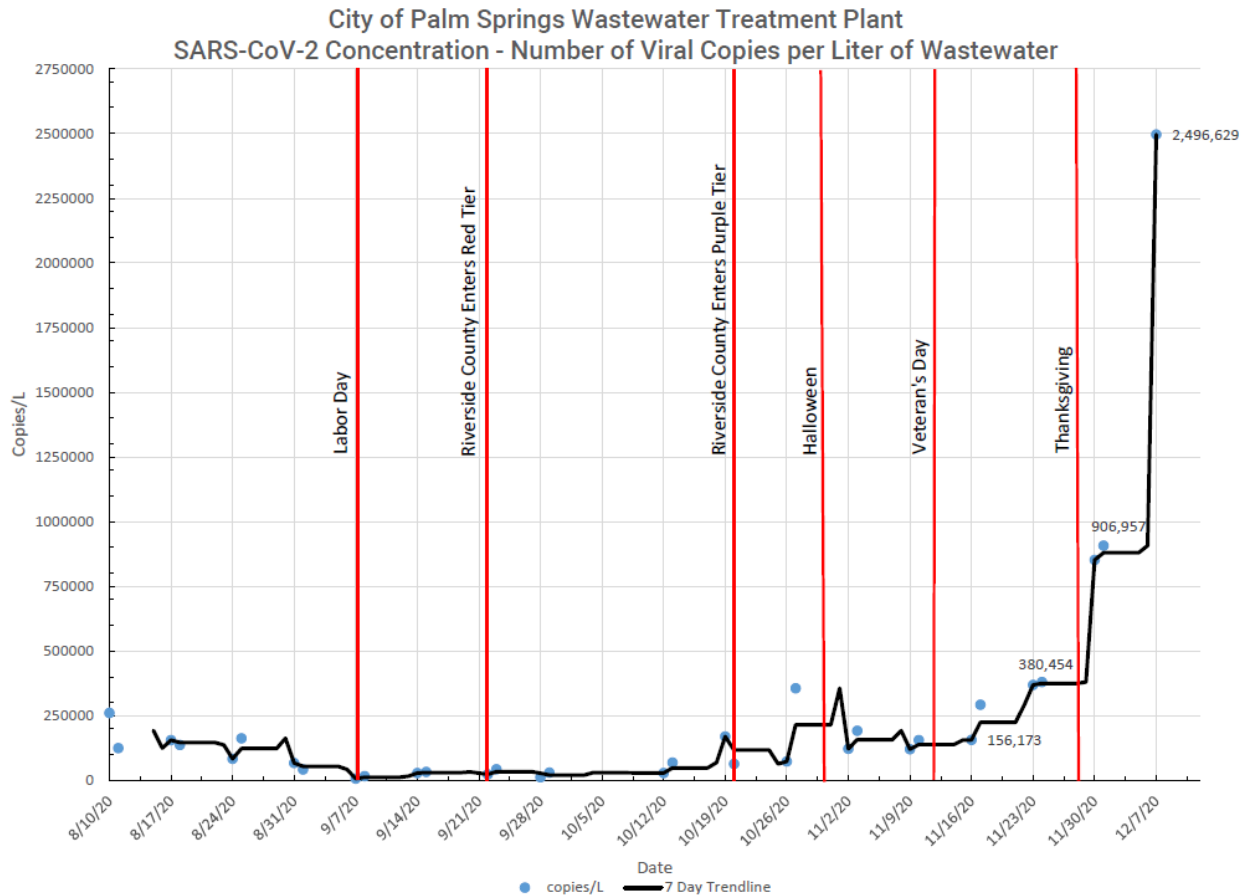


Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant COVID-19 Testing

The City of Palm Springs is using a test that measures the amount of the COVID-19 virus per liter in our Wastewater Treatment sewer system. This an extra tool the City is voluntarily employing to track the disease. Indeed, recent testing at the Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant supports community guidance to take the state's regional shelter-in-place order seriously to slow the spread of the virus.



What This Means

The above graph illustrates the most recent test shows 2,496,629 copies of COVID-19 virus. As this is not yet an exact science, the testing company estimates a range of cases with the high at 13,720 to a low of 3,093 with a likely value at 5,886 cases.

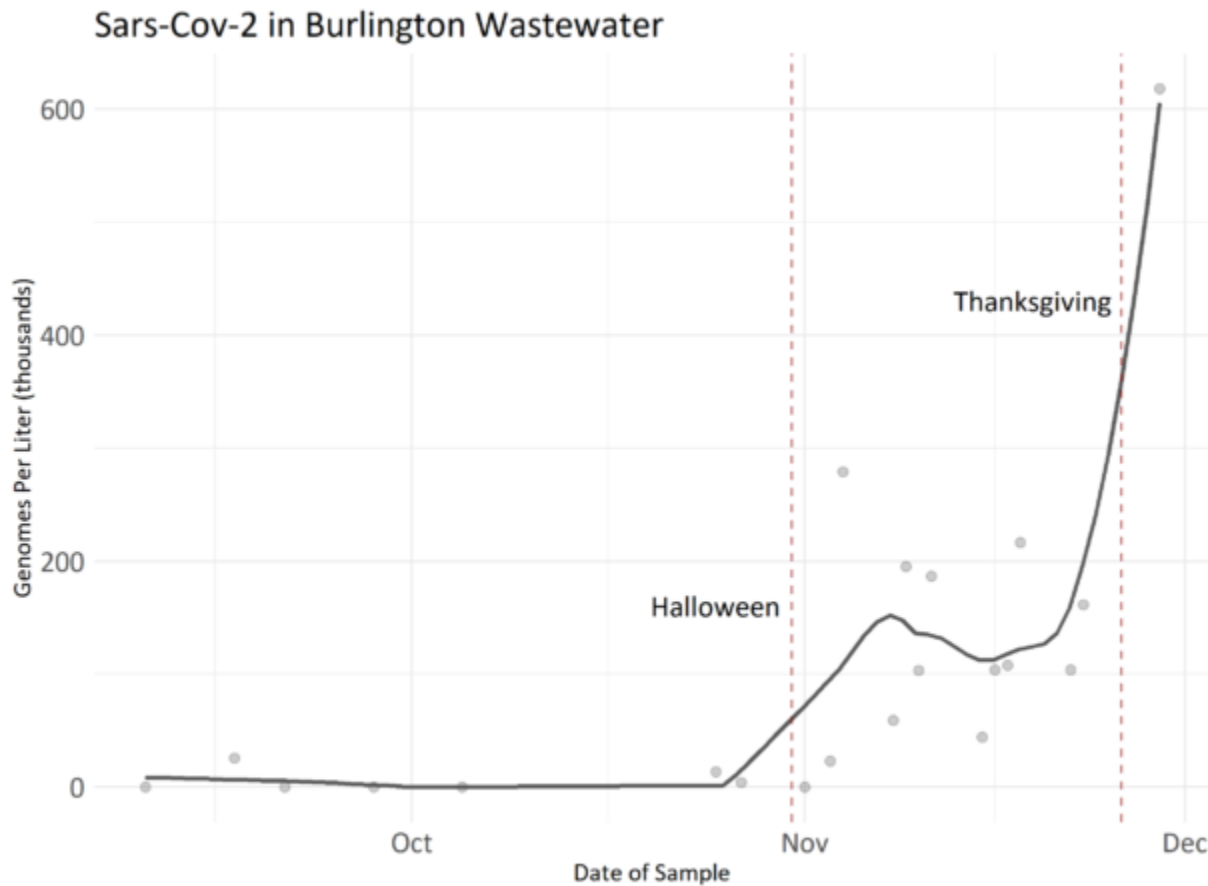
Palm Springs joined a select number of other cities and wastewater agencies around the nation who have voluntarily sampled wastewater for testing at the handful of laboratories specializing in the detection of Covid-19 in wastewater. The benefit for a community performing this sampling in the wastewater is to potentially identify the presence of the active virus in the community 3 to 7 days before the virus is detected through positive tests on infected individuals.

Burlington, Vermont is another city that has sampled for Covid-19 in its wastewater, and with a population base similar to Palm Springs at just under 50,000 – is somewhat comparable to Palm Springs. Similar to Palm Springs, Burlington reported a spike of Covid-19 virus detected in its wastewater of 3 times what was detected from its sampling after Halloween, directly mirroring the trend that Palm Springs has observed.

The news report from Burlington is available online here:

<https://vtdigger.org/2020/12/03/burlington-detects-major-increase-of-covid-19-in-sewers-post-thanksgiving/>

The graph showing Burlington's trend with Covid-19 virus detection in its wastewater is shown below.



City of Burlington graph

The similarities are obvious and the message is the same: residents should heed the advice of the state and County health officers and be vigilant in staying home as much as possible, limiting interactions with members not from your household for only the most

essential reasons, and only if wearing a mask, maintaining safe social distance, and practicing good hygiene by disinfecting and washing hands.

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