

**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F**  
*Van Ness • North Cleveland Park • Wakefield • Forest Hills*

3F01 – David Cristeal  
3F02 – Carolinn Kuebler, Vice Chair  
3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg, Treasurer  
3F04 – Leah Frelinghuysen  
3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
3F06 – Monika Nemeth, Chair  
3F07 – Vacant



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**ANC3F Resolution on Coronavirus Testing of Sewage**

**Whereas;** a number of states and communities, including Maryland and Virginia, for example, are seeking to enhance the surveillance tools to track the spread of coronavirus in their populations by testing for Covid-19 in sewage<sup>1</sup>, and some have announced their results<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas;** The advantage of this kind of testing is that sewage aggregates all people in the community who are shedding virus: asymptomatics, mild cases, serious cases, and survivors who continue to shed for a period of time and might still be infectious;

**Whereas;** The analytical results can be available from some laboratories in a day or two after sampling, and proponents of this kind of sewage testing effort argue that measurements of the virus in sewage could give the City a week or more advance warning over other epidemiological methods such as person by person testing that the virus is spreading or declining, thereby providing the City an enhanced opportunity to intervene to try to damp down the spread, using concentrated person by person testing and contact tracing and, if appropriate, more or less stringent measures;

**Whereas;** We recognize that the District's sewage system is connected to our neighboring states, so that simple testing at the Blue Plains plant would not likely give the kind of pinpoint identification of affected neighborhoods that DC Health would find most useful, although knowing whether our entire capital region is getting worse or better would be helpful;

**Whereas;** We understand that this initiative has been raised recently with officials at DC Water, and that there are local knowledgeable experienced people whom we know of who could assist C Water to assess the implementation and resolve some of the technical difficulties;

<sup>1</sup> Among these are: Maryland, Portland, Oregon, Southern Nevada, Utah, Miami-Dade, FL, and Cincinnati, OH (in conjunction with the U.S. EPA's Cincinnati Laboratory). Fairfax County is exploring the possibility of starting a program. Maryland has let an RFP for assistance in running a program of testing. For more information on these initiatives see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/02go5hiif4kwrov/update%201%20June%20-%20SARS-CoV-2%20in%20sewage.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>2</sup>Both Hampton Roads (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/x0onzj4t1av2i6y/HRSD%20COVID-19%20Surveillance%20presentation5262020%283%29.pdf?dl=0>) and New Haven (<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.19.20105999v1.full.pdf>) have recently reported on their testing results and the efficacy of this approach for management of this virus.

**Whereas;** ANC3F's assessment is that the cost of periodic sampling is extremely modest;

**Whereas;** ANC3F commends the Mayor and her staff for their aggressive approach to building the capability of the District to do person by person testing and contact tracing, both of which appear to be essential to fuller opening of the District's economic and social activities;

**Therefore be it resolved that;** ANC3F asks the Mayor to give serious consideration to an initiative that other jurisdictions are implementing to enhance their testing and surveillance of the spread of Covid-19 in populations and implement a plan of sewage testing;

**Be it further resolved that;** ANC3F asks that the Mayor recognizes the potential advantages of such a sewage testing program and requests a full assessment by her Covid-19 team of its practicality and the value of the additional intelligence that could be gathered from such a program;

**Be it further resolved that;** ANC3F asks that the Mayor and her Covid-19 team coordinate among the various Departments/Agencies that would need to be involved, as this effort would definitely require an inter-agency effort;

**Be it further resolved that;** As DC Water staff are the most qualified to develop a plan for the best locations to set up the testing, that the Mayor charge DC Water to detail the implementation plan for sewage testing at several locations in the District;

**Be it further resolved that;** ANC3F request that DC Water determine whether it might be possible to test locations in the system other than at Blue Plains so that neighborhood results could instead be obtained, and also determine whether testing of the sewage of individual major facilities, such as prisons or retirement homes might be possible, thereby giving more advance notice of a developing situation warranting emergency action;

**Be it further resolved that;** ANC3F authorizes Commissioner Molod to speak on behalf of the Commission on this subject with the Mayor's Office and cabinet, the Council, and DC Water;

This resolution was passed by ANC3F by a vote of (5-0-0) at the regularly scheduled meeting held by Webex on June 16, 2020.



Monika Nemeth, Chair ANC3F

Copies of this resolution to be sent to:

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Chairman Phil Mendelson,  
Councilmember Vincent Gray,  
Councilmember Mary Cheh  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman  
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau  
Councilmember Robert White  
Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, Director, DC Department of Health,  
Christopher Geldart, Director, Department of Public Works  
Tommy Wells, Director, Department of Energy and the Environment  
David Gadis, General Manager, DC Water  
Matthew Brown, Chief Financial Officer, DC Water