

What does a positive detection of mpox in wastewater mean?

- When a lab finds a positive mpox sample from wastewater, this means that they found part of the virus (the genetic material or DNA) in the water.
- These tests cannot tell us if there is virus in the wastewater that is infectious.
- These tests cannot tell us how many people in the community have mpox.
- The positive result suggests that there are one or more individuals in the community infected with mpox or recently recovered from mpox.

Can we tell how many people have mpox in the community from wastewater data?

- We cannot tell from wastewater testing how many people in the community have mpox.
- Positive wastewater results suggest that there are one or more individuals in the community infected with mpox or recently recovered from mpox.

Can I get mpox from wastewater?

- Most people do not have any contact with untreated wastewater during their ordinary lives. The risk of getting mpox virus from wastewater is very low.
- People who work at wastewater treatment facilities wear proper protective equipment. This protects them from mpox and other germs that could be present in untreated wastewater.
- Once treated at the wastewater treatment plant, any mpox virus in wastewater is inactive and cannot infect people anymore.

Is my water safe to drink?

- Yes, the water that comes out of the tap at your home, school, or workplace is safe to drink. Drinking water comes from a different source than wastewater.
- The wastewater that comes to treatment plants gets processed so that it is safe to release into the environment. It does not get used as drinking water.

Where can I find more information about mpox and wastewater?

- You can find more information [here](#).