

Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 through wastewater

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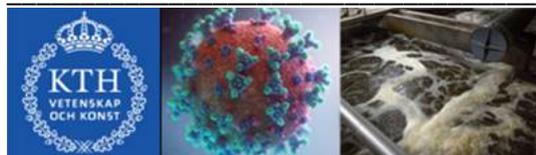
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Abstract: The episodic outbreak of COVID-19 due to SARS-CoV-2 from China is severely affecting the global economy, and the number of infected patients is still increasing. The actual number of patients have remained underestimated globally due to limited testing and asymptomatic nature of COVID-19 disease. Tragically, for emerging economies with high population densities, the situation becomes more complicated due to the lack of sufficient testing facilities for diagnosis of the disease. The persistent shedding of viral RNA of SARS-CoV-2 in the human feces have created a possibility to track the prevalence and trends of the disease in communities referring to wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) and there has been a global drive of understanding the waves of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic through the wastewater surveillance. It is envisaged that adoption of WBE practices will undoubtedly help in containment and development of appropriate mitigation strategies against the propensity of current SARS-CoV-2 viral outbreak. It is important to disseminate the research and development protocols of the WBE through strengthening of research collaborations, which can be the best way to ensure adoption of WBE worldwide for monitoring and managing the current COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics in a sustainable manner.

Best regards

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