

COVID

- Long standing trend of low levels of COVID in the community
- Hospitalizations are low
- Syndromic surveillance is below 2%, very low
- XBB variant is what we're seeing and haven't seen a new variant
- Wastewater surveillance shows no major changes
- Haven't recorded any outbreaks
- For the month of May there have been 9 deaths

Infectious Diseases

- There is an escalation of syphilis cases in the US
 - Lack of antibiotic supply
- Prophylactic Treatment for Doxycycline for STIs
 - There is going to be an MMWR in about a month that will go into greater detail

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

- Harder to directly compare to previous years due to pandemic
- Data shows that people's mental health was not good during the pandemic and milestones were missed
- 235-page document with a lot of youth behavior information in it

Legislative Session

- Will start again in 3 weeks
- H.222
 - Drug testing equipment was added
 - More opportunities for Narcan distribution across the state
 - Facilitating access to buprenorphine
 - Sunsetting of criminalization of buprenorphine
- Suicide Prevention Bill decision will occur soon
 - Safe storage of firearms
 - 72 hour waiting period
 - Further risk protection strategies

Debt Ceiling

- Implications for public health include a "claw back" of \$30 billion dollars
 - Could mean losses of not being able to replace public health workforce or increase it
 - Could reduce global monitoring experts
 - Could have impact on data monitoring/sharing

EPA

- Closed public commenting period on PFAs

Homeless Program

- the hotel/motel dwellers will have to find alternative housing as the hotel/motel program closes

Questions and Answers

Blood Product. Ongoing shortage of blood products (especially O-) that is impacting clinical care regionally. Any thoughts?

ML: I'm not aware of it acutely, but it is disturbing to hear. I will look into that and get more insight.

Can you comment on the RSV vaccine? And the new reports on possible pre-term births?

ML: We're talking about 2 ends of the life spectrum (those over 65+ that succumb to RSV and then the early age range/pregnancy). We know state officials are going to get some time with the CDC to gain a sense of where public health nationally is going on this. Too premature to say anything about the findings at this point in time.

We've had a couple of recent exposures to rabies in my neighborhood in the New North End of Burlington. In trying to garner assistance, we had some shuffling to different agencies who ultimately gave differing (or no advice). Wondering if you know if there is a uniform protocol across the various agencies that deal with this issue?

ML: You probably saw in the news that they did a bait drop by plane and by hand. There has been an increase in the number of rabid animals found. Hoping the hand bait drop will assist. We would hope that someone that gets exposed to a rapid animal would call the health department because that is where we have a uniformed response.

Will there be more educational campaigns to the public and physicians about ticks and their bites?

ML: We've had a lot of education going on, but it's all old news that we do keep re-sharing.

Our next call will be July 6th, 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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