, Springfield NW, Sikeston, Poplar Bluff, Neosho, West Plains, Marvville, Sedalia Southeast, Sedalia North, Sedalia Central, Monett, Nevada, Kahoka, Milan, Albany, Warrensburg West, Warrensburg East, Salem, Edina, KC Blue River NEID,

MSD Fenton, KC Rocky Branch, KC Fishing River, KC Todd Creek, Barnes Jewish Hosp. Manhole 11, Macon, and Chillicothe.

Wastewater Facilities (reduced):

Princeton, Marshfield, Brookfield, Owensville, Canton, Tarkio, Queen City, Hermitage, MSSU, St. Joseph, Kennett, Mexico, Fredericktown, St. Peters, Liberty, Cassville, Platte City, Eldon, Willow Springs, Festus, Washington, RCSD Kimmswick, Troy Southeast, Cameron, Perryville, Dexter West, Warsaw, Licking Northwest, Waverly, Pineville, Macon East, Carthage, Hannibal, Barnes Jewish Hosp. Manhole 12, Barnes Jewish Hosp. Manhole 8, Lebanon, Bonne Terre, Joplin Shoal Creek, LBVSD Middle Big Creek.