Capital Region Water COVID-19 Pandemic Response

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CRW COVID-19 Pandemic Response Agenda

- Who is CRW?
- COVID-19 Work Adjustments
- Sewage Surveillance
- Budget Impacts
Who We Are...
~ 130 AWESOME CREW Members

Services we provide:

- **Drinking Water**
  ~ 67,000 people
  $26 M Revenue

- **Wastewater**
  ~ 120,000 people
  $22 M Revenue

- **Stormwater**
  ~ 50,000 people
  $5M Projected Annualized Revenue

**COVID-19 Work Adjustments**

- Split, Staggered Shifts; Week On/Week Off for Field Staff
- Provided 2 PTO days for Every Week Worked Regular Shifts
- Moved staff to limit exposure
- One person to a vehicle – rented vehicles to accomplish this
- Teleworking
- Furloughs
- Service Terminations and Liens Suspended
- Late Penalties on Bills Suspended - Reinstated August 1st
- FUTURE? Adjustments for Employees with Childcare/Health Issues
Sewage Surveillance

Other ideas are being explored and, if effective, should be considered to create a more comprehensive surveillance system.

The idea is to have a sentinel system that tests wastewater instead of people.

This could substantially contribute to a more robust surveillance system.


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Sewage Surveillance

- Working Group led by Harrisburg University seeking DOH grant funding to develop a spatial tool
- The objective is to develop and implement a predictive tool that includes a sampling protocol and analysis framework that would identify temporal and spatial trends where COVID-19 infected individuals are shedding biomarkers of SARS-CoV-2
- The knowledge from such analyses will aid public health officials to predict areas of increasing prevalence of COVID-19 and take the necessary precautionary measures
## Sewage Surveillance Testing Results for Capital Region Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Date</th>
<th>Flow [MGD]</th>
<th>Copies/L</th>
<th>Case Estimate</th>
<th>% of Service Territory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/5/2020</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>53,720</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/12/2020</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43,976</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/19/2020</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>69,602</td>
<td>6,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/25/2020</td>
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<td>17,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/7/2020</td>
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<td>356,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/14/2020</td>
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<td>206,526</td>
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<tr>
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<td>153,971</td>
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<td>6/28/2020</td>
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<td>233,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/12/2020</td>
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<td>153,911</td>
<td>13,700</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8/9/2020</td>
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<td>61,299</td>
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<td>4.2%</td>
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</tbody>
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## COVID Wastewater Surveillance Program Correlation

- **Biobot Estimate**
- **Dauphin County 3-Week Running Total**

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**Virtual Conference | August 31 – September 2, 2020**

**The Authorities**

**Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association**
Budget Impacts of COVID-19

- Revenue is down by 8.5% or $2.5 M
- $1,893,000 in billed water and wastewater primarily due to lower non-residential water volume, which can be contributed to Covid-related business closures
- Service Terminations suspended in March; resume when the Governor’s emergency declaration expires??
- Delayed implementation of SW Fee to October 1st resulting in $1.3 M in lost revenue that will not be realized (scheduled implementation of July 1st)
- Late penalties suspended in March, reinstated by board of directors at July board meeting, resulting in over $300,000 in loss of fee revenue

Budget Impacts of COVID-19

- Favorable operating expenses of $1.3 million is 10% better than budget including:
  - $130,000 in compensation & benefits resulting from the furlough of 5 employees
  - $260,000 due to suspension of street sweeping
  - Delays in Hiring and cost containment measures (maintenance & repair, contract services, travel/conferences, etc.)
- Launched a Customer Assistance Program on July 1st – up to $200 for qualified customers
Thank You