

Wastewater is monitored in Germany as one of the systems for tracking diseases. The aim is to assess the spread of infectious diseases and to use this information to protect the population. Wastewater surveillance can help identify outbreaks, assess their seriousness, and find out where they started. But which pathogens are examined?

PATHOGENS FROM WASTEWATER IN GERMANY – A SELECTION



COVID-19

Germany's Federal Environment Agency and the Robert Koch Institute are cooperating in the AMELAG project. Its purpose is to assess whether and how many SARS-CoV-2 viruses are in our wastewater. The aim is to evaluate the local infection situation and track the spread of any variants.



Influenza

Influenza viruses cause respiratory infections, which can sometimes be life-threatening. Influenza hits the population and the healthcare system every year. Wastewater monitoring can help assess how serious and widespread the local infections are.



Polio

The campaign to eradicate poliovirus worldwide is not over yet. Poliovirus can be detected in wastewater, so we can track the spread of poliomyelitis-causing pathogens.

Other Pathogens

In several research projects, we are examining other infectious agents to see if they are suitable for wastewater monitoring. These include other viruses, bacteria, and fungi. We're particularly interested in pathogens that are resistant to antibiotics.

