

COVID Update

- Went from low level of community transmission to medium, not because of the number of cases in the community, but the increase new hospital admissions
- Percent of people in hospital of people in hospital with COVID is low
- Hospital Directors are stressed because hospitals are incredibly busy due to respiratory viruses, not just COVID
- Lead the nation in under 5 vaccination (25% range for us), we're making progress there
- 15% range of uptake for bivalent vaccine last week (this is good)
- Looking at COVID in a steady state right now (even though we moved from low to medium) because it is not doing anything remarkable
- Deaths have remained small for the last 2 months
- Lead the nation in using Paxlovid
- Had a recent burst of using Evusheld (preventative monoclonal)
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hMPXV

- HOC has been demobilized
- 3 cases
- 800 doses of vaccine administered
- Nation has had a drop in the number of new cases

Opioid Overdose Report

- Will show that the month of July was an especially high month: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP-MonthlyOpioidRelatedFatalOverdoses.pdf>
- Partial explanation is that 44% have succumbed to an unintentional overdose had xylazine in toxicology reports
 - Not authorized for human use
 - When mixed with fentanyl it extends the euphoric effects
 - Narcan will only reduce the fentanyl effects and not the xylazine effects

Legionella

- Haven't had a new case since the end of August
- Found a cluster in the St. Alban's area
- Encouraging the practitioner community to obtain a urine and sputum sample to see if they have Legionella

Questions and Answers

How is the roll out of bivalent booster doses going in the 5-11 year old age group? Have vaccine doses yet been delivered to pediatricians and other practices?

At the beginning of this week is when things started to roll in, but it has been going at a slow pace. Going to be a little bit of a lag time and are asking practices to be patient while doses get delivered.

Unrelated to COVID-19: we have heard from a member focused on addiction treatment that an increased number of overdoses and overdose deaths are linked to Xylazine (<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/xylazine>). Is VDH working to get the word out about this to clinicians and how can we help? Would VDH consider a HAN on this topic?

Actually, have a report on their website a year ago that you can view here: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgicfindmkaj/https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP-XylazineBrief.pdf>

Anticipate that the media is waiting for this monthly report and when they see it, they will interact with their division on how to get the word out on the public and clinical community. Data is a little old because it is July data (takes awhile to get toxicology reports). Not necessarily true that the products on the market today will be the same as July. Don't think they'll be putting out a HAN at this point in time.