

## Eawag Seminar Invitation

# Is wastewater a useful indicator to assess the spread of COVID-19?

Speakers **Dr. Tim Julian, Dept. Environmental Microbiology, Eawag**

When **September 17, 16.00 – 17.00**

Where **Online via Zoom, contact [seminars@eawag.ch](mailto:seminars@eawag.ch) for access details.**

Abstract SARS-CoV-2 RNA is excreted in the feces of a large fraction of infected individuals, and as a result can be found in raw sewage and sludge. Ideally, the systematic analysis of raw wastewater could serve as a warning system for otherwise undetected COVID-19 outbreaks, or as a tool to track disease dynamics. The general principle seems straightforward and several examples serve as proof of concept. We will attempt to give an overview in this fast developing field – i.e. international research and implementation – and summarize our own experience from first success to challenges we face: sample type and collection, storage and preservation, preparation and measurements, controls and normalization, achievable detection limits, interpretation, media, and rapidly evolving literature. We are curious about your ideas and opinions on how to address these.