



Guidelines for Interpretation

Below detection limit (BDL): the detection limit is about 5.45-5.75 log (virus RNA/day/person), so values below this are not reported as a value, but as ‘below detection limit’. This does not necessarily mean there is no SARS-CoV-2 signal, but that it could be so low we cannot detect it reliably.

Low: Values up to 6.25 log(virus RNA/day/person) are considered “low”. This means there are active COVID-19 infections, but the number is low.

Moderate: Values between 6.25 and 7.25 log(virus RNA/day/person) are considered “moderate”. This means that there are significant active COVID-19 infections present at a level that would warrant the use of preventative measures to curb its spread.

Strong: Values between 7.25 and 8.25 log(virus RNA/day/person) are considered “strong”. This means that there are a large number of active COVID-19 infections present in the community. Values above 7.75 log(virus RNA/day/person) are typically seen during significant outbreaks that may induce stress on public health and hospital resources. Additional preventative measures are worth considering.

Very Strong: Values between 8.25 and 9.25 log(virus RNA/day/person) are considered “very strong”. This means that COVID-19 outbreak is severe. Extended periods in this range have previously been linked with increased hospitalizations and fatalities. Implementing additional preventative measures would be highly encouraged.

For more testing results, see the OSU COVID-19 Wastewater-based Surveillance Team link. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonsSARS-CoV-2WastewaterMonitoring/WastewaterDashboard>