



MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: **Naperville City Council**

By: City Manager's office

12/17/2020

A. MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

	Source:	Subject:	Action:
1.	Department of Public Utilities - Water	US Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program	FYI

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

DATE: December 14, 2020

TO: Douglas A. Krieger, City Manager

THRU: Darrell Blenniss, Director, Water Utilities

FROM: Joseph Slevnik, Water Reclamation Division Manager

SUBJECT: US Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide City Council with information regarding the US Department of Health and Human Services Wastewater Surveillance Program.

BACKGROUND:

The US Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have implemented a National Wastewater Surveillance System in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The program will examine wastewater for Covid-19 virus RNA shed by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and will provide data to help public health officials to better understand the extent of COVID-19 infections in communities. The US Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC awarded a Wastewater Surveillance contract on Wednesday November 25, 2020. City staff completed the required information to apply for the program on December 1, 2020.

Phase 1 will fund assessment of up to 100 treatment plant for six weeks, specifically targeting utilities that serve 10% of the US population. Participation in Phase 1 will cover raw wastewater influent sampling twice per week for the duration of the study. Data will be compiled and relayed to communities by HHS, with the goal of returning data as soon as possible for local health departments to make quick, actionable decisions. Optional Phase 2 will fund up to 340 treatment plants, with a goal of covering 30% of the US population, for an additional nine weeks. There is no cost to participate outside of staff time to collect and send in samples.

More general information on wastewater surveillance for Covid-19 can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/wastewater-surveillance.html>

DISCUSSION:

On December 9, 2020, the City of Naperville was notified that we are among the 100 treatment plants nationwide to be selected for Phase 1 of the study. We are honored to be chosen to participate in this public health initiative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Please forward this information to the Mayor and City Council through the Manager's Memorandum.