

Flood

- Certain parts of our state and certain parts of the population have been affected more
 - lower income housing has been particularly affected
- 2 deaths documented that were related to drowning, minimal injuries
- Heavy messaging from environmental health team– drinking water safety, wells, dealing with mold, how to return home safely
- People cleaning out flooded areas should wear PPE
- Passed out 1,000 test kits to people that use wells or springs
 - Not many have been returned, but are helping people interpret the results

Climate Change

- Original cause of the flooding
- Need to be preparing for these to occur more frequently

COVID

- CDC has been saying there has been a slight increase in cases
- 12% increase in hospitalizations nation wide
- 7% hospitalization rate last week to 12% increase this week in Vermont – however within the range of variability we have been seeing so can't say there is a trend yet
- Still have to message that COVID can still affect your daily life and others lives but we are also in a very different place with immunity
- There will be a vaccine coming in the fall for the XBB.1.5 variant – have to wait to see what recommendations are for target population/age

RSV and Flu and MPox

- RSV peaked in early fall last year
 - Will not co-vaccinate
 - Recommended for people over 60 years of age and people with heart/lung disease
- Flu peaked in early winter last year
 - Similar guidance as last year including co vaccination with flu and covid
- A lot of clusters around the nation for MPox, but good data for vaccine efficacy shows that people have been getting vaccinated; have not been seeing activity in VT

Opioids

- Biggest concern is the toxicity of drug supply and impact on new drug users
- Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee continues to meet and is discussing overdose prevention centers

Questions and Answers

RSV Vaccines for pregnant women?

ML: Not much to say about this just yet, but very optimistic about research.

How do you feel that the public health workforce is doing?

ML: We have an incredibly resilient workforce. CDC grants have allowed us to hire more, but unfortunately those are time limited and will expire in 2024. Coming up with a plan for those added positions once funding ends.

Have you heard anything about Jamestown Canyon virus? I know that they have detected it in New Hampshire.

ML: Haven't been testing for it in Vermont, but it has been many years since a case of that happened in Vermont. Public health messaging is still about mosquito bite prevention.

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

What is the problem you're concerned about regarding the nation using one COVID vaccine?

ML: There is not a huge concern about just having the univalent vaccine for the XBB.1.5. People will just boost their immunity to that variant.

Our next call will be September 7th, 2023

Zoom Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJlZG4yQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Passcode: 540684

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86726253105#,,,,*540684# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,86726253105#,,,,*540684# US (New York)