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](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=VkVuNTJ1ZFQ2R3dlS3dqL2t2Q1lGQT09

Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Passcode: 540684

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,86726253105#,,,,*540684# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,86726253105#,,,,*540684# US (New York)

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