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Coronaviruses and Water under the One Health Perspective

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Coronaviruses are non-cellular organisms infecting animal cells in order to reproduce. In the first 20 years of 21 century, three major epidemics have occurred, the current one being the most severe. The ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, commonly known as COVID-19, results from a virus not previously identified in humans. The presence of SARS-CoV-2 in water and wastewater is possible, but we are far from understanding the role of the environment (including the aquatic) in the virus ecology and survival strategies. Additionally, the detection of the virus in sewage, apart from being an input route for new genetic material to environmental microbes, could be used as an early alert tool for further outbreaks. Therefore, under an integrated One Health approach, potential water-based non-traditional routes of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus should be considered. Combating COVID-19 without clean water is an additional burden for the daily life of 40% of the population of the planet. Therefore, the development of immediate strategies for drinking water, washing facilities, and sewage disposal for the future is a must, and this opportunity should not be wasted.



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