Wastewater based epidemiological study of the effect of summer 2020 on the spread of coronavirus infections in holiday destinations

**Background and project**
Restricting the movement of people has been one of the major non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) in the mitigation efforts of the COVID-19 pandemic. When on June 15th of 2020 the domestic travel restrictions were lifted in Sweden, many popular summer holiday destinations feared an increase in the rates of infection. This project will explore to what extent this fear became true using wastewater samples collected from Kalmar, Orust and Torkeklov over the summer and early autumn of 2020 to assess the population level infection rates.

This project is a collaboration between the local wastewater treatment plants and authorities and the SARS-CoV-2 in WWTP research project of the Department of Ecology and Genetics/Limnology of Uppsala University financed by SciLifeLab’s and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation’s National COVID-19 research program.

**Your role in the project**
The extent of your role in the project depends on your chosen engagement level. Within a research training, you will learn and participate in the processing of wastewater samples including virus concentration, RNA extraction, qPCR as well as the analyses of the generated data. If you decide to write a master thesis from the project, you will receive more responsibilities and be also involved in the evaluation of the results in the light of local infection records and mobility data. The work will be conducted at the department of Ecology and Genetics/Limnology at EBC under the supervision of Anna Székely and Nahla Mohamed, and Neus Latorre Margalef from Linnaeus University.

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