

### COVID Update

- Surveillance report shows statewide level of low community transmission
- Hospital is aware that admissions have significantly decreased, under 3% of hospital is occupied by COVID patients
- 7 deaths so far in the month of June, so that is certainly on par where we were in March and April. May was a little heavier than that
- Emphasis of press conference that we just had is to focus on what is termed recovery (more short-term impacts) and revitalization (how do we leave it in better shape than before the pandemic)
  - Some are workforce related, health care centric, opioid related, mental health, etc.
  - Going to start seeing in the next few weeks some dashboards and accountability being developed
- We are going to hear more about the vaccine about ages 0 to 5
  - Stephanie: AAPVT Chapter is looking at hosting forums to ask questions of their pediatric practitioners
- Thinking there may be a new surge during the fall/winter
- Senator Sanders is concerned regarding therapeutics (does the public know enough about them, do they know they can call someone and ask about therapeutics, a more nation-wide system where they can be an 800 call away?)
- At the health department, we are able to talk about PCBs in school systems. FDA Newly talking about PFOA and has abruptly come out and said health advisory levels haven't been set low enough. Telling the world that they are drinking water that could kill them some day without technology or resources to do much about it yet is dangerous. There are many states that don't know anything about their PFOAs across their state

### Monkeypox

- We have had 2 lab requests for monkeypox, and both were negative (2<sup>nd</sup> was sent for additional testing)
- Goal is to not allow this become endemic in the country
- If only 65 people have tested positive for it in the US, then we are probably not testing enough for a population of our size
- It is a low risk at this point in time
- MSM population has been most identified in addition as those that have traveled to infected areas, messaging will be going out
- VDH is doing monkeypox testing
- HAN Advisory: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HAN-Monkeypox-5-2022-FINAL.pdf>

### Mark Levine on VMS June Board Planning Retreat

I know your retreat is coming up and you talk about resolutions for the next year. I would invite you to think high, lofty - because we're trying to address high level issues in this whole recovery and revitalization. We know the pandemic has affected chronic illness, mental health, drug use severely. We don't want to see this go in the wrong way. One area carefully didn't mention is health care reform, because that fell behind during the pandemic.

### Questions and Answers

#### **What are you hearing about the supply of infant formula in VT? Abbot had to close down their plant again due to flooding**

**ML:** The international shipments that have come in, have been very helpful. WIC program and maternal child health program have a lot of eyes on the ground in their regions on where formula is and where there is a pinch point. Have an optimistic look on supplies

#### **Question on press conference, that vaccines may be required for school enrollment. Is there more about if this will be required in the fall?**

**ML:** Haven't gotten this question in a while. Now that the very youngest are able to get vaccinated that says a lot, but reality is, nationwide there is a less than optimal uptake. VT is still lacking about 40-45% in the 5 and up uptake of the vaccine. When the advisory panel in VT met before, it was more of an admin meeting and didn't accomplish much on this topic. There hasn't been a lot of pressure regarding this and have to say that if I can look at this without a medical hat on and as a political observer, a call for a mandated vaccine in general is being seen less now. Just see the whole field in general working against mandates in general.

#### **When will pediatrician offices be able to schedule and access under 5 vaccines?**

**WD:** Not entirely sure. Have been working with the immunization program for weeks, especially with early ordering opportunities. Last VCHIP call from June 8<sup>th</sup>, several practices had already figured out their framework for offering/clinic offerings.

**BB:** Have encouraged practices to communicate with their patients. Been doing media on this and have been saying that the CDC still needs to weigh in over the weekend on their clinical guideline recommendations. There are going to be 2 choices. Some practices may choose to go with one or the other and both, which is logistically tough. Been using social media information put together by the VDHL: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15yAuB2a2PclUbCLx-tSTaWmSPPqA88kR>

**ML:** All ties in with the delivery of the vaccine too. There are a lot of ifs. Messaging about 2 vaccines is going to be crazy, especially if people want to compare efficacy.