



## **SERC Talks “Oceans and Human Health: What We Have Learned About COVID From Cholera”**

**December 7, 2022 | 1:00 PM ET**

Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D., D.Sc., Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland at College Park and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; President, CosmosID, Inc.

### **INNOVATING STEM READINESS**

- ☐ Today's session will be recorded.
- ☐ An archive of today's talk will be available at: [www.sercuarc.org/serc-talks/](http://www.sercuarc.org/serc-talks/) as well as on the [SERC YouTube channel](#).
- ☐ Use the Q&A box to queue up questions, reserving the chat box for comments, and questions will be answered during the last 5-10 minutes of the session.
- ☐ If you are connected via the dial-in information only, please email questions or comments to [SERCtalks@stevens.edu](mailto:SERCtalks@stevens.edu).
- ☐ Any issues? Use the chat feature for any technical difficulties or other comments, or email [SERCtalks@stevens.edu](mailto:SERCtalks@stevens.edu).





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**ENGINEERING**  
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## **“Oceans and Human Health: What We Have Learned About COVID From Cholera”**

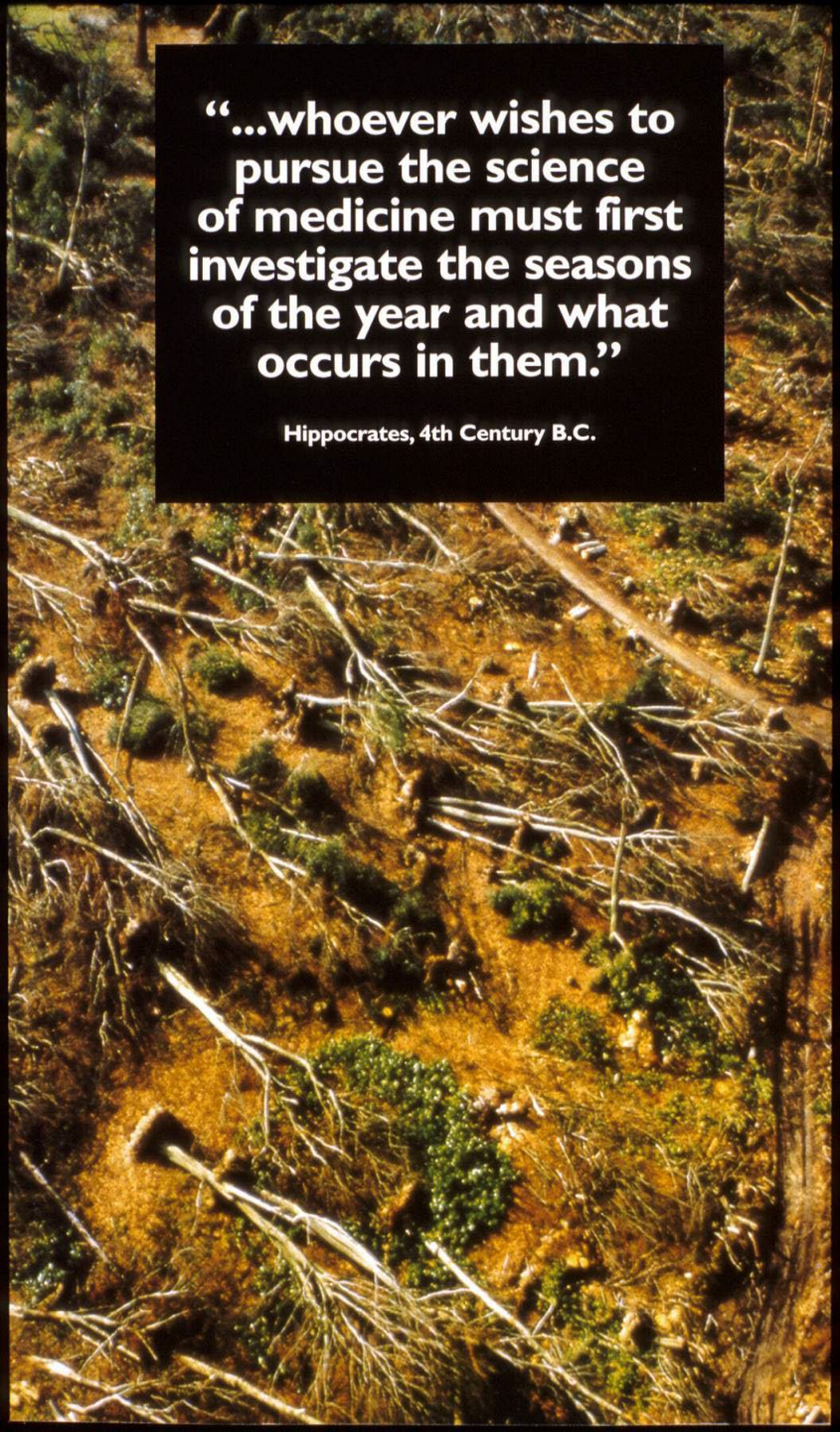


**Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D., D.Sc.**  
Distinguished University Professor,  
University of Maryland at College Park and  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health;  
President, CosmosID, Inc.

**Moderator: Dr. William Rouse**  
SERC Research Council Member; Senior Fellow,  
Office of the Senior Vice President for Research,  
McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University







**“...whoever wishes to  
pursue the science  
of medicine must first  
investigate the seasons  
of the year and what  
occurs in them.”**

**Hippocrates, 4th Century B.C.**

# **Oceans and Human Health: What we have learned about COVID from Cholera**

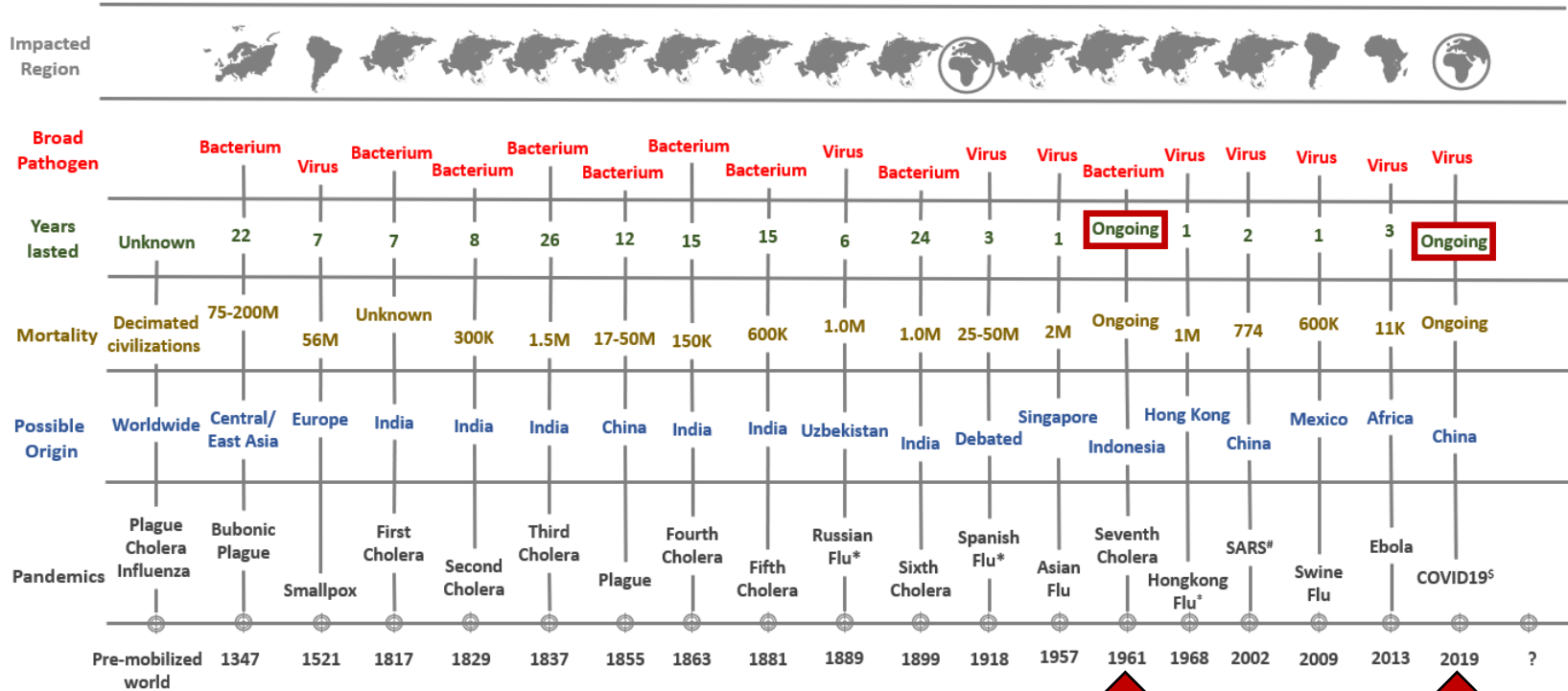


December 7, 2022

*Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D., D.Sc.  
Distinguished University Professor  
University of Maryland College Park*



# Pandemics of the modern world



Data collected and summarized from  
 Sherman, I. 2007 Twelve Disease that Changed Our World, American Society for Microbiology, USA  
 Zimmerman, B.E. and Zimmerman, D.J 2003 Killer Germs, McGraw Hill, USA  
 \*Source of virus debated, hence used prevalent name of disease, #SARS-CoV-1, §SARS-CoV-2

Cholera

COVID-19



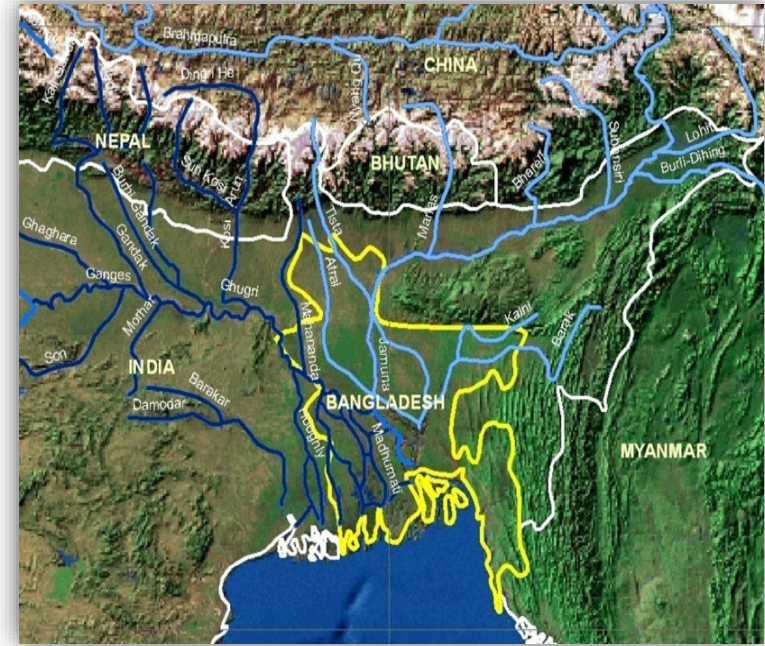
# Water-related diseases

	Cases per year	Deaths per year
Amoebiasis	48,000,000	110,000
Arsenic	28-35m exposed to drinking water with elevated levels	
Diarrhoeal disease, Including cholera	1.5 billion	1,800,000
Dracunculiasis (guinea worm)	> 5000	-
Fluorosis	26 million (China)	-
Giardiasis	500,000	Low
Hepatitis A	1,500,00	-
Intestinal helminths	133,000,000	9400
Malaria	396,000,000	1,300,000
Schistosomiasis	160,000,000	> 10,000
Trachoma	500,000,000	-
Typhoid	500,000	25,000



# Cholera: A Global Disease

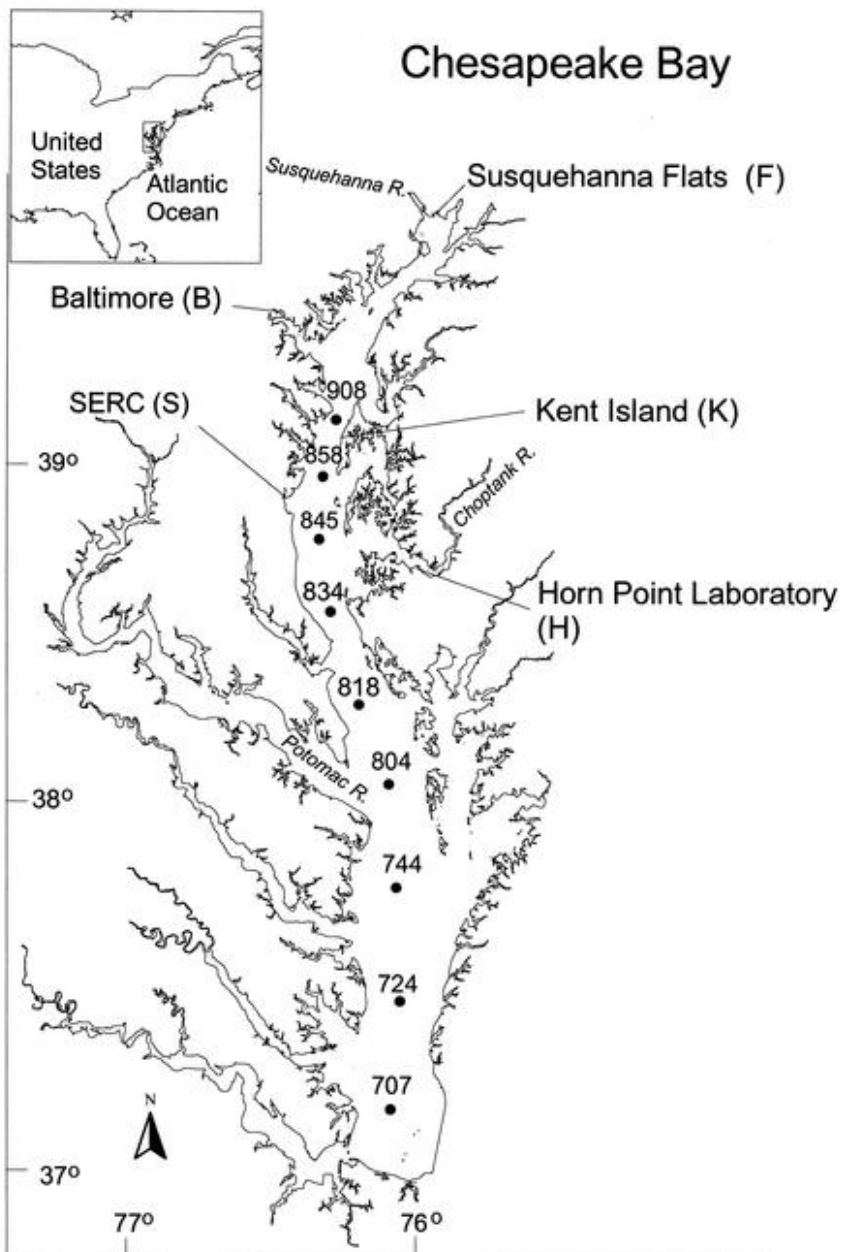
- Acute water-related diarrheal disease
- Seventh pandemic started in 1960s
- Occurs in more than 50 countries affecting approximately 7 million people
- Bengal Delta is known as “native homeland” of cholera outbreaks
- Since cholera bacteria
  - exist naturally in aquatic habitats
  - evidence of new biotypes emerging, it is highly unlikely that cholera will be eradicated but clearly can be controlled by provision of safe drinking water.









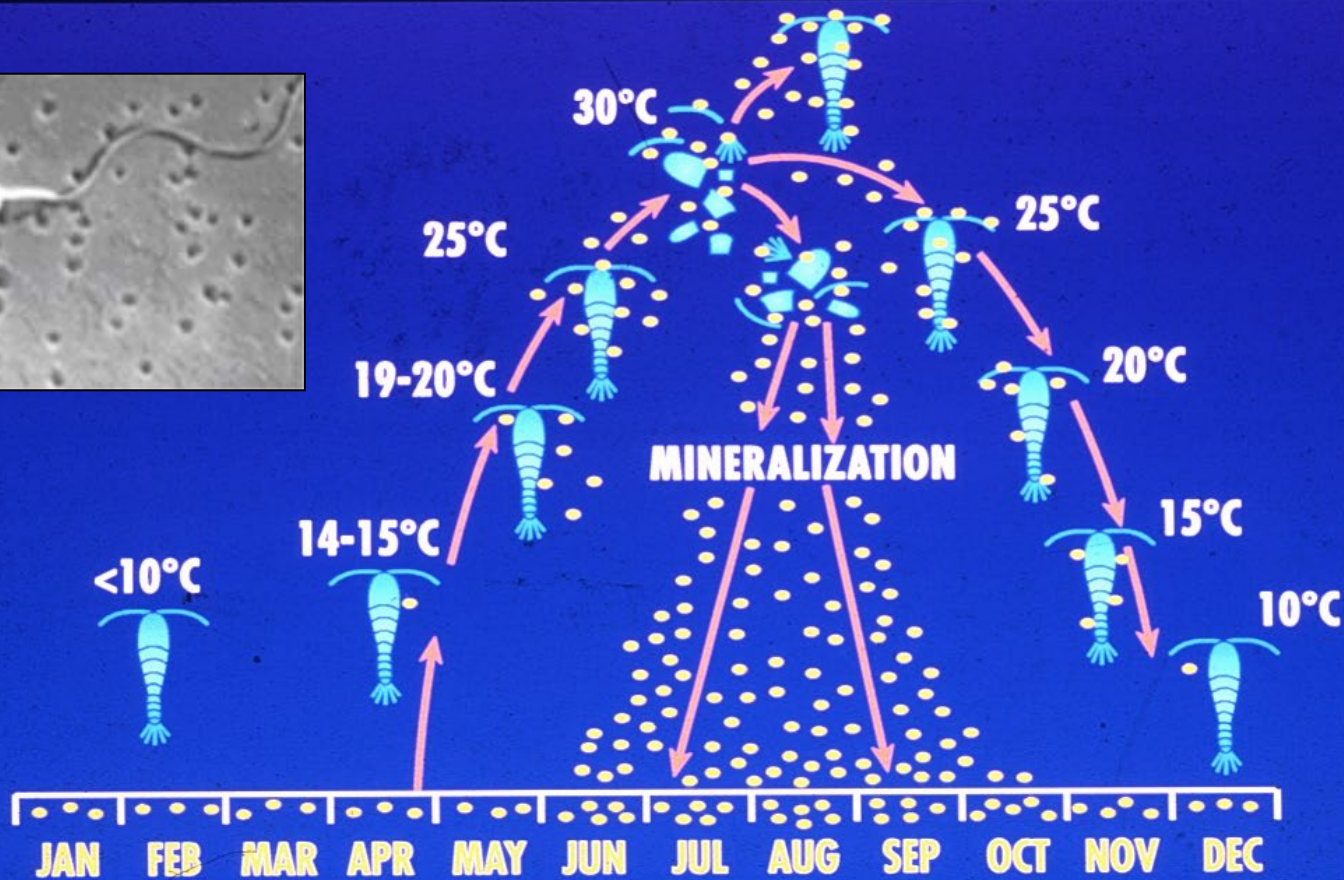


Map of Chesapeake Bay –  
beginning of the cholera  
chronicle



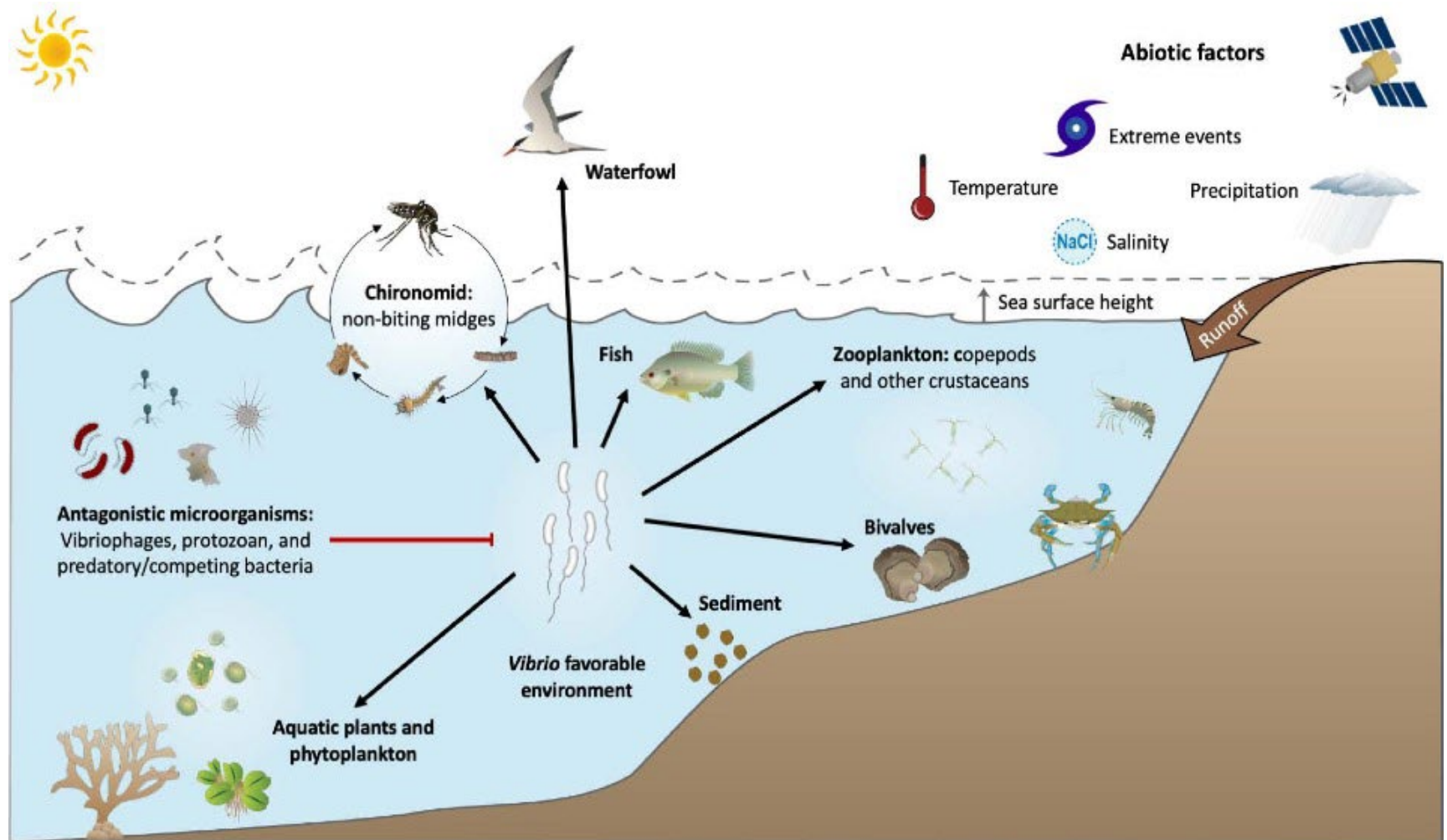
# 1965-1975 An early contribution of marine microbiology to human health: Determination of the *Vibrio cholerae* life cycle

## VIBRIO CHOLERAЕ – COPEPOD ANNUAL CYCLE IN THE ENVIRONMENT





# *Vibrio* and their natural environment





# MODEL FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF *VIBRIO CHOLERAE* FROM THE ENVIRONMENT TO HUMANS

## PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER

- temperature
- sunlight
- rainfall
- pH
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity & nutrients

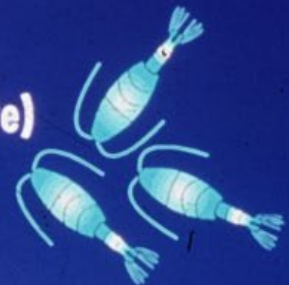


## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- algae bloom
- phytoplankton bloom



## ZOOPLANKTON BLOOM (enters into non-culturable state)



**FECAL SHEDDING**  
returns *V. cholerae*  
to the water.



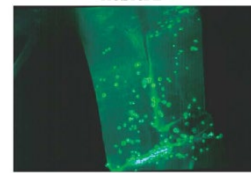
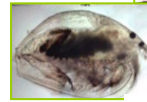
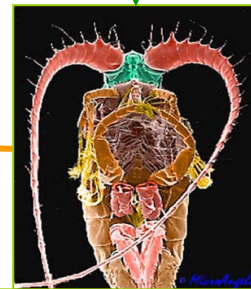
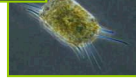
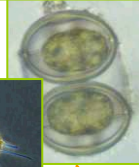
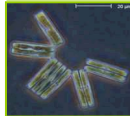
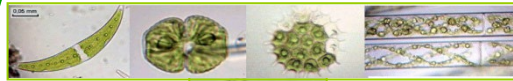
***V. CHOLERA***  
viable but non-culturable state in the water  
column & attached to particulates. Commensal  
or symbiotic relationships.



**TRANSMISSION OF *V. CHOLERA***  
to humans via ingested water containing  
colonized copepods or other vectors.

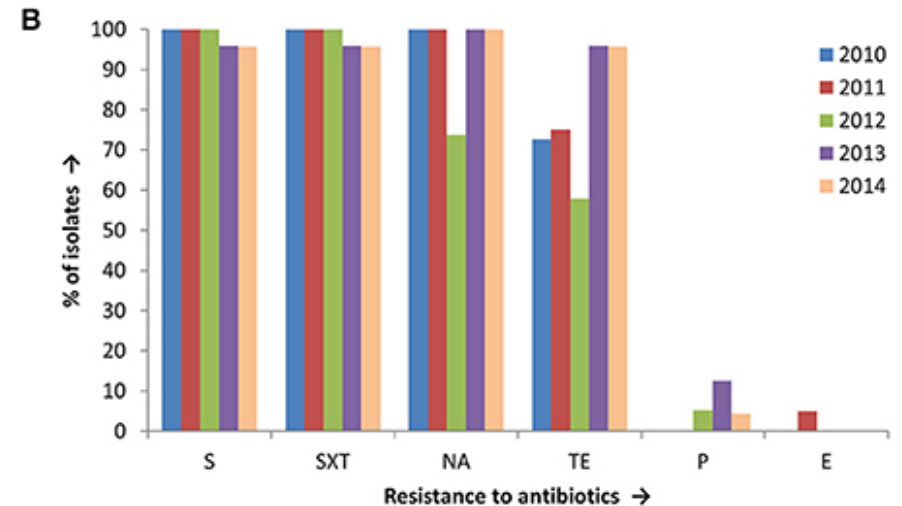
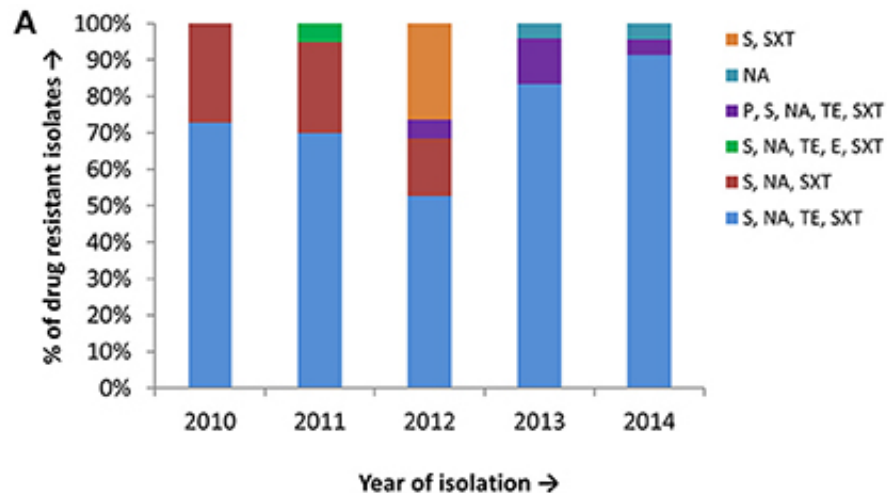




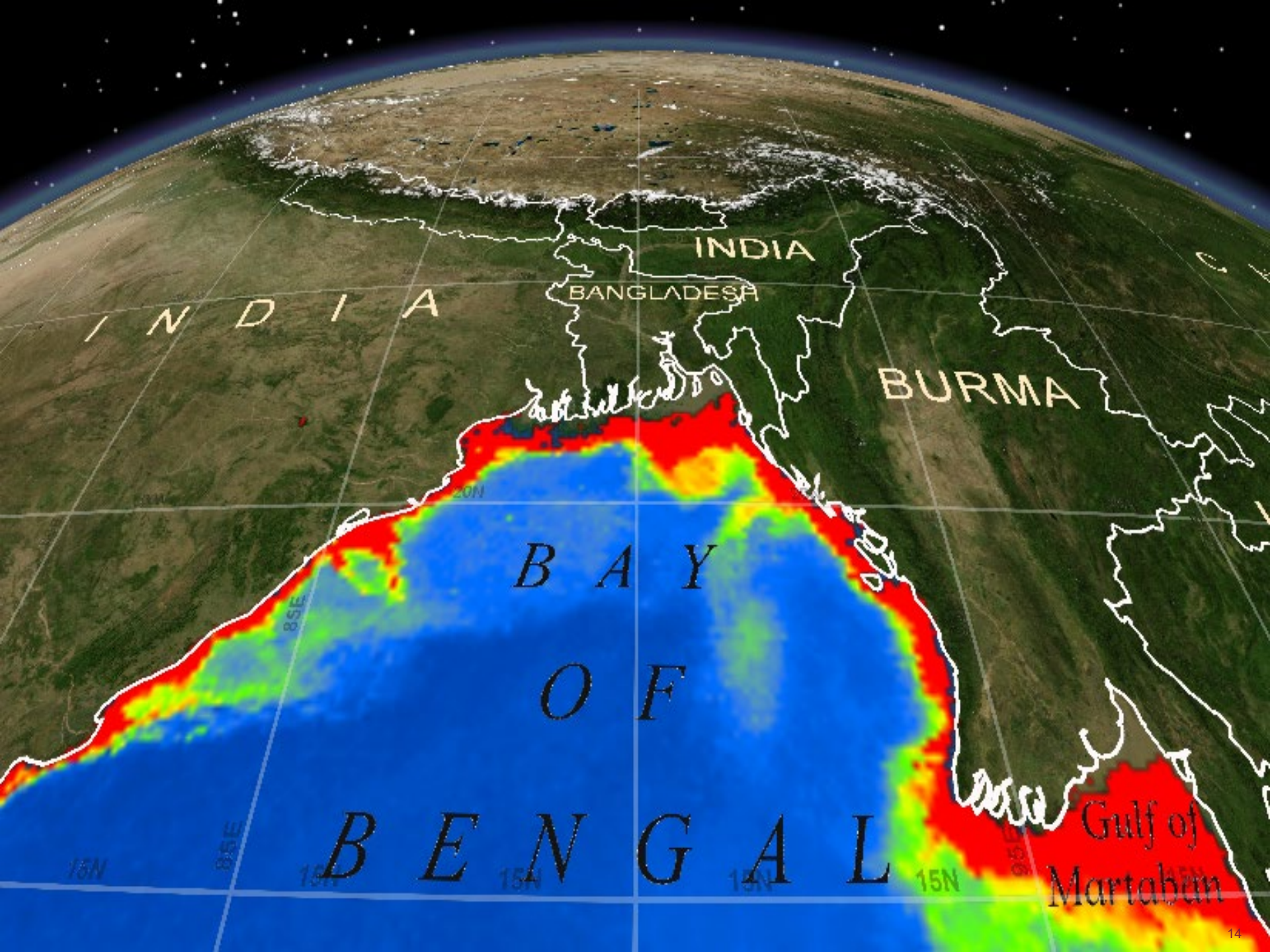




# Drug resistance profile of *V. cholerae* O1 from environmental sources (Mathbaria 2010-2014)



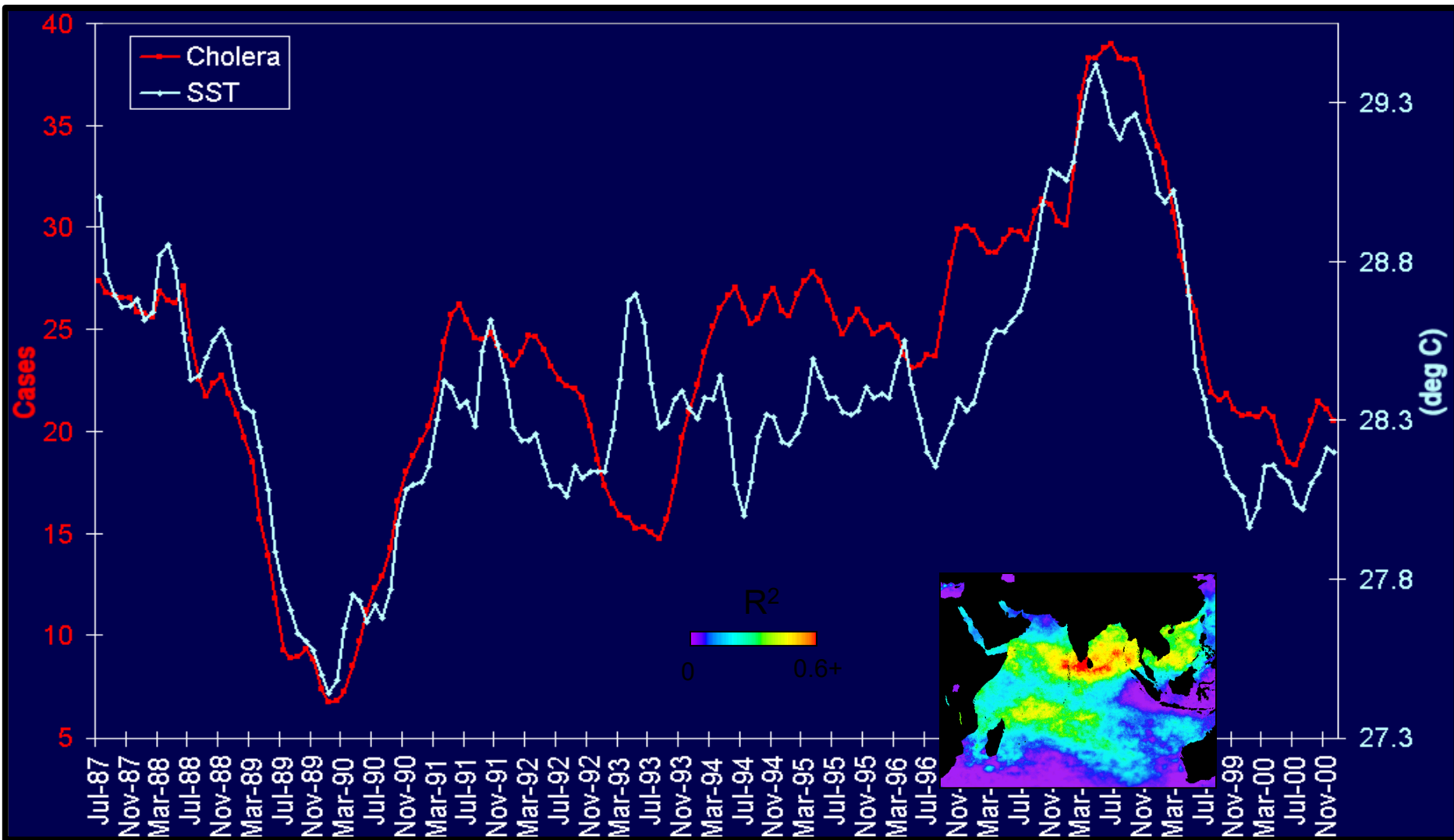






# Cholera and SST in the Indian Ocean 1985 - 2000

Six-month SST lead:  $R^2 = 0.72$

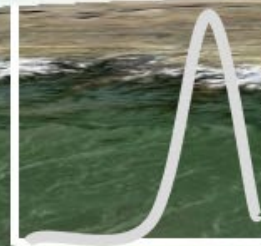




### Epidemic Cholera

- Sporadic deadly outbreak
- Usually occurs inland after disasters
- Temperatures may increase growth of bacteria in aquatic bodies.

### Typical cholera seasonality



Chattak

Brahmaputra

### Mixed-mode Cholera

- Usually two seasonal peaks
- One peak related to seawater intrusion; Second peak associated with widespread inundation
- Specific to Bengal Delta region

Ganges

Dhaka

Matlab



### Endemic Cholera

- Cholera persists throughout year in coastal regions
- Seawater intrusion from coasts to inland

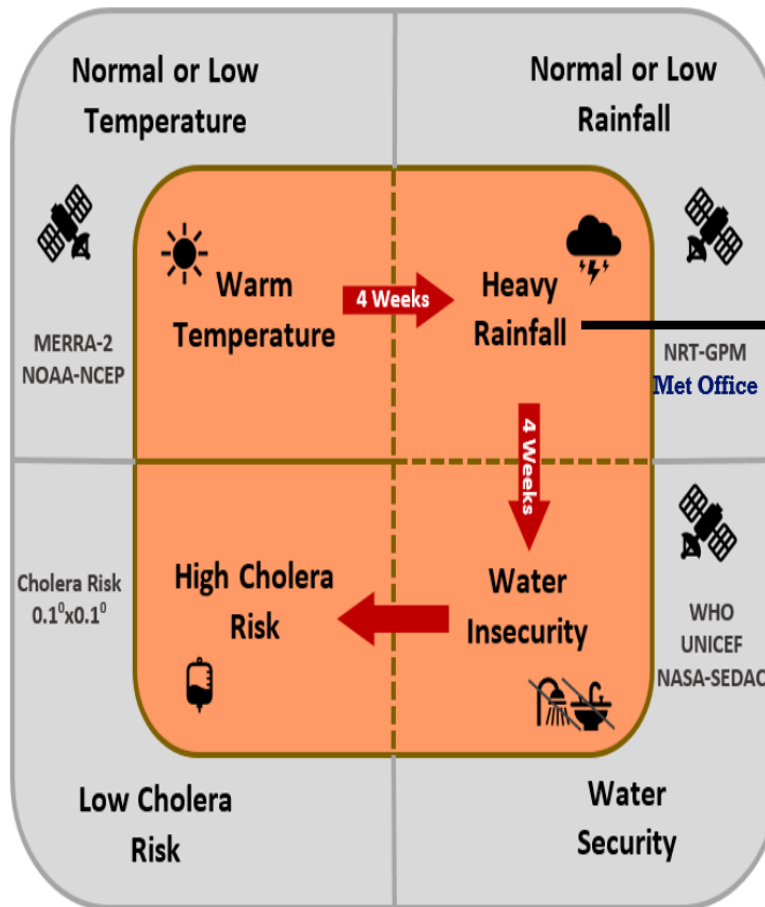
Mathbaria



Bacterial movement from coastal niches to inland



# Epidemic Mode of Cholera



Warm temperature= above climatological average temperature  
 Heavy rainfall= above climatological average precipitation  
 Water insecurity=lack of access to water and sanitation access  
 High cholera risk=probability of cholera greater than 50%

- Sporadic outbreak
- Usually occurs following floods or inundation of large landscapes
- Warm temperatures may increase growth of bacteria in aquatic bodies.

Accumulated rainfall above threshold

## Challenge


- Disease (prevalence) data
- Time invariant algorithm
- Search for self-adaptive algorithm



## INVEST/CUBESATS

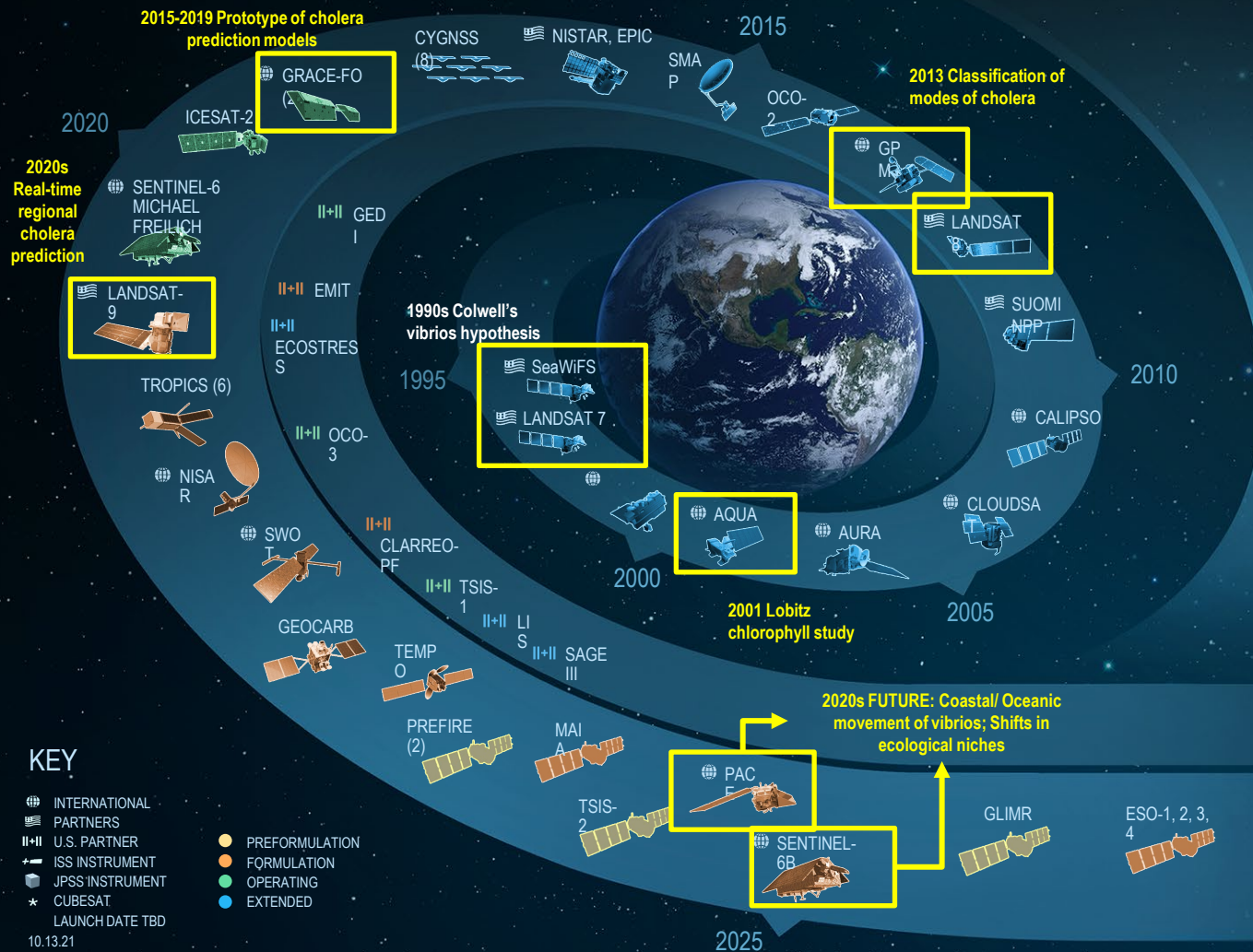
CSIM-FD 2023	
HARP 2022	
CIRIS 2023	
CTIM* 2022	
HYTI* 2022	
SNOOP1* 2022	
NACHOS* 2022	
NACHOS2* 2022	

## JPSS INSTRUMENTS



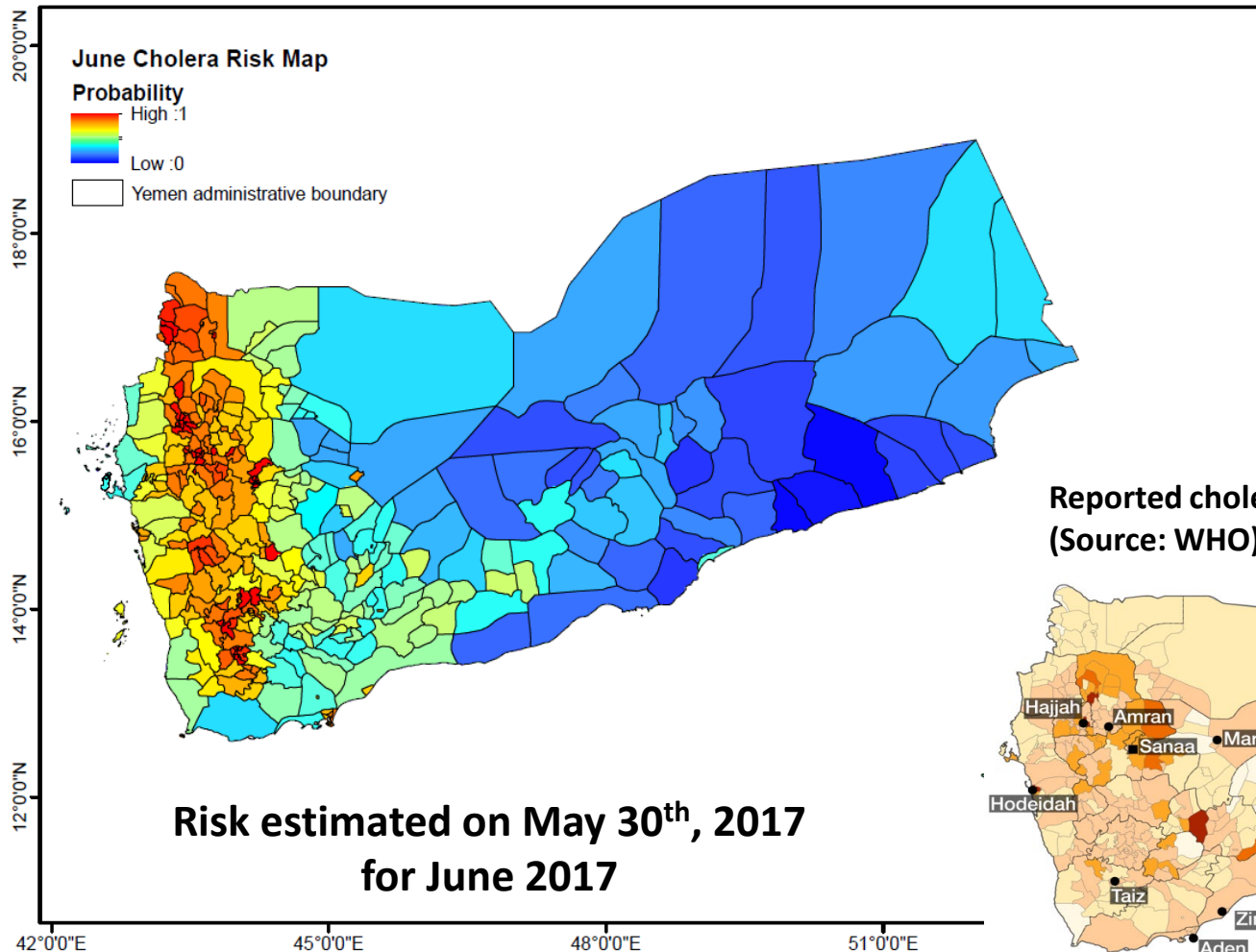
## ISS INSTRUMENTS

## MISSIONS

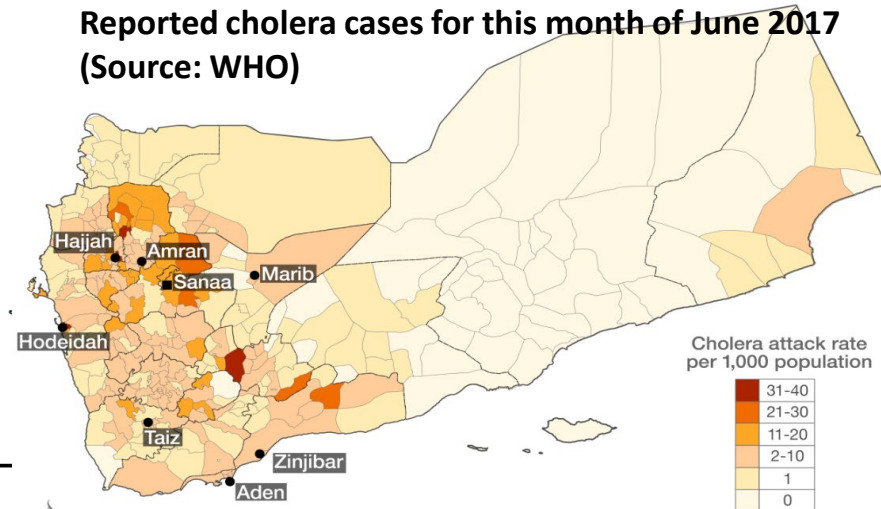




# Real-time cholera prediction for Yemen

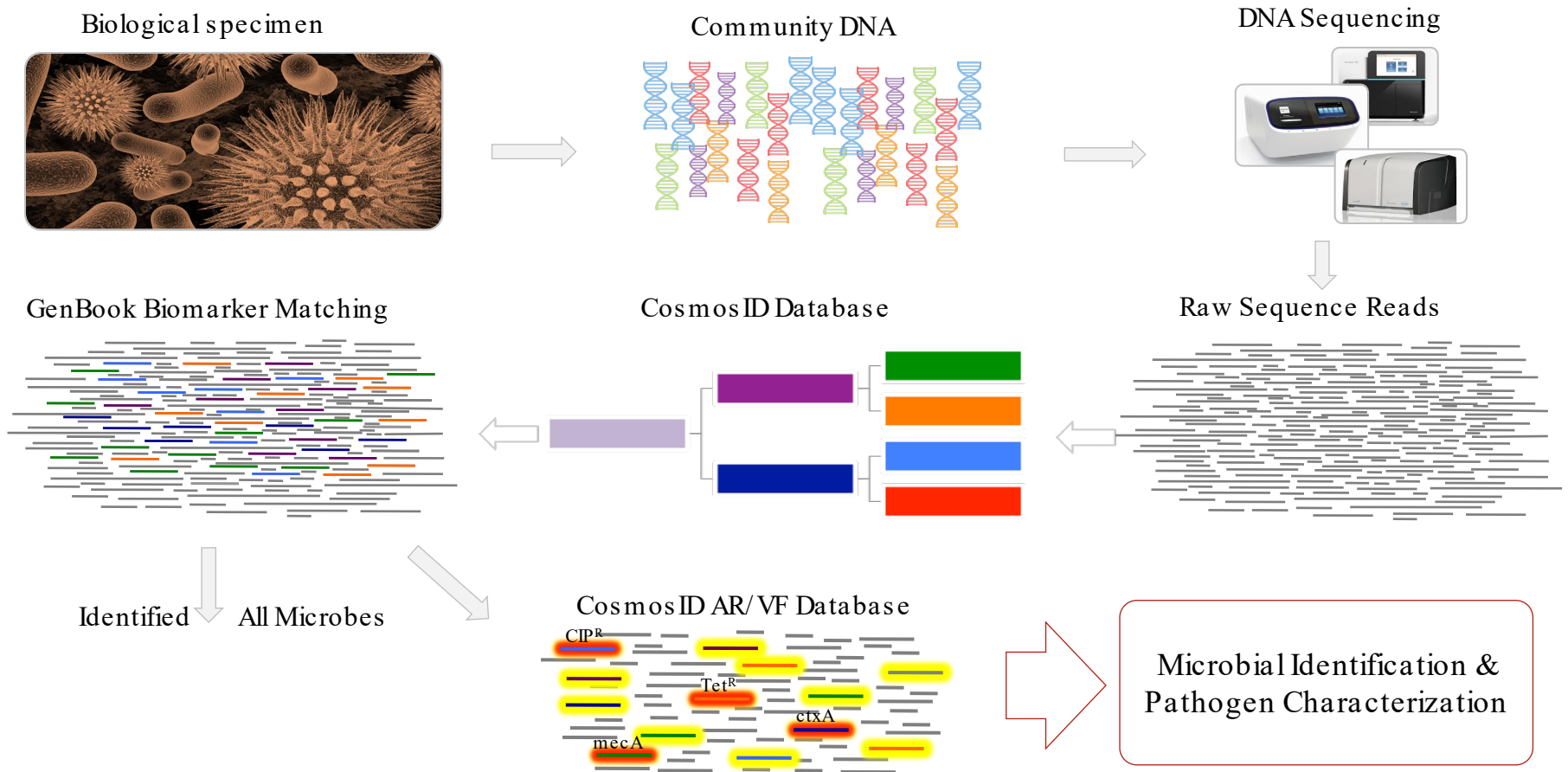


Reported cholera cases for this month of June 2017  
(Source: WHO)





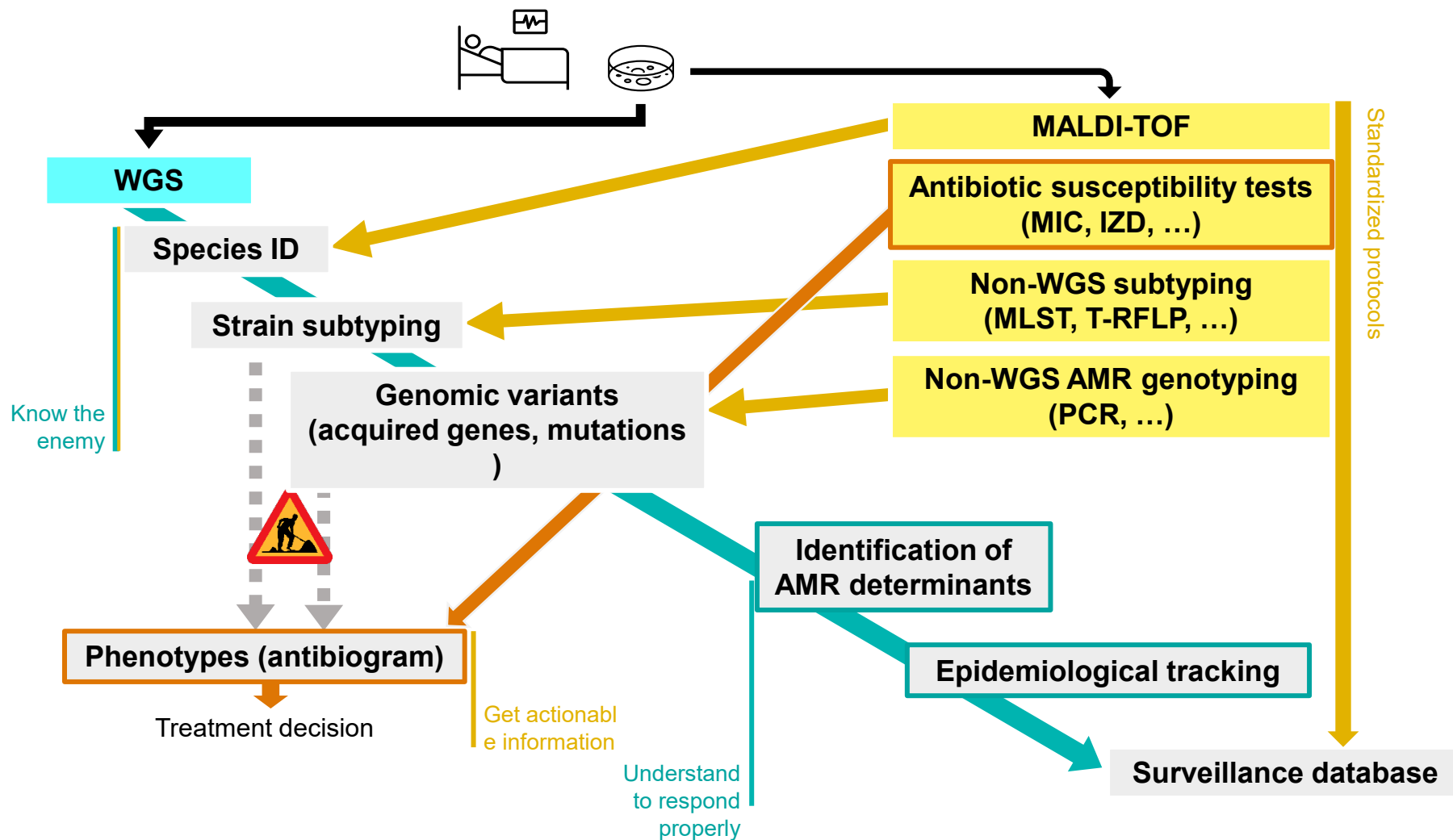
# Shotgun whole (meta)genome sequencing







# What WGS provides





# Microbiome Analysis of Acute Diarrheal Patients Compared with Healthy Individuals

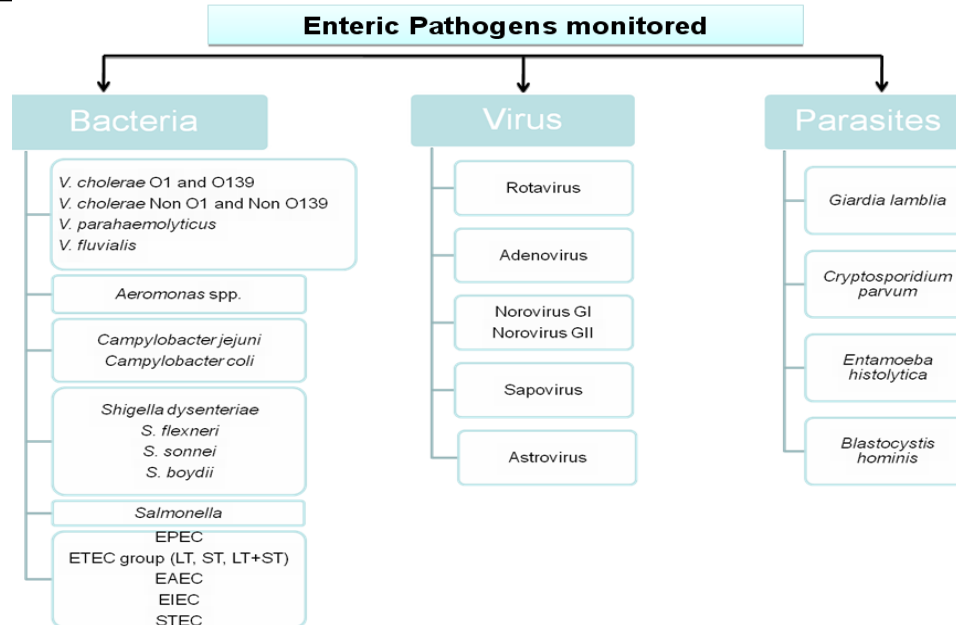
pre-publication results



# Study Cohort

@ 2% Surveillance (every 50<sup>th</sup> patient) at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Calcutta, India

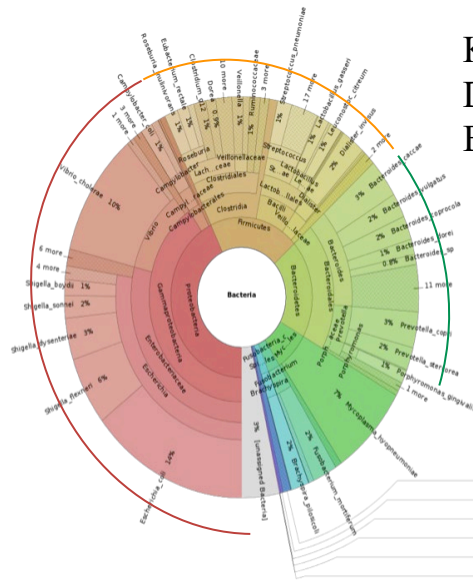
Study Phases	Total # of Samples	Known Etiology	Unknown Etiology	Healthy Control
PHASE I	9	9	0	0
PHASE II	28	0	18	10
PHASE III	37	17	10	10



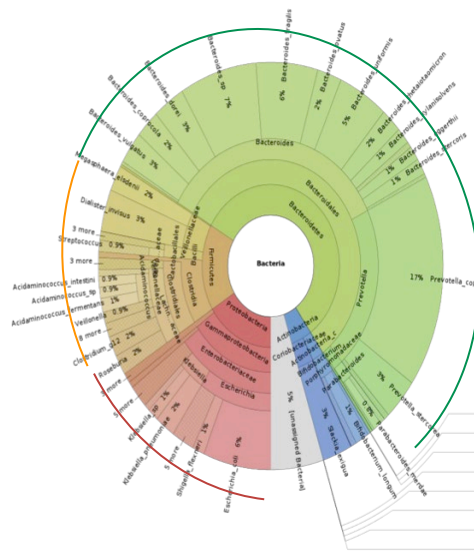


# Microbial Community in Healthy vs Diarrheal Patients

DIARRHEAL PATIENTS

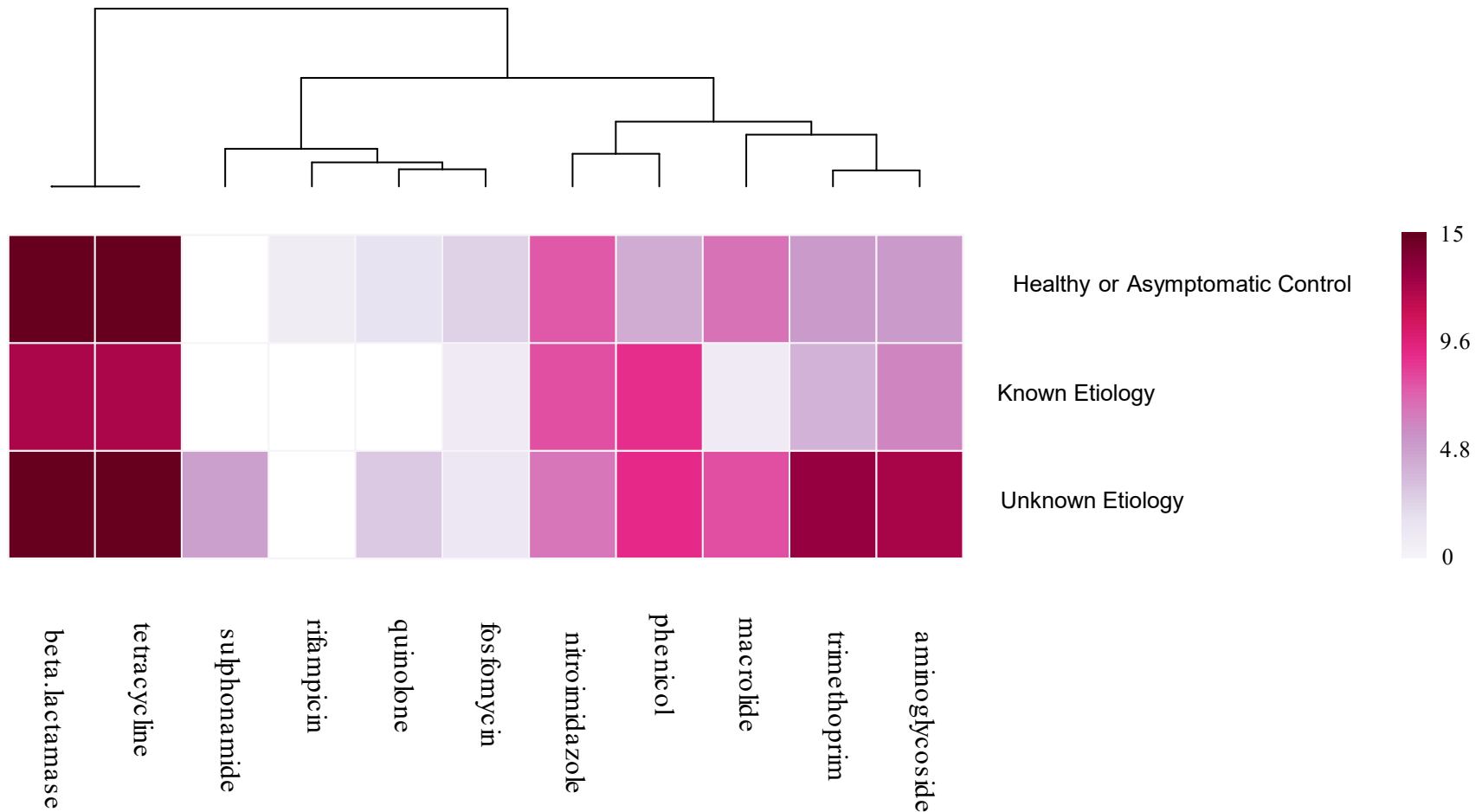


HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS





# Antimicrobial resistance prevalent in Indian population



- Genes which match at > 50% coverage
- HMP samples had no genes present which matched at this level of coverage





New ▾

6



Antarpreet ▾



Vibrio Prediction Hub

Cholera Risk Map Viewer

About Us

# Vibrio Prediction Hub

GeoHealth & Hydrology Lab at the University of Florida



Stay updated by joining our community

 Unfollow

A decision-making initiative for protecting human health and enhancing the resilience of coastal communities under current and changing environments

<https://vibrio-prediction-ufl.hub.arcgis.com/>

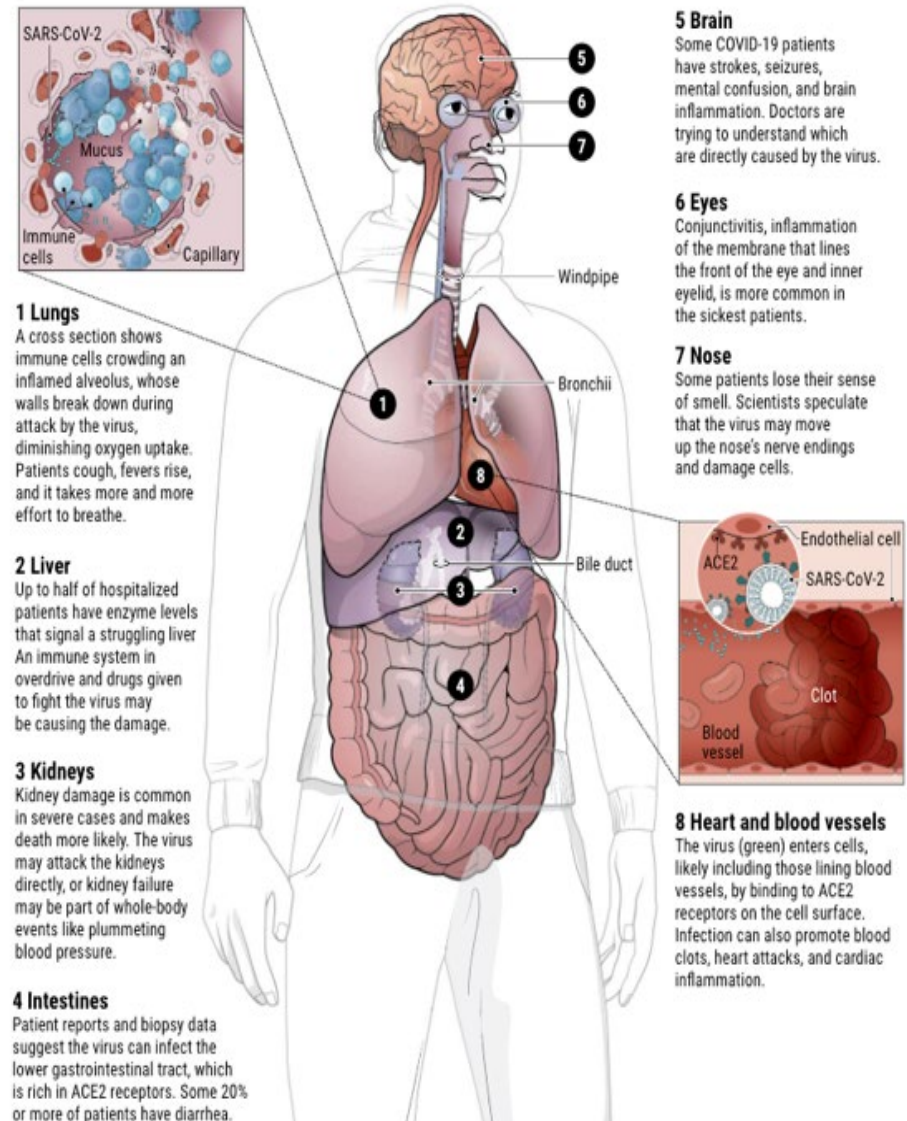


# Is COVID-19 polymicrobial and systemic?

How does coronavirus kill?  
Clinicians trace a ferocious  
rampage through the body, from  
brain to toes

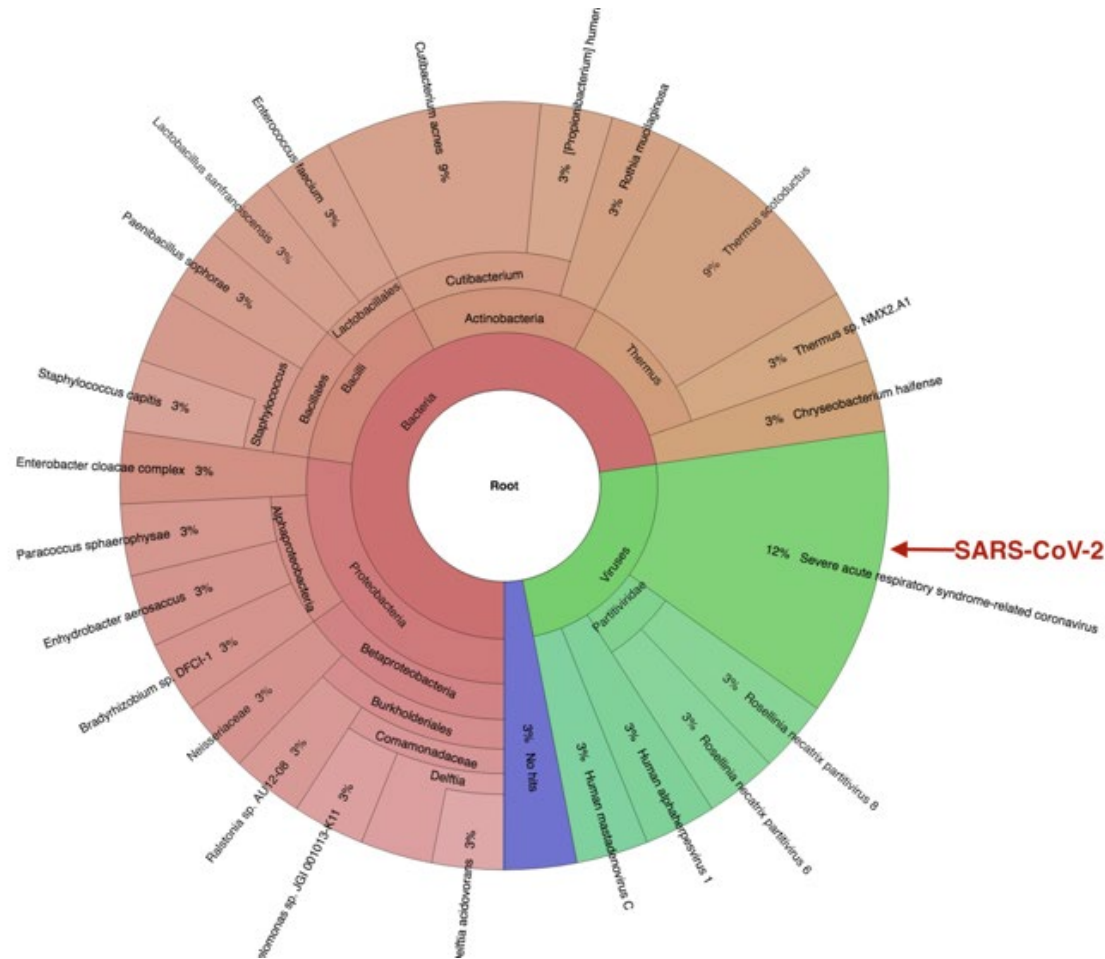
Meredith Wadman, Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, Jocelyn  
Kaiser, Catherine Maticic. Science, Apr. 17, 2020, 6:45 PM

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/how-does-coronavirus-kill-clinicians-trace-ferocious-rampage-through-body-brain-toes>



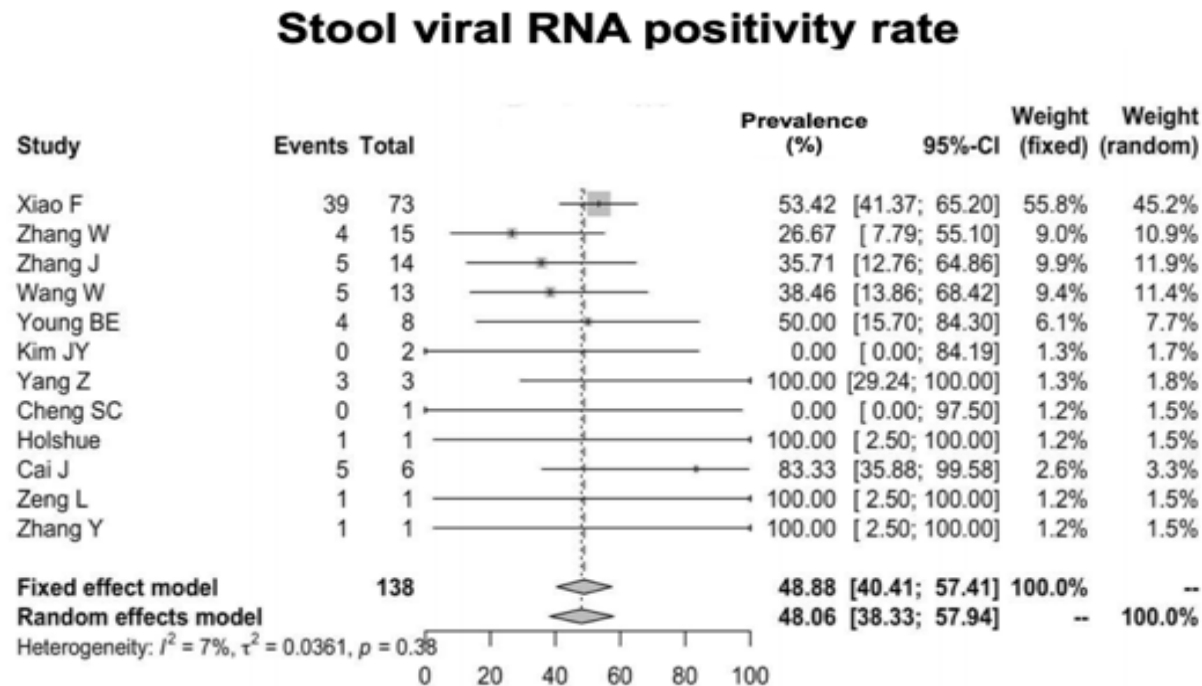


# Identification of Bacteria and Viruses Present in Respiratory Samples in which SARS-CoV-2 has been Detected





# SARS Cov-2 viral RNA has been detected in 48.1% of stool samples

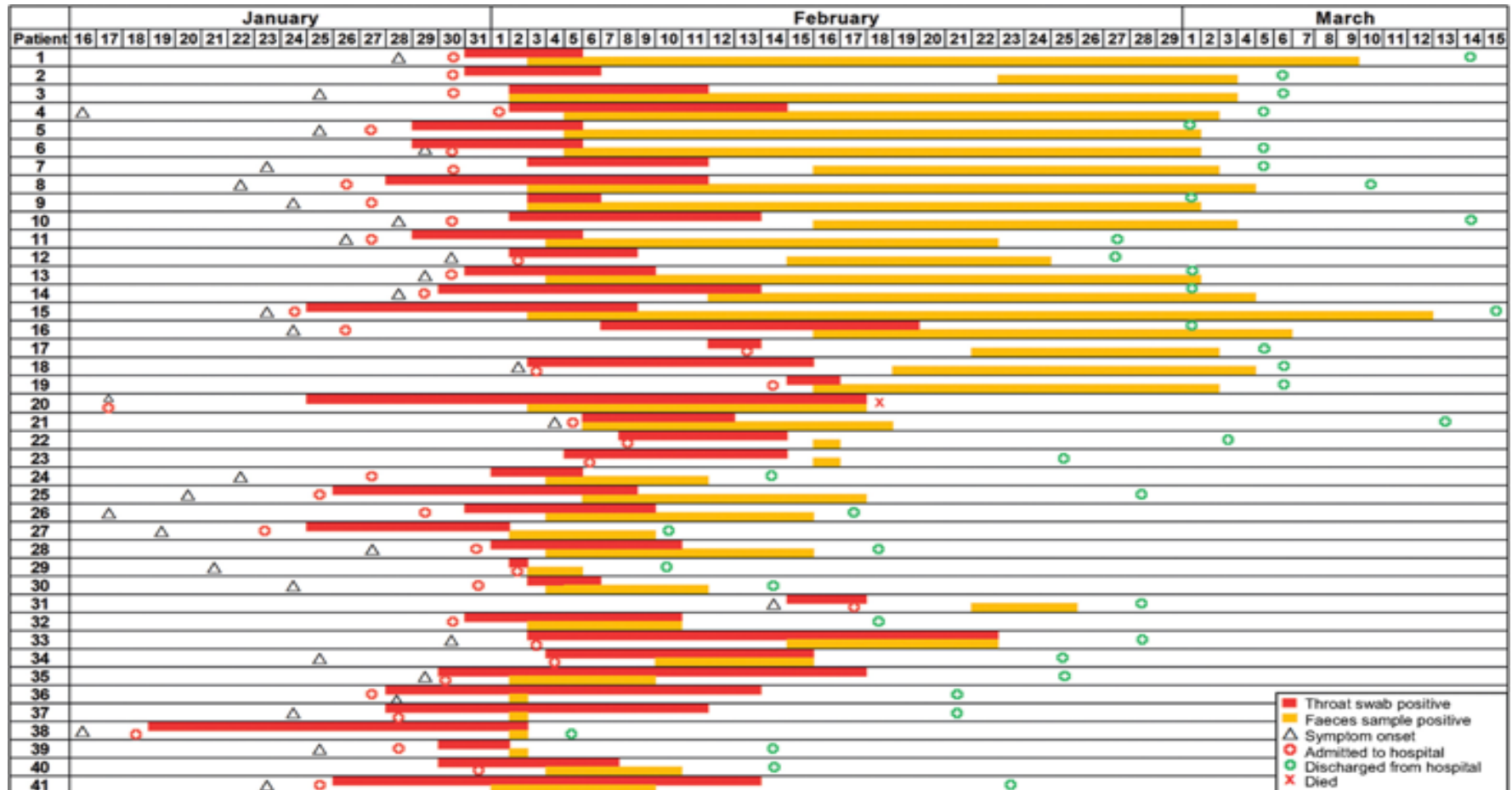


## Gastroenterology

Cheung et al., (2020). Gastrointestinal Manifestations of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Virus Load in Fecal Samples from the Hong Kong Cohort and Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Gastroenterology. Pre-Proof

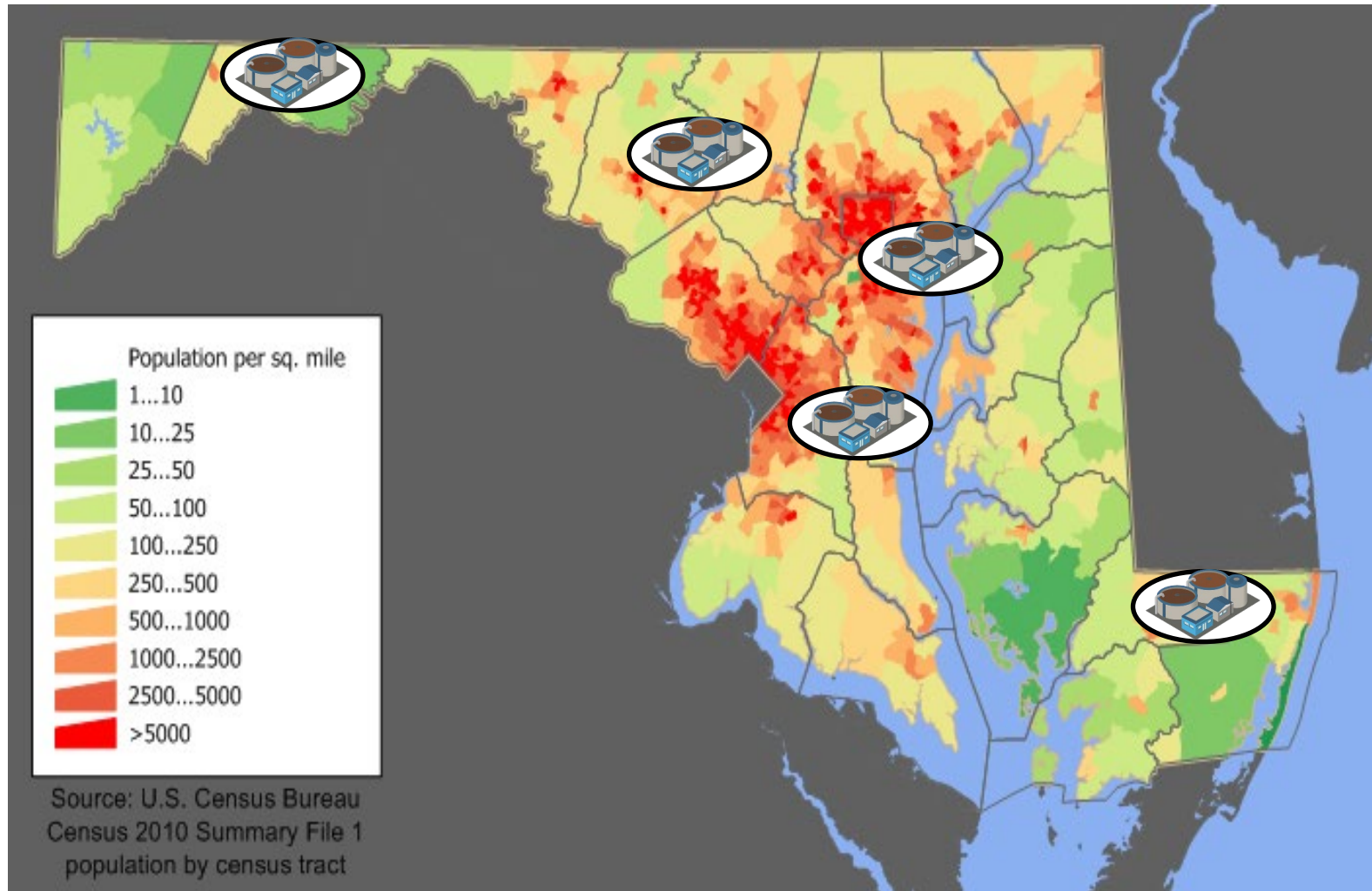


# Positive Stool Samples Detected After Respiratory Sample Tested Negative During Recovery



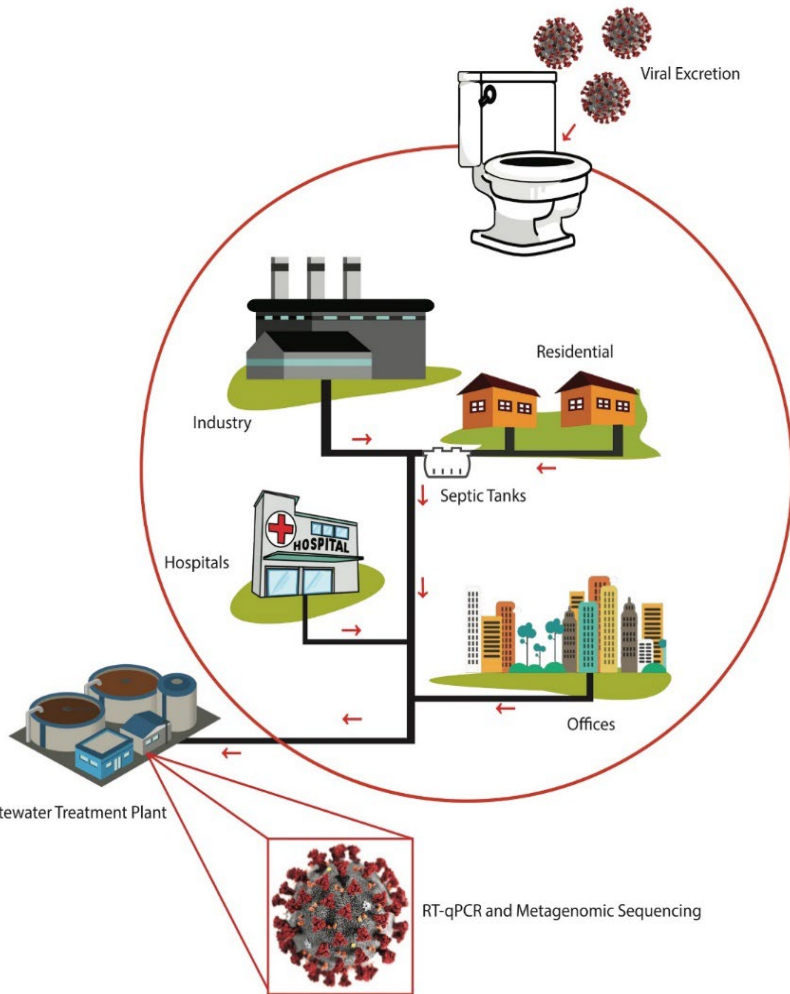


# COVID-19 tracking in wastewater in Maryland, USA, 2020-2022





# Wastewater surveillance

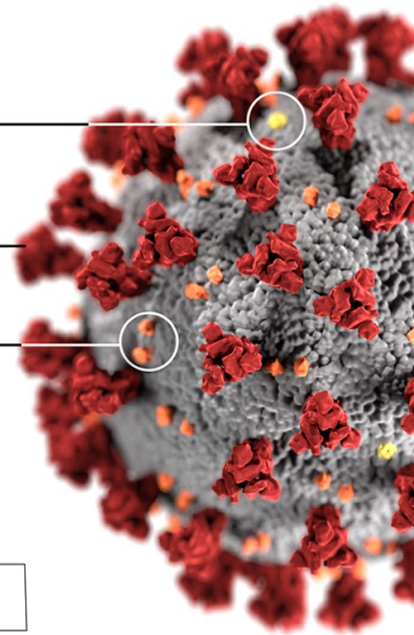


**E protein**

**S protein**

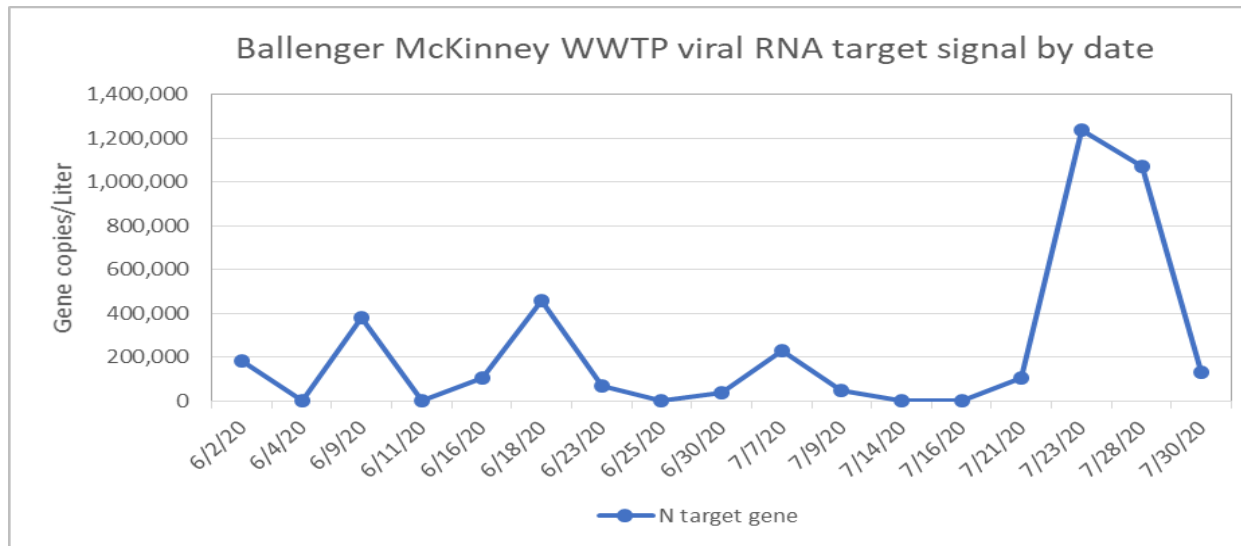
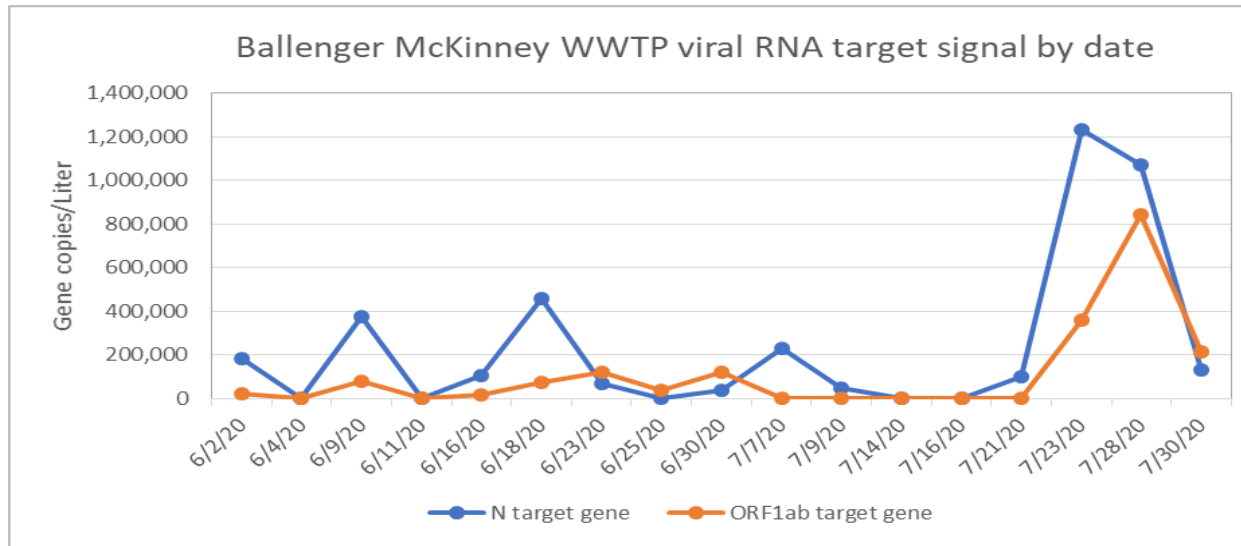
**M protein**

COVID-19





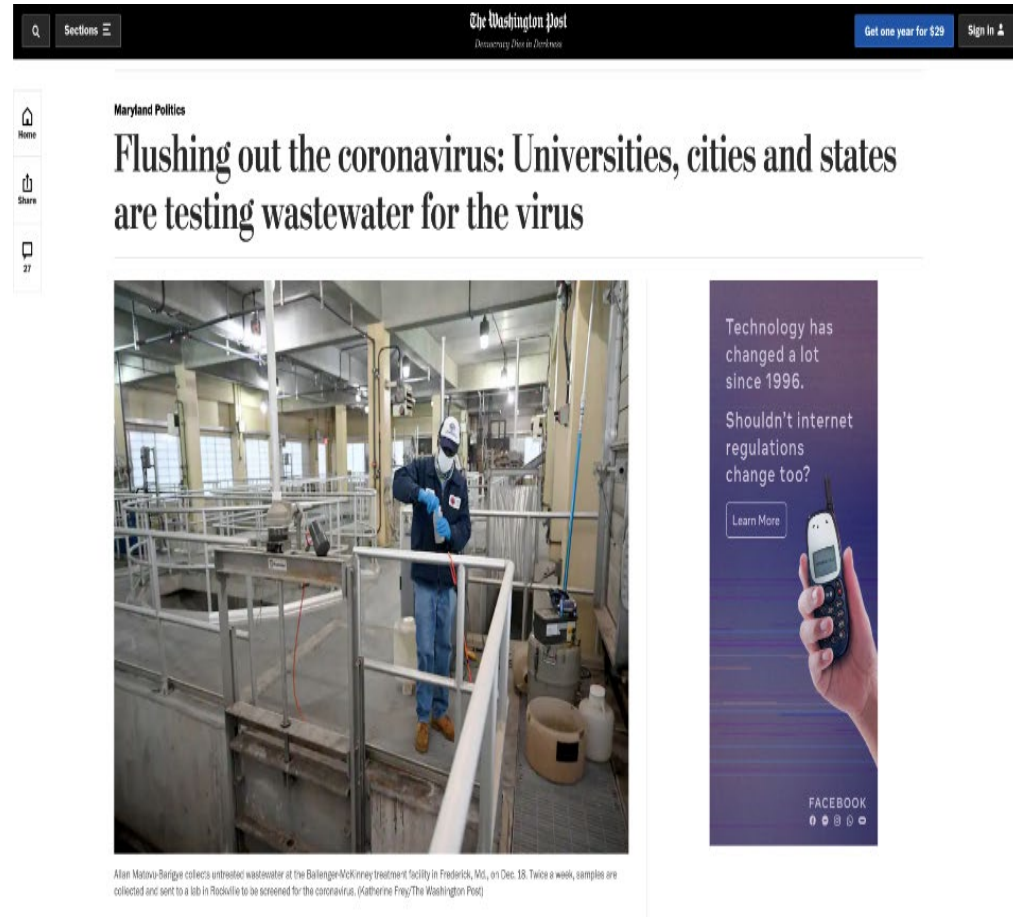
# Results from Frederick, Maryland sites, 2020





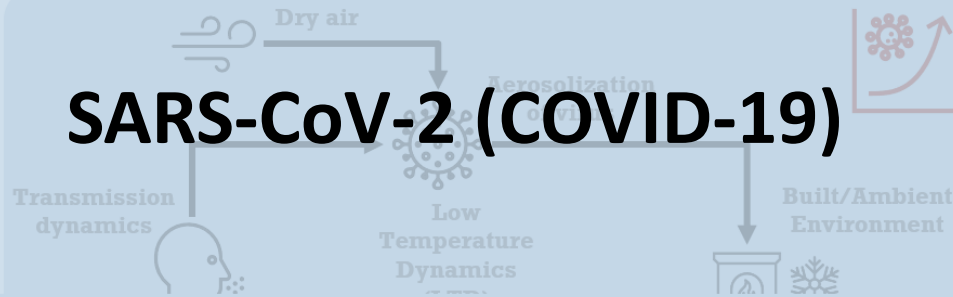
# Case Study: Mount St. Mary's University

- Twice weekly sampling of dormitory effluent
- Covid spike triggered testing of individual students
- 221 students tested
  - 10 positive
  - 9 asymptomatic
- “It could have become quite a spreading event,” said Donna Klinger, a spokeswoman for the university
- Coronavirus positive students isolated and wastewater tests done twice weekly





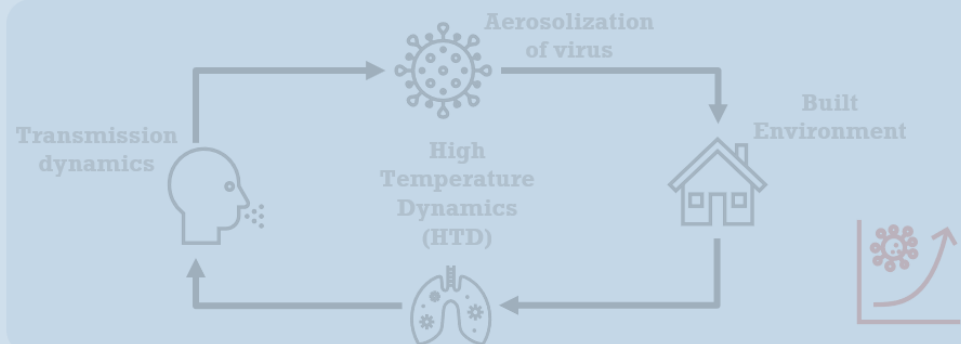
# SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)



## Development of prediction algorithm

In-house cholera prediction algorithm was modified for COVID-19  
Algorithm is based on geographically weighted raster probabilistic dose-response assimilation technique

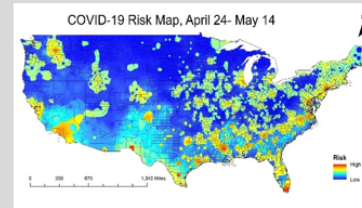
(Email [ajutla@ufl.edu](mailto:ajutla@ufl.edu) and [moiz.usmani@ufl.edu](mailto:moiz.usmani@ufl.edu) for details)



## Socio-demographical indicators



## Earth Observations

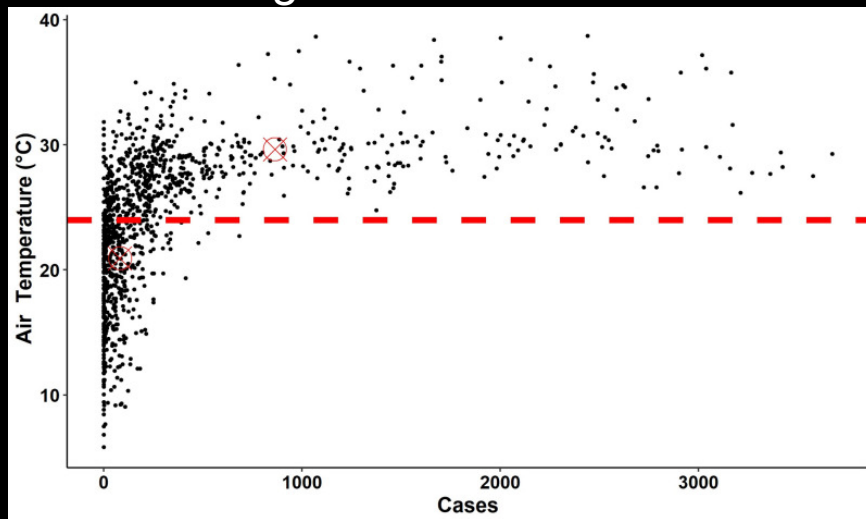


Risk Map  
(with 14-day validity)

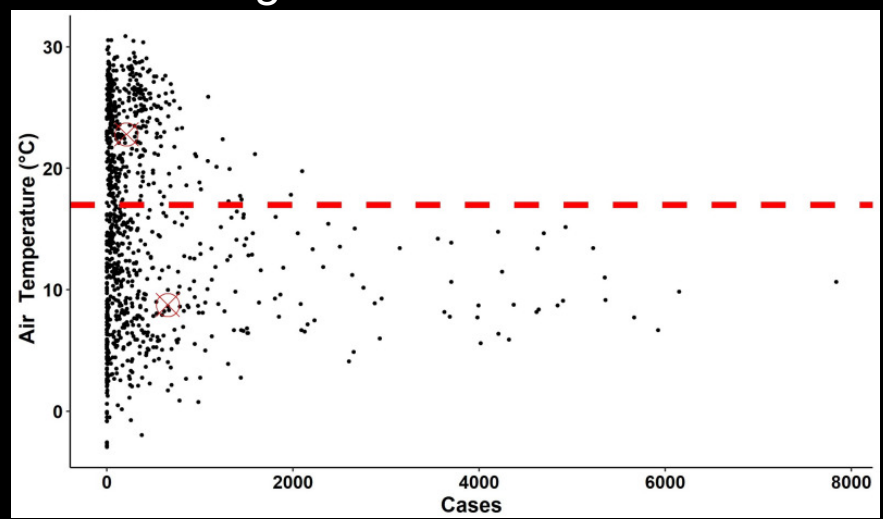


# Clustering of disease prevalence vs ambient air temperature

**Warm regions**

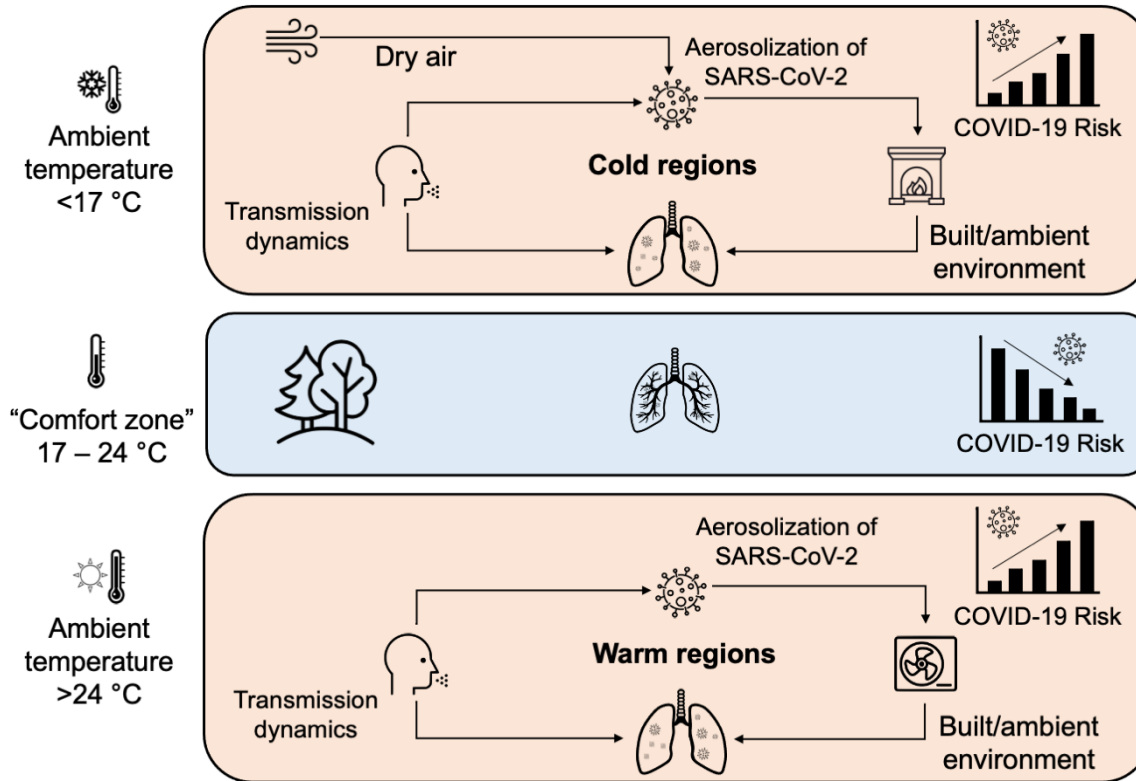


**Cold regions**





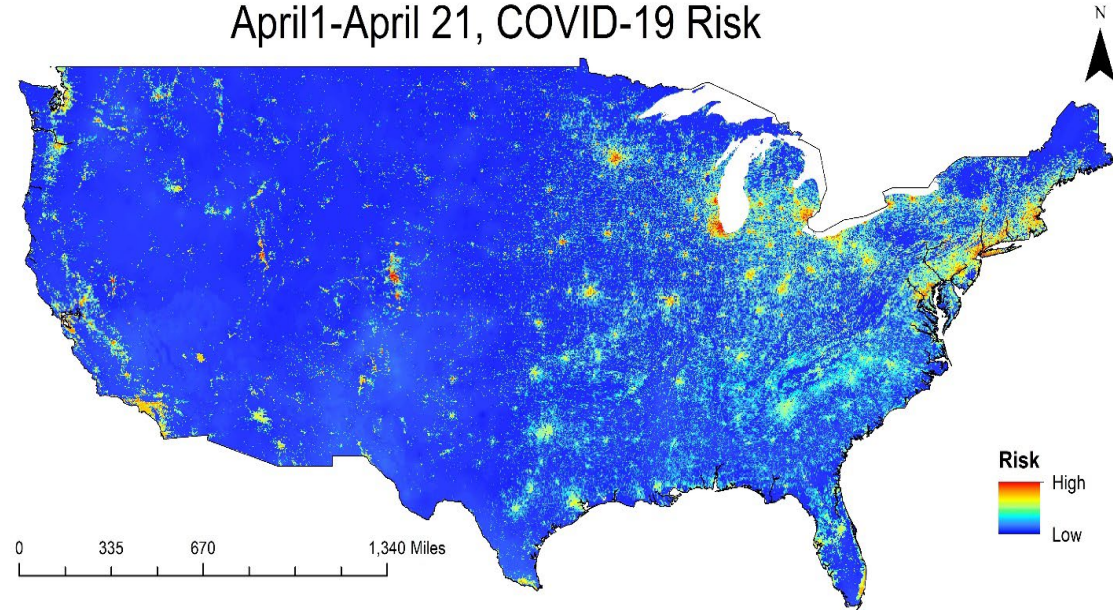
# Hypothesis for environmental COVID-19 risk prediction



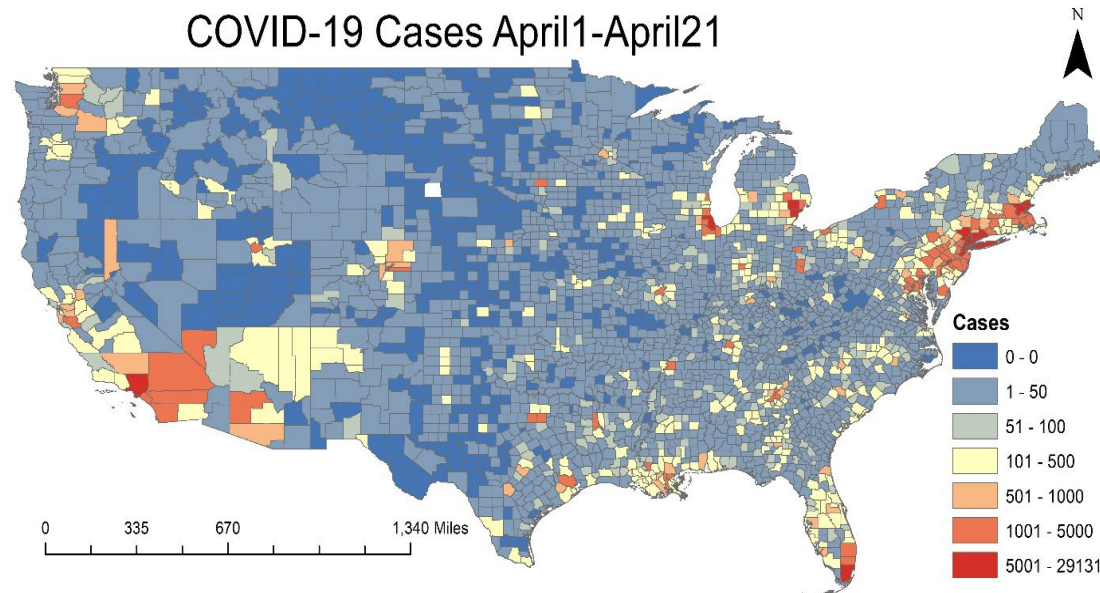


# Environmental COVID-19 risk prediction

April1-April 21, COVID-19 Risk



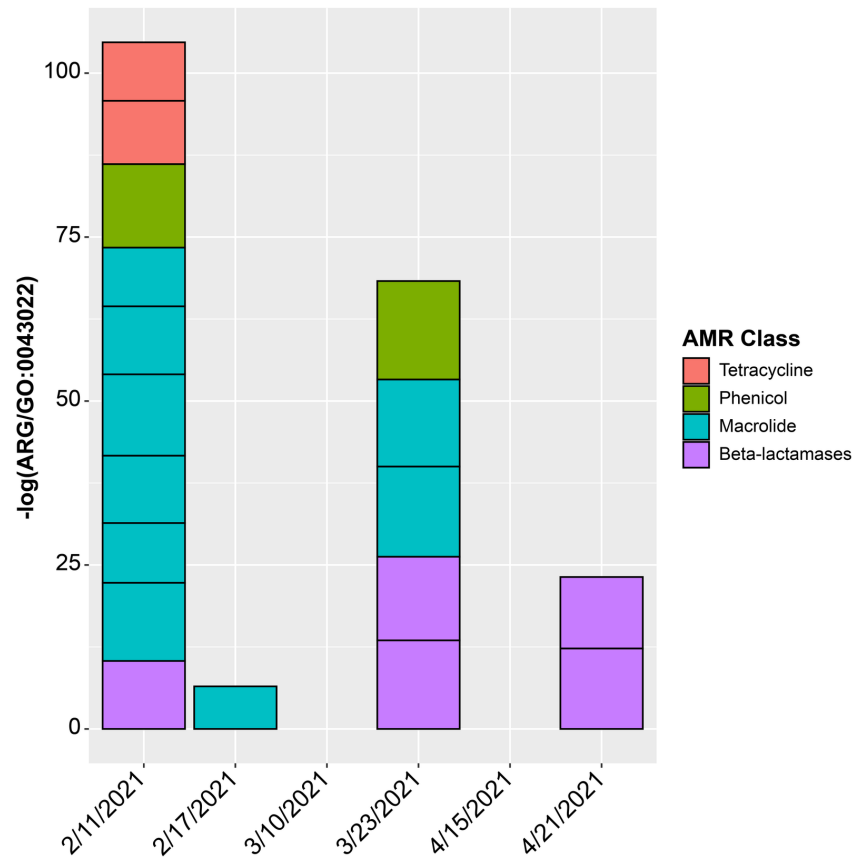
COVID-19 Cases April1-April21



Usmani, Brumfield,  
Jutla, & Colwell; *in preparation*

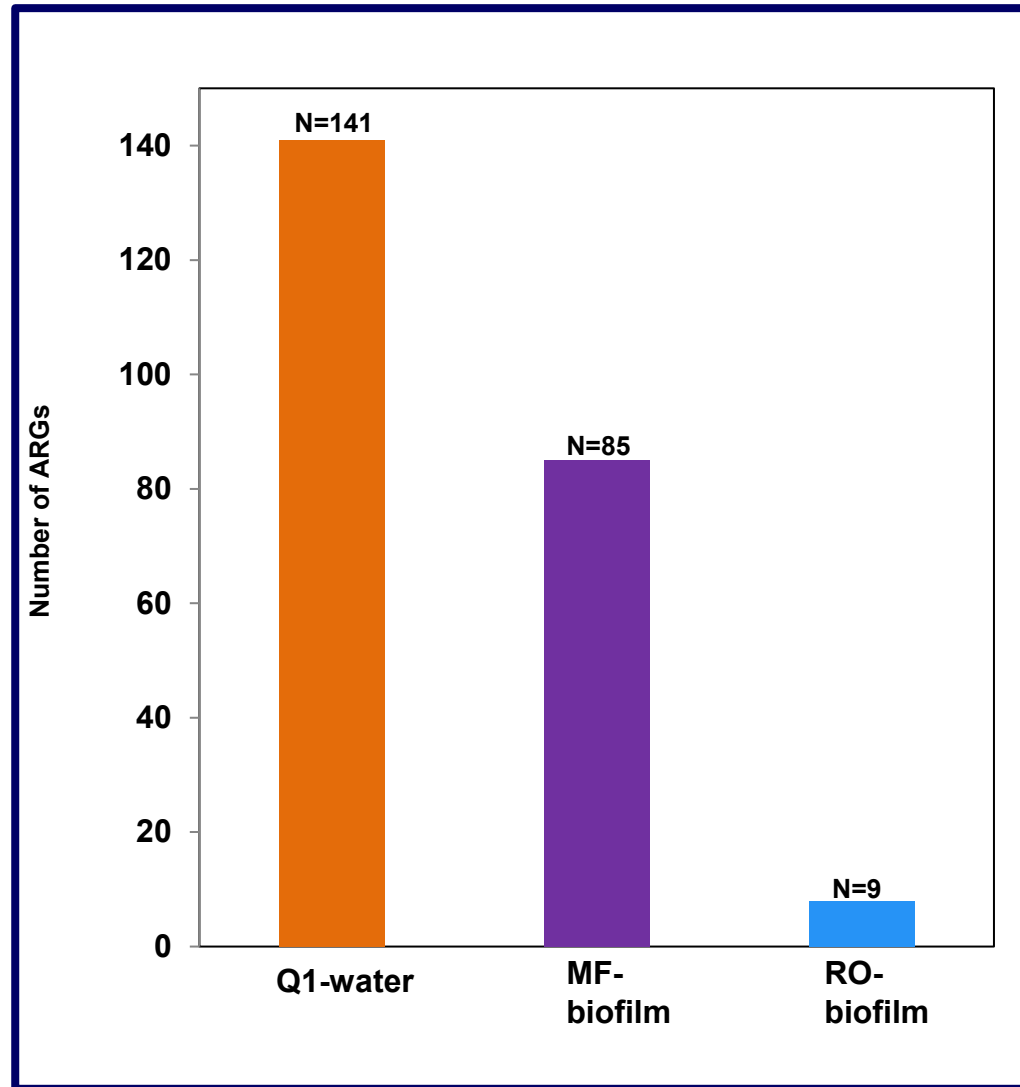


# Expression of AMR in wastewater (RNA-seq)



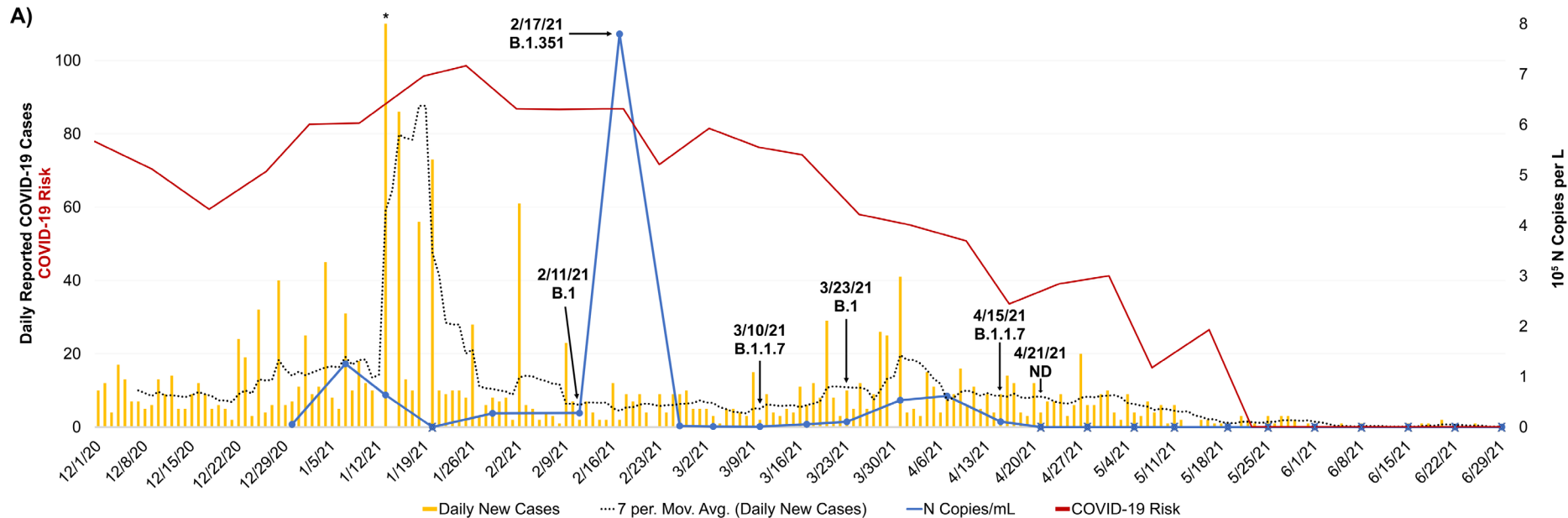


# Distribution of antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) and stepwise reduction of ARG's in MF and RO-biofilms





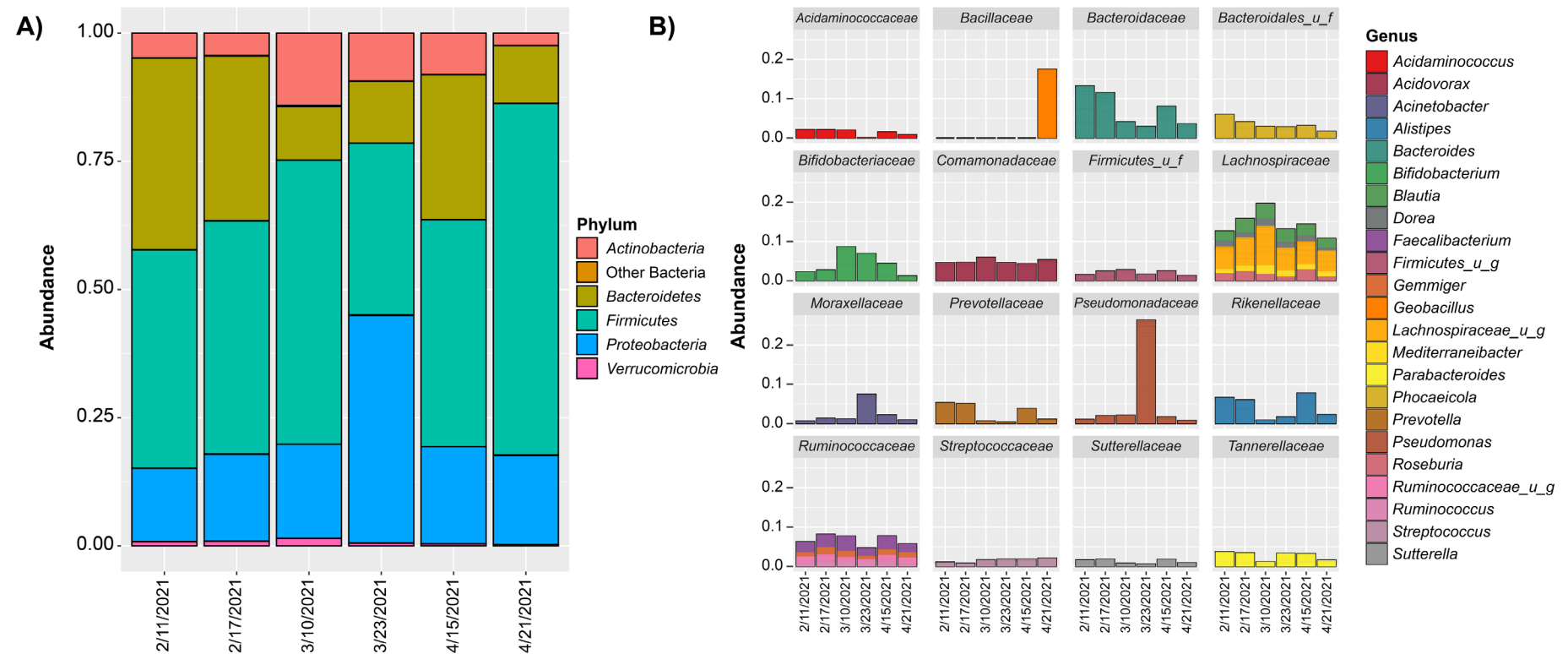
# Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater and predicted risk



Brumfield et al. 2022, under review



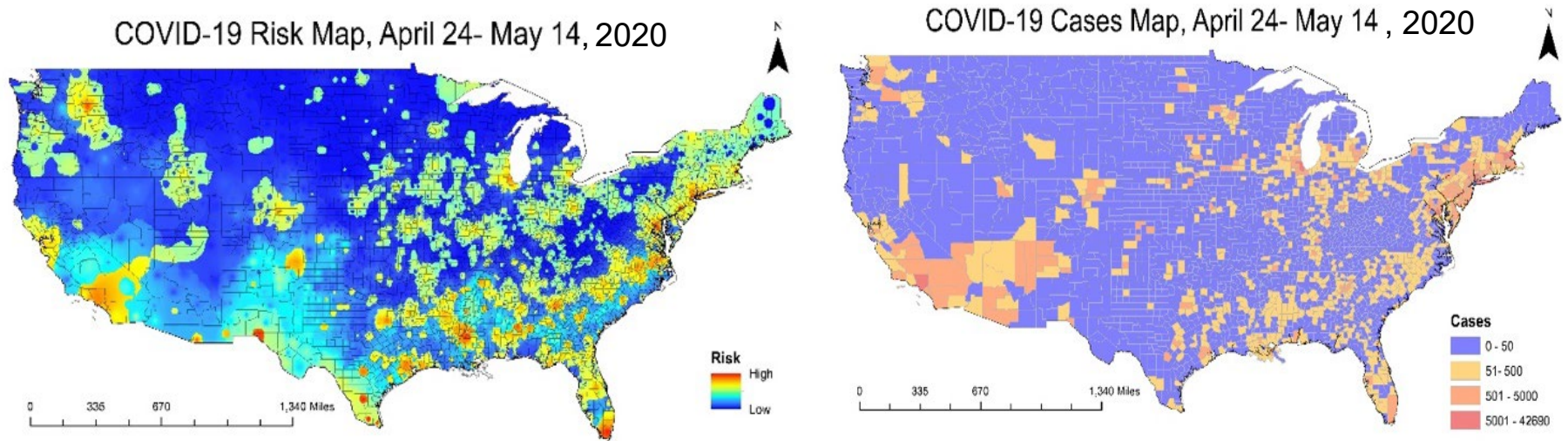
# Microbiome profiles of wastewater (DNA metagenomics)



Brumfield et al. 2022, under review

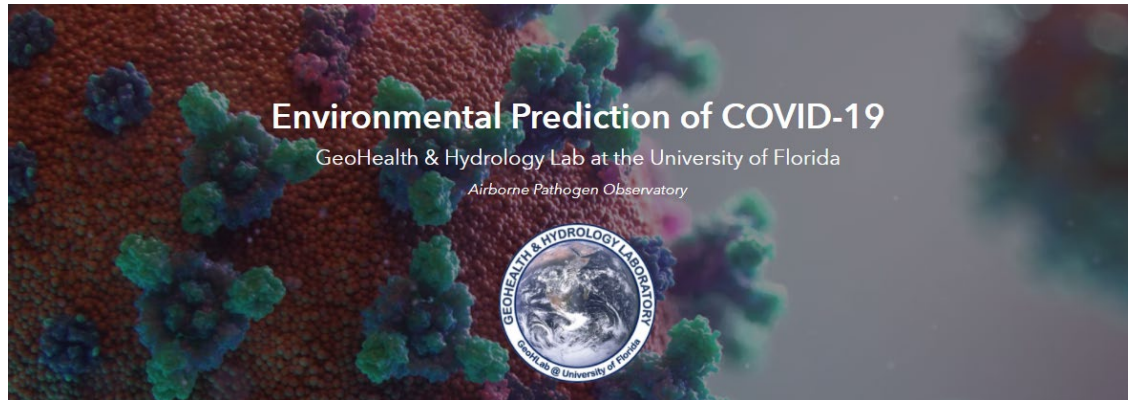


# Prediction of coronavirus risk



Left panel: **Prediction** made on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 and valid until May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Right panel: **Actual number** of COVID19 cases during those three weeks: a heuristic prediction model developed in GeoHLab



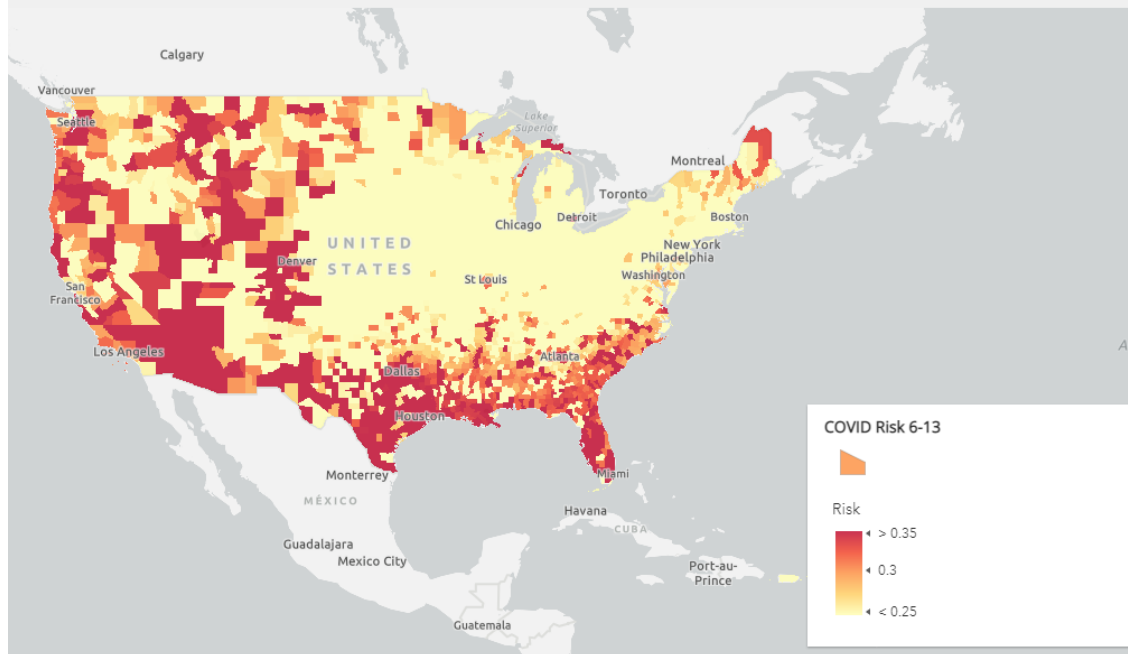


<https://covid-ufl.hub.arcgis.com/>

## COVID-19 Risk Map

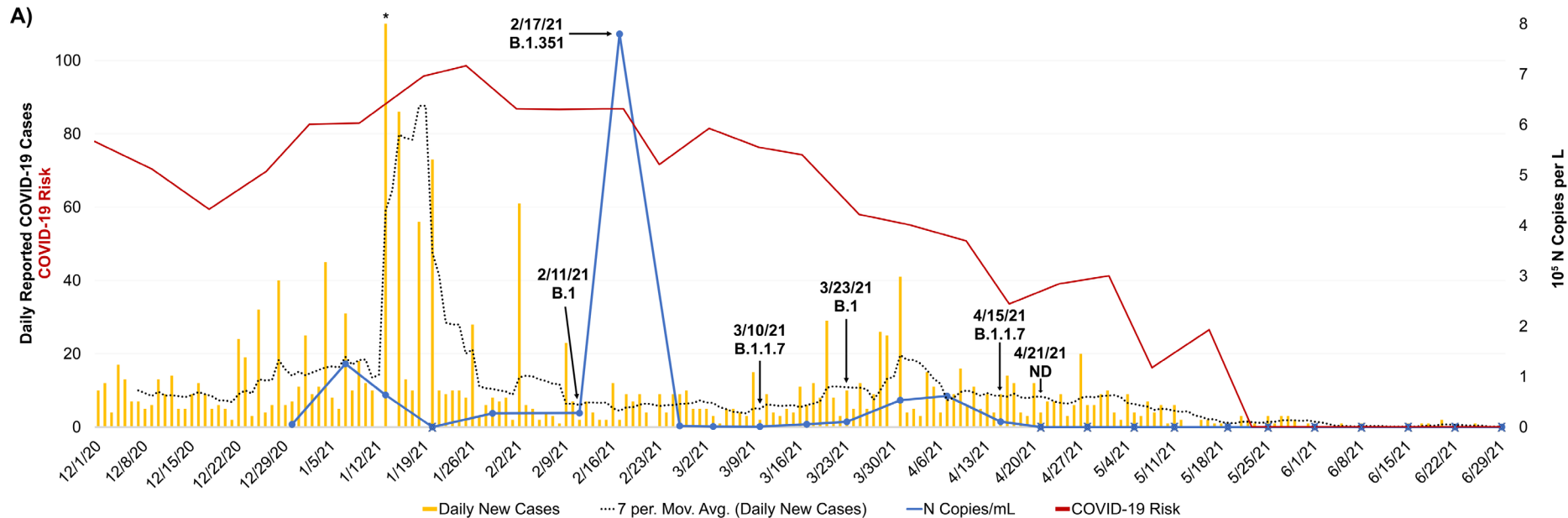
Use the interactive map below to explore COVID risk for the United States

*Last Updated June 13, 2022*



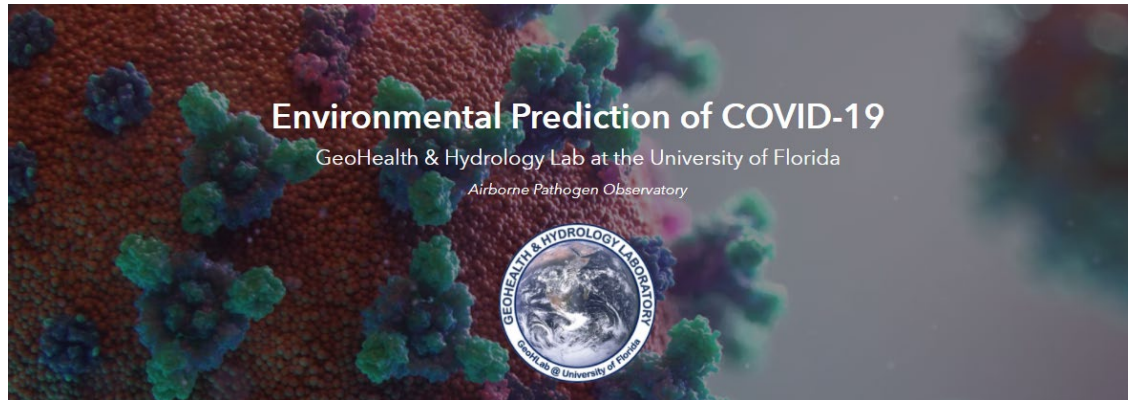


# Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater and predicted risk



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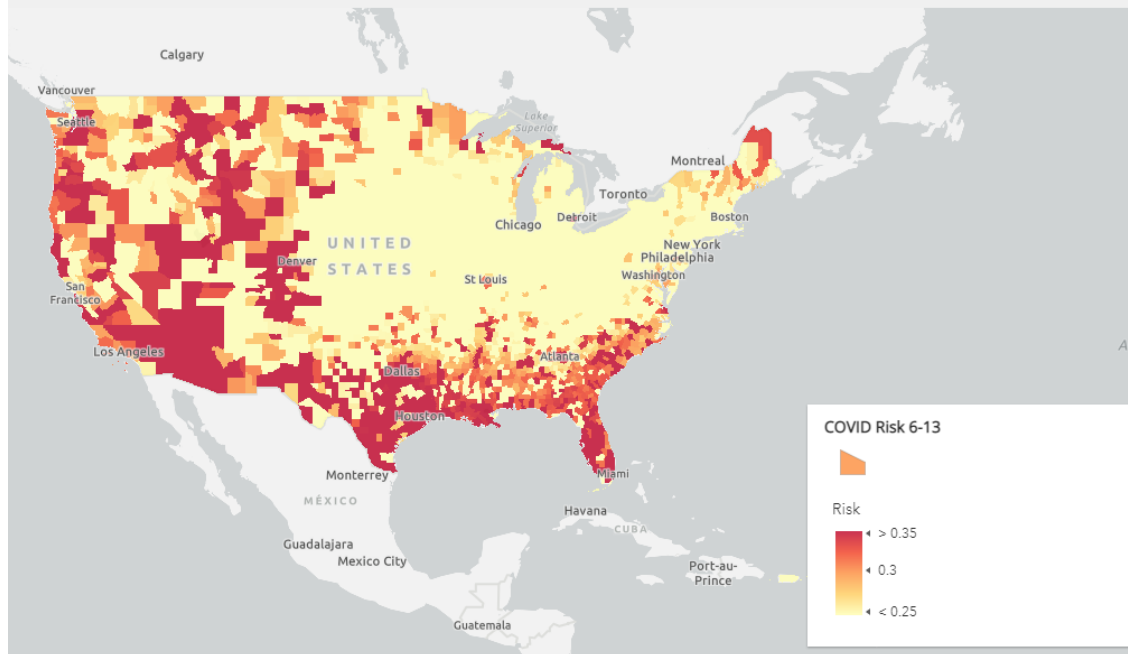


<https://covid-ufl.hub.arcgis.com/>

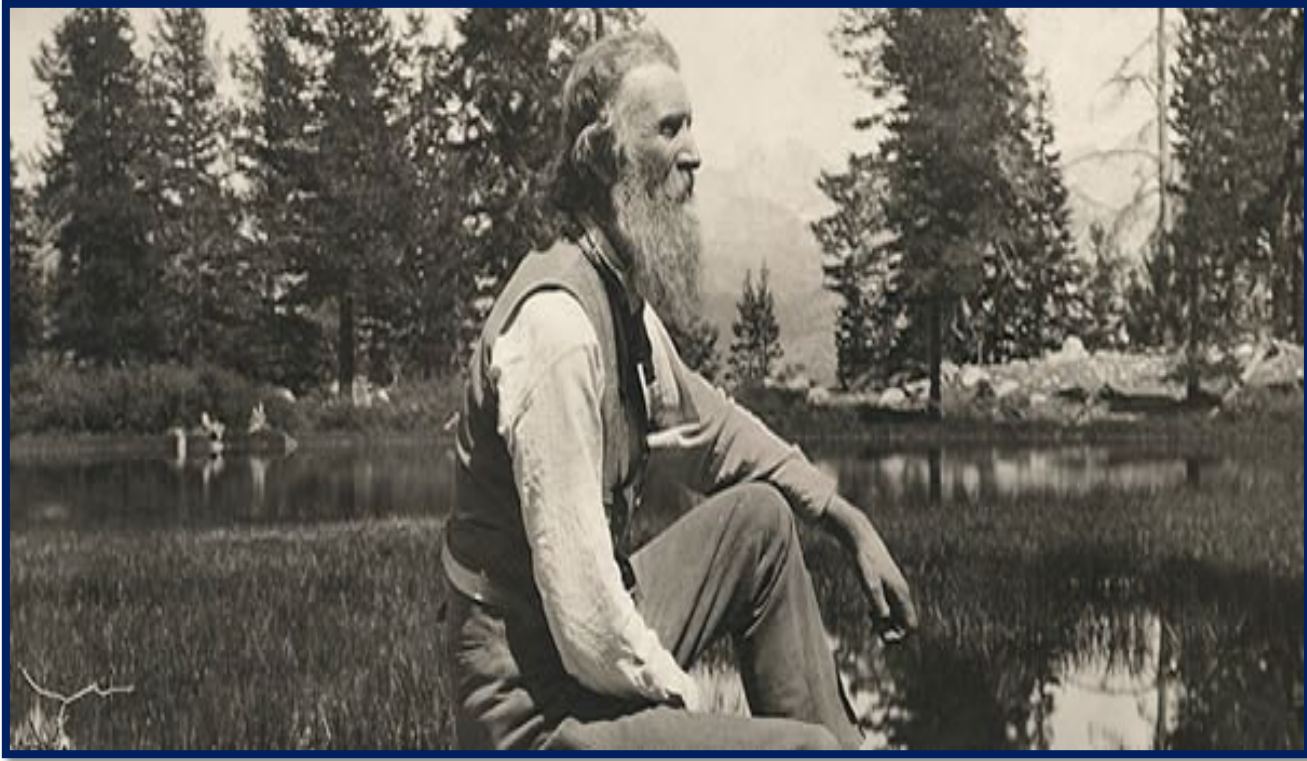
## COVID-19 Risk Map

Use the interactive map below to explore COVID risk for the United States

*Last Updated June 13, 2022*







**“When one tugs at a single thing in nature,  
he (and she) find it hitched to the rest of the  
universe.”**

**John Muir  
(1838-1914)**



# Collaborators and Colleagues

## ICDDR,B - Dhaka

- Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed
- Dr. Munir Alam
- A.K. Ashraful Aziz
- Dr. A.S.G. Faruque
- Dr. M. Imadatul Huq
- Dr. Sirajul M. Islam
- Huda Khan
- Rezaul Rahman
- Dr. M. A. Salam
- Mr. Sarker M. Nazmul Sohel
- Dr. Peter Kim Streatfield
- Dr. Carel van Mels
- Dr. Mohammad Yunus

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# A Lab of One's Own

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## One Woman's Personal Journey Through Sexism in Science

Former Director of the National Science Foundation

**RITA COLWELL, PhD**

and

SHARON BERTSCH McGRAYNE

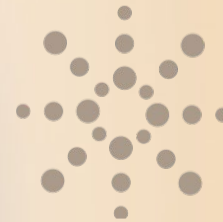






# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION





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