**Quadrant Laboratories Wastewater Testing is Evolving; Serves Most of New York State**

*Quadrant's wastewater testing is now sequencing COVID-19 positive samples to determine the variant lineages, and more than 76% of New York is participating*

**SYRACUSE, NY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**- A lab in Central New York is now testing wastewater samples for the majority of counties in New York State. Quadrant Laboratories has been working since 2020 to analyze wastewater samples from schools, colleges and municipalities to provide public health officials and policymakers with early indications and information about the presence of COVID-19 in a community, even in the absence of individual testing data.

Austin Fehrman, Wastewater Laboratory Supervisor at Quadrant Laboratories, said, "Currently, we test 76% of New York counties' wastewater every week, which translates to just over 9,300 samples in the past two years. A sample, in this case, can make up an entire community, town, or dormitory."

When conducting wastewater collection, Quadrant Laboratories realized it could utilize a process highly similar to the one co-developed with SUNY Upstate Medical University that enables sequencing of individual samples submitted for Quadrant's COVID-19 Saliva Test and determines the COVID-19 variants present in wastewater. This process of next-generation sequencing complements the initial PCR testing analysis and enables groups to see not only the presence and frequency of COVID but also the variants present in any wastewater sample.


*A Quadrant Laboratories analyst prepares reagents for qPCR analysis of a wastewater sample*

"Next-generation sequencing of wastewater samples gives us an insight into the intensity of what specific variant or variants of COVID affect a community," Fehrman said. "Through testing wastewater samples, we can detect as low as one case of COVID in a community of 10,000 people and determine what variant that case is."

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The revolutionary development in the testing procedure and other factors, like next-generation sequencing, give insight into the true intensity and prevalence of COVID-19 and its variants in a community. This unique insight allows Quadrant's wastewater testing to better serve as a more accurate and detailed early warning system for COVID-19.

"The wastewater testing method that Quadrant has optimized and is using in combination with whole viral genome sequencing represents the state of the art in public health surveillance," says Dr. Frank Middleton, SUNY Upstate professor and scientist. "With the continuing decline in people getting tested clinically despite rising positivity rates, the monitoring of wastewater truly provides a unique opportunity to even the score and track where the SARS-CoV-2 virus is going and how it is continuing to evolve."

Testing done through Quadrant Laboratories is based on a partnership with Dr. Dave Larsen at Syracuse University, Dr. Hyatt Green at SUNY ESF and Dr. Frank Middleton at SUNY Upstate Medical University. To read more about Quadrant Laboratories Wastewater Testing, click here. To learn how to get involved or determine if wastewater testing is right for your organization, email Sales@QuadrantLaboratories.com.

*Quadrant Laboratories performs wastewater and environmental testing through Quadrant Viral Testing, a wholly owned subsidiary of Quadrant Biosciences. Quadrant Biosciences Inc. is a life sciences company dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by delivering innovative diagnostic, therapeutic, and virtual care solutions for global health priorities. Headquartered in Syracuse, NY, and located throughout the SUNY Upstate Medical University campus, Quadrant Biosciences has grown to 180+ employees since 2015. To learn more, visit www.QuadrantBiosciences.com.*

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