

**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rivm.nl  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri 8/28/2020 10:13:34 AM  
**Subject:** RE: SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater  
**Received:** Fri 8/28/2020 10:13:54 AM  
[WRC science brief COVID progress.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Good to hear from you. I trust you are keeping well in these challenging times.

I am not sure exactly what information you require but here goes. There are a few initiatives in progress in SA:

- 1) A good source of information:
  - <http://wrc.org.za/covid-surveillance-programme/>
  - <http://www.wrc.org.za/corona-virus/>

Presentations from the webinars with the SA scientists hosted by the WRC are available here – good presentations giving an overview of challenges and successes

  - The programme manager for the WRC is: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@wrc.org.za) You are welcome to engage with him as well.
- 2) WRC Proof of concept study: This is a consortium of Waterlab (Dr [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]/University of Pretoria (Dr [REDACTED] & myself)/CSIR ([REDACTED])
  - We have been looking at wastewater sample type (grab vs composite)
  - Water in unsewered communities (NB in the African context)
  - Commercial vs In-house assays

Our preliminary results have been published in a WRC press release (attached). We are at present finalising our proof of concept study so the report should be available soon
- 3) SACCESS group: This is a bigger consortium who are working at different institutions, each with their own objectives/methods, but they meet regularly: Contact Dr [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]@sun.ac.za).
  - In this group are researchers you may know:
    - Dr [REDACTED] (NICD)
    - Ms [REDACTED] CSIR

Please let me know what specifics I may be able to assist further

Regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 August 2020 08:21  
**To:** [REDACTED]@up.ac.za' <[REDACTED]@up.ac.za>  
**Subject:** SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater

Dear [REDACTED]

We have not seen each other in ages but how are you?

I am contacting you since I noticed how your colleague [REDACTED], WRC, South Africa presented your extensive plan for monitoring SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the online WHO meeting to discuss wastewater surveillance for COVID-19.

We are compiling guidance with respect to wastewater surveillance for COVID-19, polio and AMR. And in that respect we think that you are very advanced in South-Africa. Would you be willing to discuss with us your program on COVID-19 surveillance and how you overcame some of the challenges?

With kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

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Prof. dr. [REDACTED], PhD in Molecular Biology  
 [REDACTED] Global changes and Environmental infectious diseases at UU IRAS

WHO Collaborating Centre for Risk Assessment of Pathogens in Water and Food

5.1.2e Dept. Environment at Laboratory for Zoonoses and Environmental Microbiology  
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