Gov Scott

White House Update
- UK: rise in cases does not mean rise in death rate – being driving by younger cases who are less vaccinated
- Ready to roll out with 5-11 year olds

Vaccines
- Kids: VT ready for 5-11; adding in same roll out as adult vaccines plus pediatricians
- Moderna and J&J boosters now available

Up to all of us to keep the most vulnerable safe, wear masks in indoor crowded places, get tested before and after gatherings & events, get vaccinated

Pieciak
- US sees improvement in cases, hospitalizations and deaths – happening across all regions
- New England – slow, incremental improvement
- VT down 15% over 7 days; 7% over 14 days – this is a good sign but we have seen cases go back up in the past before
- VT seeing testing steady or even increasing so getting an accurate picture
- 3.8x greater cases in unvaccinated cases and hospitalizations
- Some slight improvement in NE Kingdom but they still remain much higher than other regions, and seeing much higher cases in the unvaccinated
- Higher education: 42% fewer cases than last year – due to high vaccination rates
- Hospitalization has been going up over 7 days – 73% unvaccinated
- ICU number improving over last few days – 76% unvaccinated
- Modeling indicating some likelihood deaths will be decreasing – but still a lot of uncertainty
- Continue to have good clip of people initiating vaccination – over 2200 per week – at 89.6% starting
- % of fully vaccinated over 65 who has gotten a booster is 27% – VT is ranking 2nd in nation – but still a lot we can do to encourage boosters

Sec French
- Last Thursday released new contact tracing guidelines
- New date: Jan 18th for universal masking
  o Expect kids 5-11 to be able to be vaccinated by that point
  o Want to get through the holidays with current mitigation measures
- 19 SVUs getting antigen testing to implement test to stay – now getting test kits out
- Plus implementing response testing to help with outbreaks – examples of sending EMS to help with testing
- Designing specific solutions to help each school respond – thanks DOE staff for supporting all of this work
Moore – Winter Sports
- Guidance will be released later today
- Vaccination (?) – audio garbled
- Will require masking regardless of vaccination status except during running or “inversion” like wrestling and gymnastics
- Unvaccinated student athletes who are participating in sports that allow not wearing masks will participate in weekly testing
- Same mitigation measures are being shared with volunteer sports leagues (unclear if will be required)

Smith
- Boosters and mix & match
- Sign up for mix & match starting Nov 1 through state site
- 52,000 VTers have gotten a booster or “additional dose”
- 3,110 signed up for booster through state sites
- Strongly encourage anyone 65+ to get a booster
- Working with VA hospital, Retreat to see if they can increase MH beds to relieve some of the stress state is facing

Mark Levine
- What we all need to do right now heading into the holidays is simple
- Get vaccinated, including kids and if you need your booster
- Get tested if sick
- Wear a mask indoors
- Ask about monoclonal antibodies
- Getting ready for kid vaccines – ask your pediatrician if you have questions
- Hearing push back about quarantining during contact tracing – this is concerning – it is still a successful strategy
- Halloween guidance – wear masks

Q&A – COVID-related

What about people saying you need to do more – press conference yesterday? Mask mandate – state of emergency
Scott: feeling more hopeful than he has been – starting to see cases come down, kids vaccines on the way – this is not the time or place for a state of emergency, we will get through this, doesn’t think a SOE will make a difference in our number, or else would do it

Are they looking at different data than you are?
We have been transparent with the data, this is a question you should direct to them

Discussion about how to increase vaccination rate in Orleans county
will be doing more barnstorming events; further means of access – ML – I am 100% convinced they are not opposed to vaccination and more outreach, information will help
Pneumonia from COVID
how is that driving hospitalizations and death – ML – natural history of COVID involves mostly upper respiratory, can evolve in to damage to other organs – lungs which develop pneumonia. If vaccinated more generally protected from transition from upper respiratory to more severe disease. So pneumonia does drive hospitalization.

Why should we care if kids get COVID at all
cases and symptoms low yet lots of extraneous destruction (workforce, etc.) – Gov. cases spread the disease to those that are more vulnerable that is the main reason. ML – if there is a case count on a given day of 100 - 15-20 of them under 12 y.o. so need to keep that low number in mind. Possibilities for kids to have severe outcomes and Long COVID. Potential impact to themselves or more vulnerable

How many cases of VT having full blown COVID really sick recovering and then getting reinfecte
ML don’t have precise number today, but last time was under 30 cases out of 35000 total COVID cases. Difficult to get exact numbers. It can happen, but doesn’t appear to be that common.

Fatalities for October? Breakdown of vaccinated
don’t have current numbers in front of me, not sig. different than last time reported. (guy page question)

VA beds opening up
Smith - VA has 12 beds and the agreement is whatever is available at that time – general population VT for very limited amount of time (within 30 days)

Aside from unvaccinated
any other commonalities in orleans cases – 1 recent outbreak that accounted for 40 cases – don’t know about age banding – but know that some of these counties are our older citizens.