

The City of Scranton takes innovative steps to curb the spread of COVID-19 in collaboration with Pennsylvania American Water and Bettermeant Health

Scranton, PA (October 19, 2020) - COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of life but resiliency and innovation continue to be the response by American communities. Scranton Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cognetti is leading the way for integrating innovative methods of testing and monitoring the public health to make Scranton safer. Mayor Cognetti said, "This year we have learned that every piece of data is critical to fighting COVID-19. The City of Scranton is excited to partner with Bettermeant Health and Pennsylvania American Water to try to identify virus outbreaks ahead of symptoms. Our community stands to benefit from this information as we head into cold weather months."

In order to keep the city safer and to make data-driven decisions, Scranton will be using a promising method of testing the wastewater in certain neighborhoods starting with populations that are more likely to be adversely affected by an outbreak. This partnership ties together utilities, scientists, policy makers, physicians, and the community to work together and respond with decisiveness and transparency. This project began in earnest after Bettermeant Health and the City of Scranton were connected by Nossaman, LLP Senior Policy Advisor Chris Carney, who saw the potential synergies and the unprecedented positive impact this could have on public health. Bettermeant Health is providing the service at no cost to the City at this time.

Dr. Rachna Saxena, an epidemiologist assisting the City of Scranton to navigate the public health crisis, commented, "The Bettermeant Health platform will be a valuable resource in the city's fight with COVID-19. With the wastewater PCR testing technology, it will identify outbreaks earlier, assist city administration and medical facilities to prepare and control spread in the community. The app will benefit city residents to find testing sites, check their test results, and alert them of possible exposures as well."

Starting with the collection and monitoring from a few sites to cover tens of thousands of residents where the team will use tested methods for collection and preparation of the sample. These are then tested and modeled with modern capabilities and the data is then provided to the Mayor's Office to help guide decisions on re-entry and to medical institutions for preparations in scheduling and necessary equipment. In some cases, the data can provide insight into the following 7-10 days and this advanced warning system can save thousands of lives in the community. This data is tracked and monitored on Bettermeant Health's secure software platform for real-time insights. The residents of Scranton will be provided with additional tools through Bettermeant Health to track the health of their community, seek testing, local information, and even telehealth capabilities from the safety of their homes.

This technique is so powerful as it can test people who are symptomatic and asymptomatic in order to allow for greater preparation. "Our team is incredibly excited to be in this partnership that shows great strides about what Americans can achieve through innovation, collaboration, and decisive action. Being able to make informed decisions is the first step towards recovery"

said Mr. Ahmed ‘Eddie’ Qureshi, Founder of Bettermeant Health. Bettermeant Health’s cloud-based healthcare marketplace focused primarily on military and government health is ramping up its capabilities for all Americans to meet the short and long term needs around the country.

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About Bettermeant Health

Bettermeant Health is a digital health accessibility marketplace that was founded on the belief that we need to make healthcare transparent and accessible. The company uses powerful personalization capabilities and deep area expertise to advance care in all aspects of healthcare. Despite being patient-centric the platform is strategically positioned to work with all stakeholders in the healthcare journey (patients, providers, and payers) and working at the intersection of private, public, and digital healthcare. Bettermeant Health is privately held in Berkeley, California. The company has received early recognition from the US Air Force and continues to expand its capabilities for veterans, Servicemembers, and all Americans. Follow Bettermeant Health on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). If you are interested in partnering with us please reach out at partner@bettermeanthealth.com