



Covid-19 Impacts on Facilities and the Power of Virtual Roundtables

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2021 Government Affairs Seminar



Covid-19 Changed the Way We Do Business

- Wastewater facilities have been historically good at sharing tips and tricks
- Pandemic response a different and unique issue to a wastewater treatment plant
- Knowledgeable staff is always so critical but the pandemic took this concern to an even higher level – failure is not an option



What is Zoom?

- Transitioned to virtual communication vs. normal in person
- Started weekly roundtables to discuss Covid-19

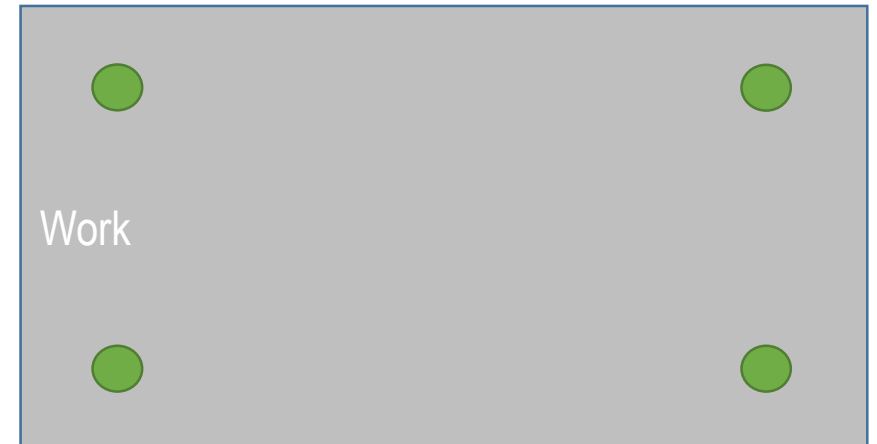
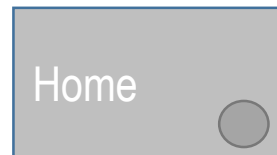
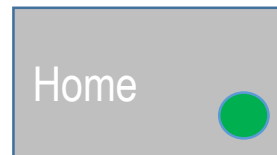
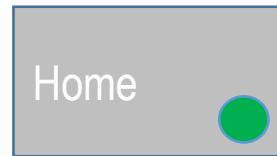
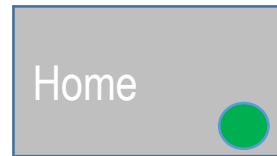
Initial Facility Questions:

- What are others facilities doing?
- What can we learn from others?
- Should I be doing more? Or less?



What Facilities Did (And Continue to Do)

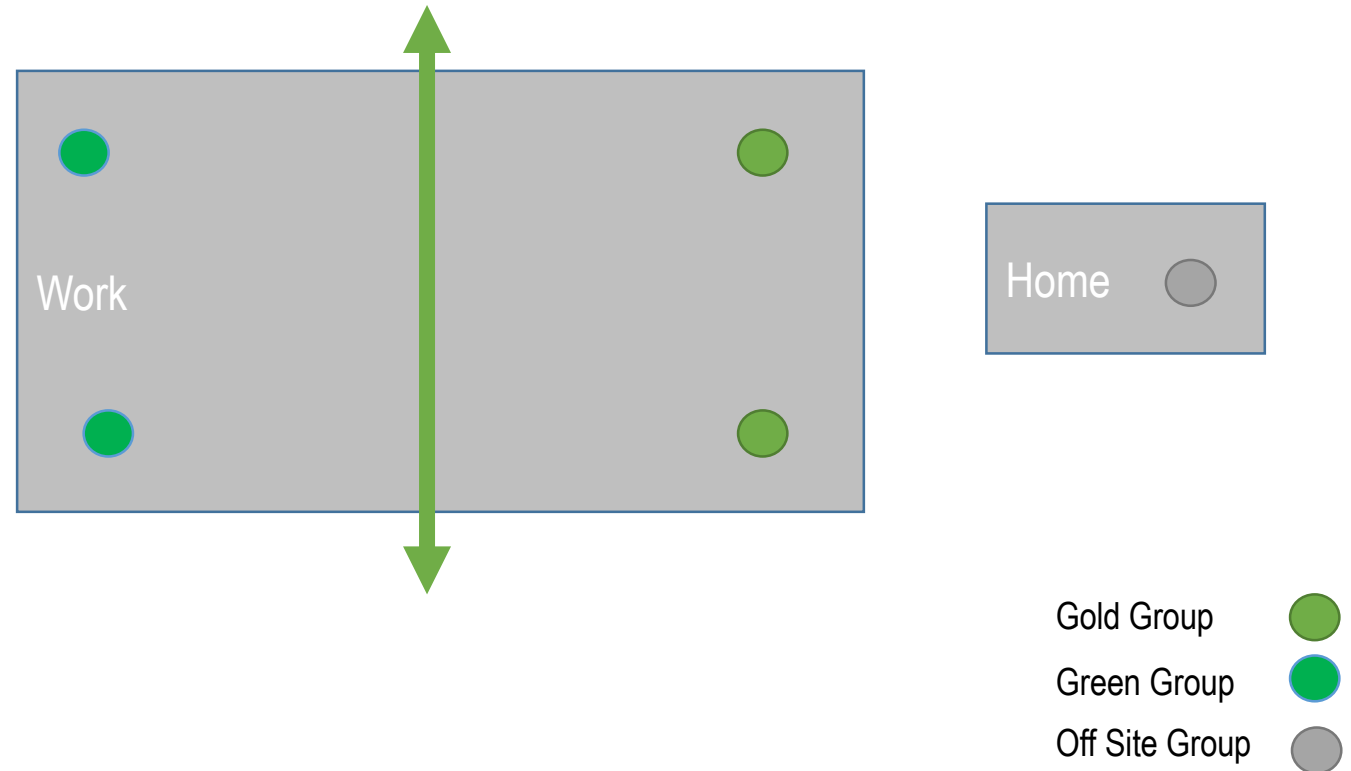
- Isolated Staff
- Created separated “crews”
- Staff Rotations
- “Hands Off” employees working from home
- Enhanced Cleaning





What Facilities Did (And Continue to Do)

- Divide Those on Site
 - Processes
 - Computer Access
 - Restrooms/Locker Rooms
 - Break Rooms
 - Contractors
 - Control Room Access





Sharing of Lessons and Experiences

- Response to when an employee was exposed or diagnosed with Covid-19
- One facility had a pandemic response plan even before Covid-19 and that proved to be valuable framework for those that didn't
- Shared resources – CDC, WEF, Department of Health and Homeland Security
- Staff Moral
- DNR Updates



Updates on Plant Conditions

- Many plants detailed plant loading changes – depends on industry in area – some thrived in pandemic and some didn't
- Hard to get parts to maintain equipment
- Hard to get PPE
- Project delays
- Detailed plans for on site contractors and staff separation
- Long term effects on budget?



Covid-19 Influent Sampling

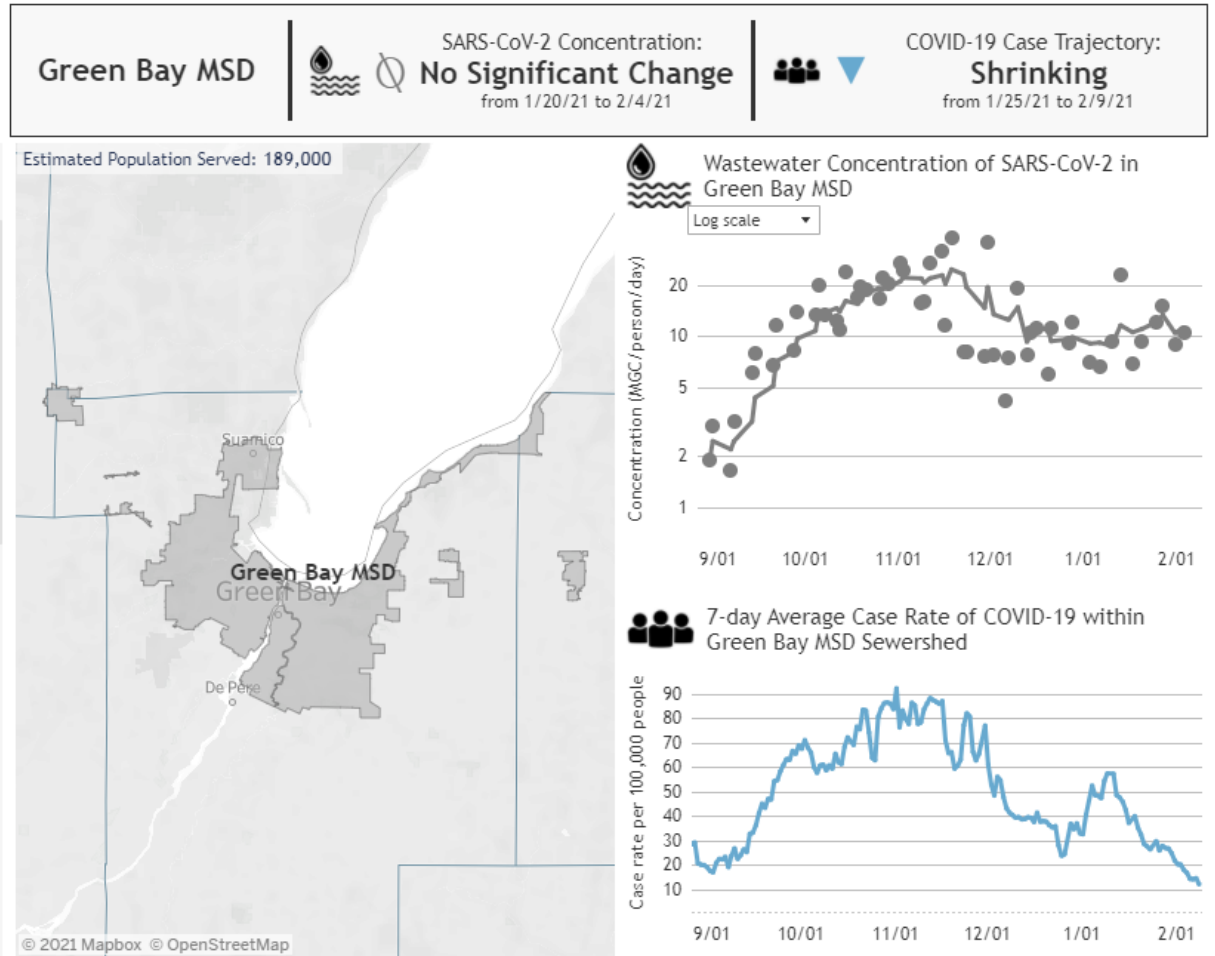
- Detailed talks and expiation of Covid-19 sampling to educate facilities
- UW Milwaukee and State Lab of Hygiene

COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance in Wisconsin

Date Updated: 02/09/2021

Click on the list or map to select a sewershed. Click again to deselect.

- Burlington WPCC
- Cedarburg WWTF
- Chippewa Falls WW..
- Clintonville Waste..
- Columbus WWTF
- De Pere WWTF
- Eau Claire WWTF
- Fox River WPCC
- Grafton Water & W..
- Green Bay MSD**
- Hayward WPCF
- Heart of the Valley..
- Hudson WWTF
- Janesville WW Utility
- Kenosha WWTF
- La Crosse WWTP
- Lac du Flambeau T..
- Lake Geneva WWTP
- Madison MSD WWTF
- Manitowoc WWTF
- Marinette Wastewa..
- Marshfield WWTF
- Mauston WWTF
- Menomonie WWTF





Power Of Virtual Roundtables

- Covid-19 discussions proved to be very valuable
- Emphasized “what is on your mind”
- Discuss the true needs of facilities

- Further use on other topics?
 - Semi structured open discussion on topic seems to work well.



Proud of Our Industry

- Failure is not an option
- Everyone met this challenge head on
- Often unnoticed when we are doing our job



**THANK YOU
TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS!**



Thank You!

- Huge thank to all those that participated!
- Special thanks to our special speakers and to Troy Larson and Rachel Lee for co-managing the roundtables.

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