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***POOP TELL NO LIES***

 **PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF WBE SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**26 August 2021, 14.00 to 17.30**

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| **Background**  |

In order to contain this fast-spreading pandemic rapid action is critical, and preparedness measures must outpace the rate of transmission. Due to resource limitations, developing countries may not be able to afford mass-screening programmes to identify new infections.  Surveillance of wastewater offers an opportunity for near–real-time outbreak data and has potential utility as an early warning for resurgence of the outbreak. To date, the wastewater-based epidemiology approach has been successfully piloted in developed countries where there is wide coverage of waterborne sanitation, such as the Netherlands, France, United States of America, etc.

The science and research community under the auspices of the SACCESS network has made significant progress in the detection, quantification of the SARS COV-2 virus, as well as foray into determining the emerging variants.  This is further supported by extending the WBE activities to monitor other emerging issues and compounds of concerns. The objective of this session is to share knowledge on progress which has been made to date in South Africa, which covers sampling, testing, reporting, establishing early warning systems, municipal responses, new techniques and advancement in science, studying variants etc..

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| **Programme Chair – Natacha Berkowitz** |

***Programme to follow.***