

**Talk Time:** 12:30-1:30 CDT on July 21, 2022

**Platform:** CSWEA Zoom Account

**General Talk Description:** Update from the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene and the Wisconsin Department of Health on the Covid-19 Wastewater Monitoring program. Where we have been and where we are going.

**Detailed Talk Description:** As the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring Network approaches, we in this presentation will provide both a retrospective on accomplishments, and a look to the future, for wastewater surveillance in Wisconsin. By nearly all metrics, this collaboration of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Wastewater Facilities/Utilities (WWTF) across Wisconsin has been a successful program, with national recognition for its leadership in the field and for building one of the most robust statewide monitoring networks in the nation. Currently, fifty WWTFs provide the WSLH with over 100 composite influent samples per week. The WSLH developed efficient and automated workflows that allow for sample analysis and data review to be completed within 2-days of sample receipt, and SARS-CoV-2 data reported and presented to the public on the DHS COVID-19 Wastewater Monitoring website within 3-4 days of sample collection (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/wastewater.htm>). The scale of the monitoring network was reduced in mid-2021 from 72 WWTFs to the current 50 facilities to accommodate both routine sequencing of the wastewater SARS-CoV-2 and for quantification of Influenza A and B. Looking to the near future, we will discuss plans to implement wastewater monitoring for other respiratory and enteric pathogens and for multi-drug resistant organisms. Challenges do remain, with network logistics (e.g. WWTF retention/recruitment), virus quantitation (e.g. inhibitory matrices), and public-health integration, among the most visible. The presentation will discuss and seek your input on these challenges.

**Speakers:**

**Martin Shafer Bio:**

Martin Shafer is a researcher at UW-Madison & the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, working at the interface of chemistry, biology and toxicology. At the WSLH, he serves as research lead for the Environmental Health Division, coordinates the WI Wastewater Surveillance Program, directs the PFAS Research Team, oversees the Trace Element Research Group, and advises on Quality Assurance for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP).

**Jon Meiman Bio:**

Dr. Jon Meiman is the Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Environmental and Occupational Health at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. He is the principal investigator for several CDC and EPA grants and is the state's medical consultant for environmental and occupational diseases.