

# Congress Must Act Now to Extend Funding for Wastewater Monitoring: A Key Tool to Detect Emerging Threats and Protect Communities

Over the past five years, communities across the country have come to rely on wastewater as a modern early warning system to detect infectious diseases and help protect families. Whether it is seasonal viruses, emerging threats like avian influenza or measles, or even the next pandemic, wastewater now plays a crucial and cost-effective role in detecting threats before they appear in hospitals—empowering communities and individuals to respond proactively and make informed health care decisions. According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, wastewater monitoring is fast and effective, does not require individual testing or clinician reporting, protects privacy, and “will continue to be a valuable component of the nation’s strategy to manage infectious disease outbreaks.”

Now is the time to build on, not dismantle, this significant progress. Wastewater funding expired at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2025, and despite strong bipartisan support, Congress has not secured sustained funding. Once jurisdictions have exhausted the funding that was allocated at the end of 2025, programs will be forced to end or scale back operations, decreasing population coverage and limiting the capacity to test for additional and novel pathogens. Americans are losing access to a vital early warning system, leaving our nation less equipped to confront emerging threats. Swift action is the only way to prevent further loss and greater risk.

Wastewater Action Alliance (WAA) is working to strengthen America’s wastewater monitoring system and secure renewed federal funding so that American families, communities, and health care providers nationwide have access to its valuable, real-time, and life-saving data.



**\$150 million is urgently needed for FY 2027**

to continue CDC’s critical wastewater monitoring system in **all 50 states** and strengthen the ability of states and communities to quickly detect and respond to new and emerging health threats.

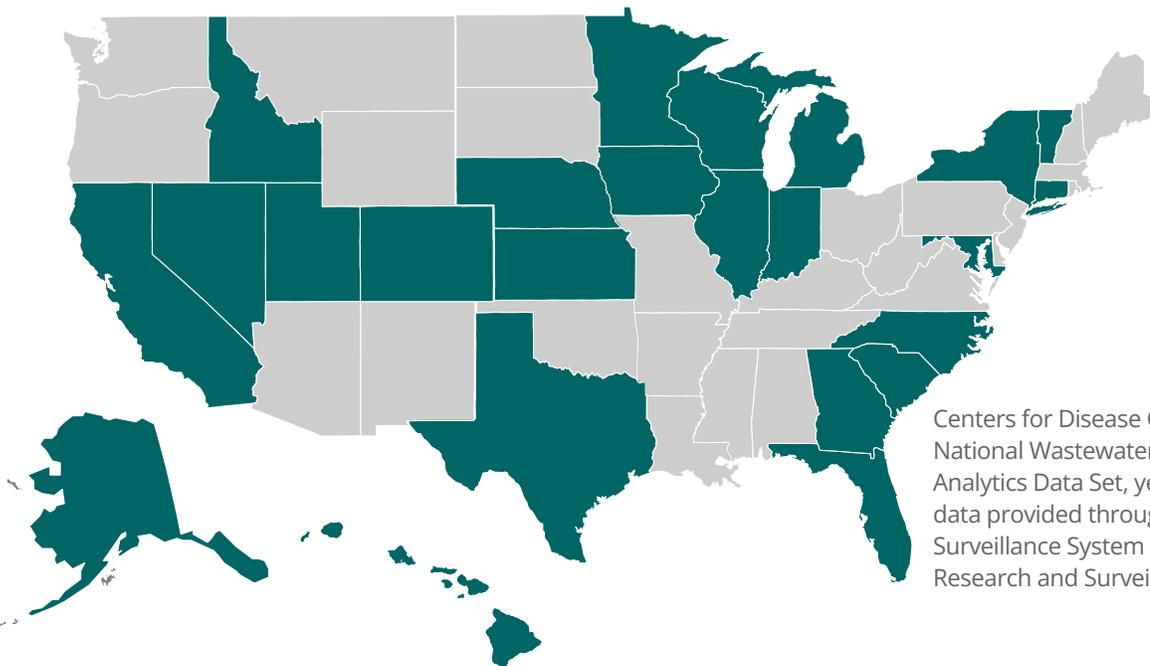
**Congress must act now to strengthen and sustain this important tool that has modernized our nation’s ability to detect threats and protect individuals, families, and communities all while protecting individual privacy.**

**“ The CDC is not perfect — we know that better than anyone. But it needs to be strengthened, not hamstrung. To empower people and their communities to protect themselves from a wide range of health threats, CDC reforms should strengthen our nation’s early warning systems with sustained investments in laboratory networks, genomic sequencing, and wastewater surveillance.... ”**

Source: Eight former directors of the CDC: Drs. William Foege (1977-1983), William Roper (1990-1993), Jeffrey Koplan (1998-2002), Julie Gerberding (2002-2009), Tom Frieden (2009-2017), Brenda Fitzgerald (2017-2018), Robert Redfield (2018-2021), and Rochelle Walensky (2021-2023).

## **CDC Wastewater Data Shows Measles Detected Across U.S. States**

States shown in dark green indicate at least one positive measles detection in wastewater, based on CDC National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) reporting as of February 28, 2026.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Wastewater Surveillance System Analytics Data Set, year(s), as compiled from data provided through National Wastewater Surveillance System in the Rapid Response Research and Surveillance Branch (R3SB).

**“ We Can’t Let Wastewater Protection System Go To Waste. Given its successful four-year track record, wastewater monitoring is a smart and efficient investment — not only does this save us money by detecting health threats earlier, but this is also not a new program and does not require building anything new. We just need to sustain it. If Congress does not continue funding, we will lose the investment we have already made in this system – while also signaling to bioterrorists that we’ve let down our guard. ”**

Newsmax, Jared Whitley, November 10, 2025

## **About Wastewater Action Alliance**

Wastewater Action Alliance is a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to modernizing America’s approach to fighting infectious diseases by strengthening wastewater monitoring across our country. Wastewater Action Alliance’s advocacy efforts are built upon the work of WastewaterSCAN, which has been advancing wastewater science and monitoring since COVID-19 emerged in 2020. WastewaterSCAN now monitors for more than a dozen infectious diseases across 40 states, serving more than 39 million people, quickly identifying emerging threats, and showing how wastewater monitoring is a nimble and effective early warning tool to help communities detect infectious diseases and protect families.

[wastewateraction.org](http://wastewateraction.org)



**WastewaterSCAN  
data dashboard**