

Special Issue

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) in Wastewater

Message from the Guest Editor

Wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 is a hot topic and it can be used by public health officials as an early warning tool. However, there are several emerging Variants of Concern (VOCs) of SARS-CoV-2, including Alpha, Delta and Omicron, that constrain the global public health response towards the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently five Variants of Concern (VOCs, including Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Omicron) and several Variants of Interest (VOIs) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus designated by WHO

(<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>). Detecting these VOCs in wastewater is an ongoing challenge. Furthermore, significant research is needed to improve the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants in wastewater. To address these needs for monitoring SARS-CoV-2 variants, we would like to invite research articles or review papers focused on various aspects including, but not limited to:

- Rapid detection and identification methods for VOCs;
- Next-generation-sequencing-based methods;
- Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants in LMICs;
- Optimisation of conventional methods.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics.

Pathogens is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

Editor-in-Chief

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