



Sewage Treatment Systems (STS) & COVID-19 Fact Sheet

- SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been detected in the feces of some patients diagnosed with COVID-19. The amount of virus released (shed) from the body in stool and how long the virus is shed is not known.
- Infectious SARS-CoV-2 has been isolated not only from respiratory droplets but also, blood, urine, and stool specimens which are all part of the wastewater stream from homes and businesses. The SARS coronavirus outbreak from 2003, which is similar to the current SARS-CoV-2 virus, had been detected in untreated sewage for up to 14 days according to the CDC. In the 2003 SARS outbreak, there was documented transmission associated with sewage aerosols.
- Sewage Treatment Systems (STS), also known as septic systems, are a vital part of infrastructure used to treat and safely disperse wastewater generated from within a home or business back into the environment.
- Inspection, upkeep, service, repair and maintenance of wastewater treatment infrastructure are essential services that help ensure the public are protected from contamination and pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. **Workers for such infrastructure and services are specifically exempted in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director's "Stay-at-Home" order.**
- Health District STS inspections are essential services that are exempt from The Ohio Department of Health "stay-at home" orders: Confirmed by the Ohio Department of Health.
- Sewage Treatment Systems must function properly to prevent pollution and pathogen contamination, including from the SARS-CoV-2, from entering our waterways and contributing to human sickness, mortality, and reduced ecological health.
- Improperly treated or untreated sewage results in health and environmental impacts to you, your family members and your neighbors.

Sewage Treatment System Inspections – Reducing the risks during the STS inspection:

- Contractors may continue to perform vital inspections of STS during the Coronavirus pandemic following standardized guidelines, including:
 - Required socially distanced (at least six feet apart).
 - If contractors enter your home, contractors must remain six foot social distancing from other people. We recommend contractors to wear masks and gloves when appropriate.
 - Appropriate hand washing and/or sanitation between each inspection and before approaching a customer's door.
 - Recommend contractors to take daily temperature checks, and do not work when ill.
 - For everyone's protection, we are requesting system owners allow the contractors to perform inspection, without accompanying them.
 - For everyone's protection, we are requesting system owners please wait to speak with the contractor over the phone and once the inspection report is received and reviewed if there are questions.
- If contractors are unable to perform the inspection according to the guidelines, the property owner may schedule the inspection with the contractor and the contractor can set the appointment a couple of months out. The contractor can call the Health District to notify them of the scheduled appointment which will be documented in the property owner's file. The 90 days will be waived.