



FACT SHEET

Waste Water Sterilization



**Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000**

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What is it:

A system that sterilizes laboratory waste water at Fort Detrick.

What is the background:

Fort Detrick has multiple layers of sterilization and protection of laboratory waste water from the installation to ensure the safety of the community.

Fort Detrick hosts specialized laboratories that are designed to maximize the protection of scientists while investigating treatments for illness. These labs are designed with redundant systems to ensure uninterrupted power, engineered controls including negative airflow, and sterilized waste streams that prevent exposure to employees and the community.

At the end of an experiment, waste water is treated by more than one process prior to leaving the laboratories.

These treatments include steam and chemical treatments that sterilize the water prior to leaving any containment areas resulting in clean waste water.

After being treated and sterilized prior to leaving a lab, Fort Detrick uses the Laboratory Sewer System (LSS) to transport this sterilized waste water to a Steam Sterilization Plant for a final thermal sterilization prior to release to a sanitary sewer.

The LSS is a sewer system that safely transports waste water for a final treatment prior to entering the sanitary sewer for traditional, municipal waste water treatment.

Why is it important to the Community:

Fort Detrick is rated in the top 1 percent in safety in the nation and has received a number of environmental and safety awards.

Multiple inspections, tests, and assessments validate that the LSS is safely transporting waste water and poses no public health risk exists. The LSS is scheduled for decommissioning at the completion of a new Steam Sterilization facility at Fort Detrick.

Fort Detrick follows and is inspected regularly by the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, OSHA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health to ensure maximum protection for Soldiers, Families, and Civilians within our community.

If the community or members of the media desire to seek information on Fort Detrick's activities, they are encouraged to visit <http://www.detrick.army.mil/responsible>, or contact the Garrison Public Affairs Office at (301) 619-2018.