

The goal of **Healthy Davis Together** is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and get the Davis community back to regular city activities as quickly and safely as possible. Environmental monitoring (regularly testing wastewater, indoor air, and certain surfaces) is another way we are learning about COVID-19 and opportunities to prevent its spread. While wearing masks, staying six feet apart, and free COVID-19 testing at least once a week for everyone who lives or works in Davis are the most important actions for all of us to take, environmental monitoring is an important learning component that helps us see how our community is doing and where we can step up prevention efforts even more.

## WASTEWATER (SEWAGE) TESTING

One of the environmental monitoring tools Healthy Davis Together is using to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is wastewater testing, also known as sewage testing.

### What is sewage or wastewater testing?

Wastewater is a byproduct of normal community water use like showering, using the bathroom, and other activities. The virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) can be found in stool and urine of infected individuals, including individuals who have not yet experienced (pre-symptomatic) or will not experience (asymptomatic) symptoms of COVID-19.

### Why is wastewater testing important?

Wastewater testing can help slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in two ways. Wastewater testing can help slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by identifying infection trends and equipping the city to notify residents provide free testing and other support.

### How does wastewater testing work?

In Davis, UC Davis, and the City's Department of Public Works have set up wastewater sample collection locations at key points ("nodes") in the City's sewage ("wastewater") collection system. Samples are collected each week from the different nodes for analysis in a UC Davis research lab. The lab measures the level of SARS-CoV-2 in the wastewater samples to help identify new potential outbreak locations. This type of sampling does not isolate individual households.


### How are wastewater testing results used?

Wastewater samples are not collected from individual homes or apartments and do not identify any individual or household. Wastewater data is important information to testing data and can be used to identify infection trends in a geographic region (e.g., a neighborhood), where to focus free COVID-19 testing, and possible early warning signs of a potential outbreak. This information will be used to encourage community residents to take action by getting tested.

Wastewater testing is one of many tools Healthy Davis Together is using to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. While wastewater testing is one of the many tools Healthy Davis Together is using to help slow the spread, it is still important for community members to remain vigilant and follow good health behavior practices from the County and City and to get tested at least once a week. Healthy Davis Together provides free COVID-19 saliva-based screening tests seven days a week. Results are confidential and available within one to two days.

**Healthy Davis Together** is a joint project between UC Davis and the City of Davis to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and facilitate a coordinated and gradual return to normal city activities and student life.

### Visit [HealthyDavisTogether.org](https://HealthyDavisTogether.org) to:

 **learn more about wastewater testing and other programs**

 **schedule your COVID-19 test**

**The saliva-based tests are quick, painless, and free.**