

COVID

- Surveillance report (that was published yesterday) we upgraded to low to medium level to transmission for the first time in a while. This is based off hospital data; some admitted for other reasons and have COVID, some because of COVID
- Level of syndromic surveillance, is stable at 2.5%
 - Higher than it was a month ago
- Total of 15 deaths for the month of September from COVID
 - Prior to that, it was around 11 a month
- Vaccines: The federal government isn't the prime distributor, VT has gotten a total of around 15,000 doses to distribute to the clinical community
 - 15,000 doesn't allow for wide distribution
 - 40% for pediatrics
 - 60% for adults
- We don't have any way of knowing how many doses are going directly to pharmacies

RSV and Flu

- There is a vaccine for the adults, but have been cautious about how we have been counseling people about it
 - Recommended for anyone 60+ years of age
- MMWR confirms that RSV causes serious illness in older adults

EEE

- No other animal has died, and no humans
 - Haven't seen it in any other pools across the state

Sexually- Transmitted Illnesses

- Doxycycline is the standard of care today for post exposure prophylaxis, but still waiting for the CDC to give a firm recommendation after public comment
- Biggest concern is gonorrhea evolving more antimicrobial breeding patterns

Opioids

- Read [Social Autopsy](#) about those that passed away from opioids and what the contributing factors were
- [Data Brief](#) document regards suicide in a similar fashion as the *Social Autopsy*
- The public is looking for quick fixes but some of the programs being funded by the opioid settlement dollars require RFPs and establishing new programs – it will take some time

Questions and Answers

DVHA now covering additional medications as preferred agents for those struggling with opioids with an increased dosage.

ML: This is a big safety step. Thank you for sharing.

Has a friend that is positive for COVID and is asking about taking Paxlovid. What are the side effects of Paxlovid?

ML: Needs to make sure it doesn't interact with other medications. The taste of it is the biggest side effects. And the other side effect is gastrointestinal issues. Still recommended for many. Rebound can also happen in those who have not taken paxlovid.

Any word that the Department of Health will help cover the cost of vaccinating health employees from COVID? Individual employees' insurance would get billed, but we're not necessarily their provider.

Information will be posted here: <https://vtmd.org/thursday-public-health-updates>

ML: The main thing we are talking about is the bridge access program to get the uninsured vaccinated. We haven't gotten into the realm of health employers and health care workers. (VMS staff suggests considering the American Academy of Pediatrics VT Chapter \$5000 flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic grants – more information will be coming soon from AAP and VT Immunization Program)

Our next call will be November 2, 2023

Zoom Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJ2ZG4yQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Passcode: 540684

One tap mobile

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