

### Measles

- There is an outbreak in the United States – 41 cases in 16 states
- Vaccination data for the U.S. could be better
- VT put out their own release recommending what people should adhere to
- Information for providers from VDH: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/measles/measles-information-providers>

### Respiratory Viruses

- **RSV**
  - Still active but a downswing in detections
- **Flu**
  - VT continues to stand out with minimum activity, even though New England has more activity
  - 37% of population is vaccinated
- **COVID**
  - Low surveillance level in VT
  - Syndromic surveillance low
  - Mainly seeing 2 variants - JN.1 and BA.2.86
  - 15 deaths in Vermont
  - Two new recent changes in guidance:
    - **If you're over 65, the CDC is now recommending a booster of the current vaccine**
      - 95% of those that have been hospitalized nationwide have not received any updated vaccine
    - **Change in ending isolation: No more 5 day isolation period** - If you have no fever, are free of symptoms, people can go out and re-join society – there is no firm advice, but just encourage people to take precautions (cleaner air, proper respiratory hygiene, wearing a mask, physical distancing, opening windows, testing is an option but not a requirement - This if for the general community of people, not the medical community
    - Link to Guidance for the General Public: <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html>
    - CDC Core Infection and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in all Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html>
    - Inter Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic. The recommendations in this guidance continue to apply after the expiration of the federal COVID 19 PHE. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

### PCB Testing in Schools

- 75 schools had no problem, 39 were above the school action level meaning they had some elevation
  - 16 of those 39 schools had an immediate action threshold met
- There will need to be future work done by the legislature – perhaps slowing testing – do not support ending altogether

### Syphilis

- Vermont remains the lowest in the nation for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis

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

- The nation is seeing high spikes

#### Opioids

- Have been providing a balanced approach to creating overdose prevention centers
  - VMS position: *Knowing that the issue will be coming to the legislature and after extensive discussion, the Vermont Medical Society Board took a position in Spring 2023 in favor of supporting overdose prevention sites as part of a comprehensive harm reduction strategy and supported further exploration of the feasibility of establishing sites in Vermont. However, given limited funding and staffing resources, the Board also believes that there are other harm reduction strategies, such as increasing access to take home methadone doses, increasing transportation to hubs and mobile methadone units, improved transitions of care after incarceration, and reducing regulatory requirements on community MOUD prescribers, that should be a more immediate priority.*

#### Questions and Answers

**Will VT be adopting the new guidance from the CDC for COVID isolation?**

**ML:** Yes, Vermont will adopt the new guidance.

**Our next call will be April 4, 2024**

#### Zoom Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdjJ2ZG4yQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Passcode: 540684

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