

## COVID

- Continues to be low community levels – would not be surprised if rises to medium
- Hospitalization continues to be a bit chaotic – high earlier this week now lower
- Vaccination approaches 30% having received a booster
- Under 5 can now get a booster – it's been ordered has started to come in – will be ready to deliver to those who request next week
  - o Only 17% having received monovalent so audience for this will not be large (national rate is under 5%)
- Therapeutics – not a lot of new news – Paxlovid is first line or remdesivir for those who can manage the infusion – or molnupiravir (but not that effective)
- Repeating public messaging that now is the time to get COVID/flu vaccines before holiday gatherings, that sites have extended hours, beginning in January they will be reducing hours: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/media/newsroom/Take-advantage-of-expanded-hours-at-walk-in-vaccination-clinics-in-December-December-15-2022>
- Some schools requiring a doctor's note to say kids were sick to have an excused absence – hoping this is not a widespread policy – let VDH know if this is a problem in your area

## Flu

- 1 of only 5 states not in high status but surrounded by a sea of “red” (high transmission) so it is here and likely to go up to high transmission in vt
- Tamiflu shortage is real but select – can still find if call around but not a guarantee
- Over the counter analgesics shortage for kids – AAP messaging about how useful it may actually be for most respiratory illnesses – not to panic: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/12/03/1140185521/children-fever-medicine-tylenol-motrin-hard-to-find>
- Will be putting out a HAN next week about influenza testing and treatment, especially if Tamiflu becomes harder to find and what other treatments are – will base on CDC HAN but with more information
- Don't bring your kid to ED/urgent care just to test to see what you/your kid has

## RSV

- All regions starting a downslope, including in VT
- Hospitals busy but not as stressed
- State continuing to provide support for EMS transport
- Have pool of 4 nurses and respiratory therapists available for critical access hospitals
- Request for nurse volunteers was successful (over 100 responses)

## Mpox

- Not a lot of demand for vaccine
- Dramatic fall off nationwide in cases