

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 18, 2022

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Acres, Mark Deavers, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Dr. Kathleen Terrence

OTHERS PRESENT: Carly Zimmermann, Deputy Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Renae Johnson, SCHN

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by N. Potter, and seconded by K. Acres, the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting were approved.

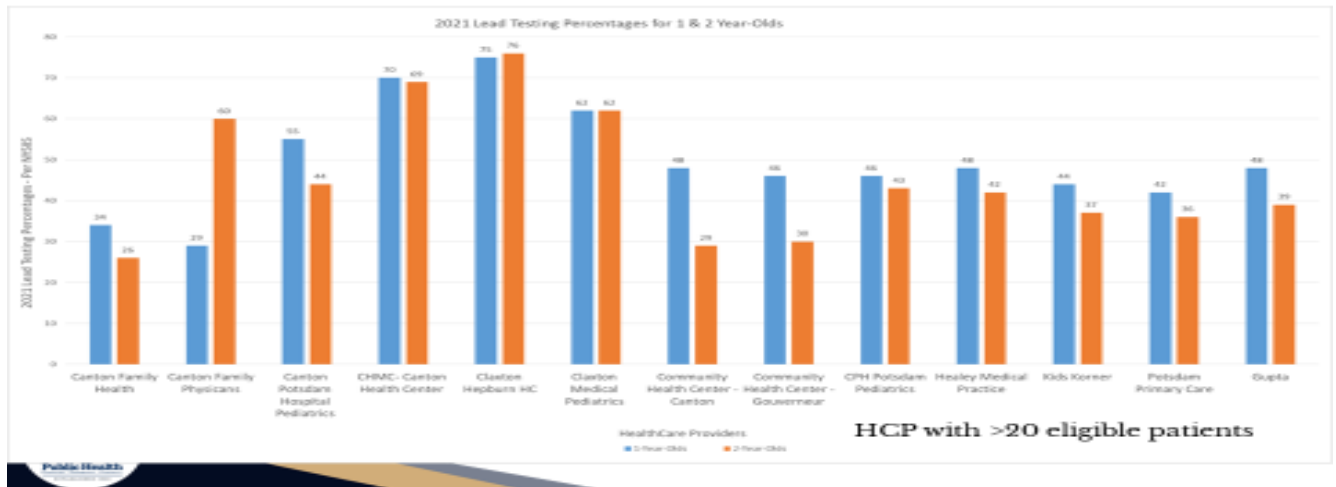
PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lead Update – Monthly Lead Testing Percentages: Carly Zimmermann
Follow up to action item from September meeting.

- Calculating the total number of children eligible for lead test at 1 and 2 years of age
 - Challenges:
 - Census Data, 2021 American Community Survey **Under 3 years 3,230**
 - 2021 NYSIIS data indicates there are **5,235 1 year olds** and **3,598 2 year olds**
 - LeadWeb data is stratified by months not year (<9 months, 9-18 months, 18-36 months, 36-<48, 48-<60, 60-<72, 72+)
- Calculating the total number of children who had a lead test conducted
 - Challenges:
 - There is a discrepancy between 2021 **LeadWeb Total** tests reported (**1,440**) and the total number of tests reported out of **NYSIIS (2,336)**

LeadWeb is used as the state guidance for our grant. In a discussion regarding total number of children eligible for testing it was suggested to reach out to BOCES for the number of children in PreK.



Lead Provider Report Cards

2021 Blood Lead Testing Rates
% of 1-Year-Olds Tested: 71%
% of 2-Year-Olds Tested: 76%

When to Test for Lead:

- All 1-year-olds
- All 2-year-olds
- All children ages 6 months - 6 years at risk for lead poisoning based on Risk Assessment Questionnaire

There is no safe level of lead exposure. Adherence to the NYS blood lead testing guidelines is essential to help prevent the negative and lasting effects of lead exposure.

BLL $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

5 - < 15
 15 - < 25
 25 +

When to Re-Test

Every 1-3 months
 Every month
 Consult with Regional Lead Resource Center



Please Note: Lead tests for patients will be included in your results until the child reaches the age of 6. This means children who were not tested at one and two years of age will continue to be counted as "Criteria Not Met". Therefore, we recommend reviewing your patients in NYSIS to be sure children have the proper "Status". Patients you no longer see should be marked as "Inactive".

Data is reported from the labs and providers are responsibility to be sure results are reported. These report cards have been sent to providers and Miranda does provide presentations as well. It was suggested instead of addressing and sending to the provider office that they be addressed to a specific provider and the practice manager and/or obtain emails for these individuals. Dr. Williams noted he would get our email "white listed." Also suggested arranging for Miranda to present practice report cards to SLH pediatricians as a direct means of communication. Some discrepancies in reporting could be due to underreporting from locations with point of care testing.

Lead Update September 2022



135 lead tests were conducted during the month of August – of those 6 were considered elevated

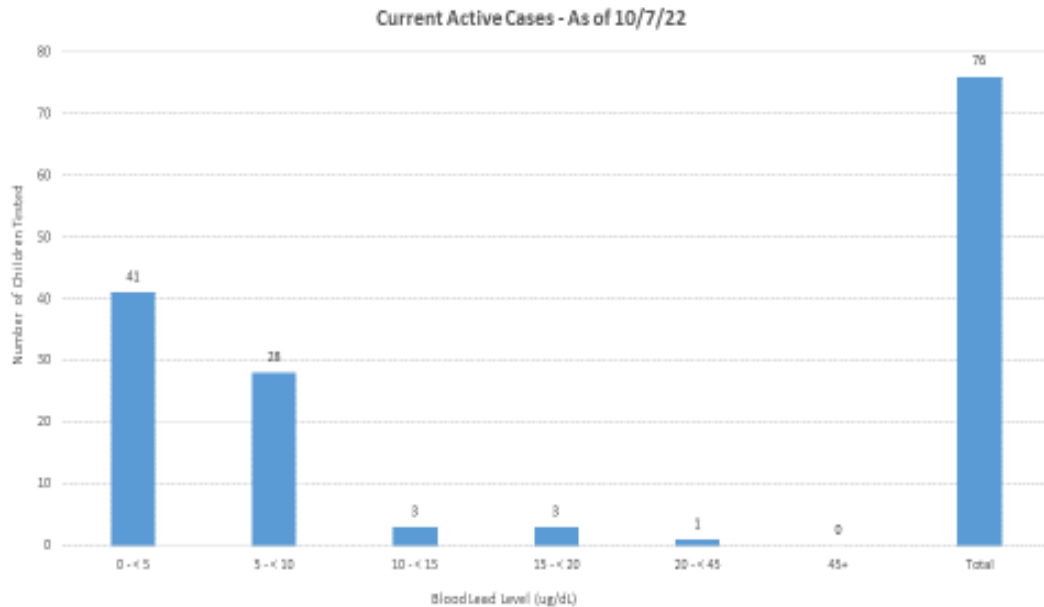
1 Discharge

2 New Cases

76 Active cases as of 10/7/22

Percent Elevated		
2022		
Current	$\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	4.40%
Future	$\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	8.15%

Active Caseload



- (1) discharges – (2) new case
- (76) on caseload as of October 7, 2022.
- 20 ug/dL – 45 ug/dL (1)
 - 8.5 year old. Last test August, 2022.
 - A joint home inspection with NYSDOH was conducted on September 6, 2022.
 - Cleaning supplies were provided to assist with wet cleaning: Swiffer Wet jet, spray bottle, wet wipes, along with literature.
 - Lab results showed all rooms were over the hazard limit.
 - As a result, NYSDOH contacted the family and strongly encouraged they hire a cleaner. NYSDOH will follow up and keep us informed.
- 15 ug/dL – 20 ug/dL (3)
 - Child on caseload since 2018 (began at 68 ug/dL – steadily declining)
 - Child’s highest BLL was 26 ug/dL - now holding at 16 ug/dL for (2) consecutive tests
 - New case. We have begun outreach and are organizing joint inspections to both parent’s homes with NYSDOH.

The longer it takes for numbers to go down the more long term harm it causes for the child.

The HUD Grant: Carly Zimmermann

- The HUD Grant was extended for an additional (12) months (October, 2023).
- We recently mailed all Health Care Providers (HCP's) letters informing them and requesting that they post the new advertisement in their waiting areas for the public to see.

Free Home Renovations



Your home may be eligible for free renovations to reduce lead-based paint hazards if:

- Your home or rental is in St. Lawrence County**
- Your home or rental was built before 1978**
- A child under 6 or a pregnant individual lives or visits the home often**
- Income guidelines are met**

**Call the North Country Housing Council to discuss your eligibility and to fill out an application today.
315-386-8576**

Sanitarian Update: Carly Zimmermann

Calls for September: (26) total calls

Dead Animal: (1)	Rats: (1)
Bedbugs: (3)	Mold: (6)
Water Quality: (7)	Housing: (4)
Heat: (3)	Septic: (1)

We continue to interview for the Sanitarian position.

COVID-19: Carly Zimmermann – slide presentation

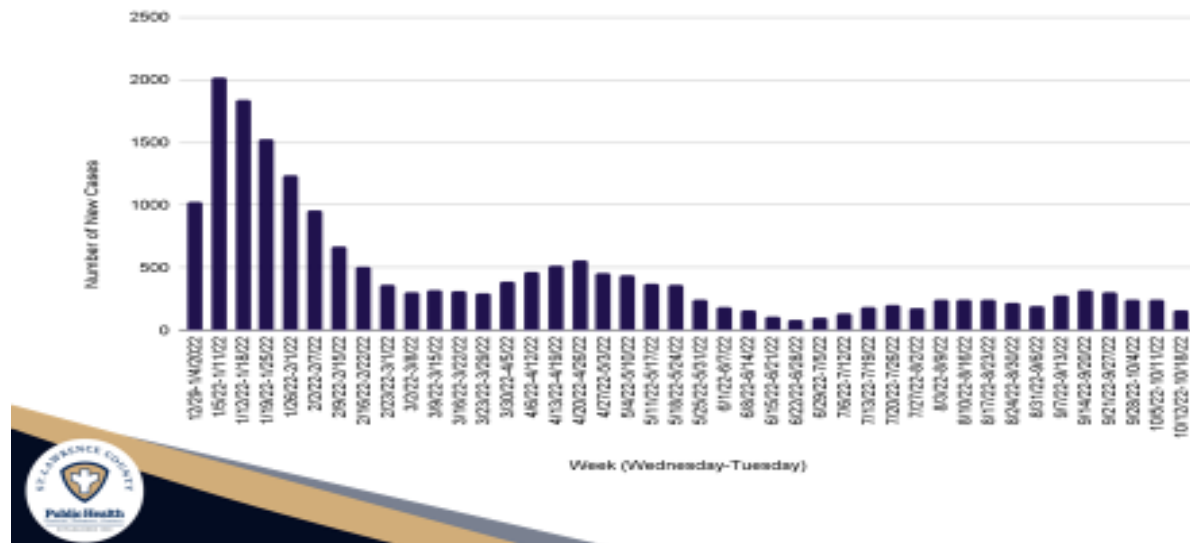
The NYS of Emergency for COVID-19 ended on September 12, 2022. Beginning October 20, 2022, the CDC will report and publish aggregate case and death data, and line level data where applicable, from jurisdictional and state partners on a weekly basis rather than daily.

It was noted (4) out of (6) patients in the ICU have COVID-19 complications.

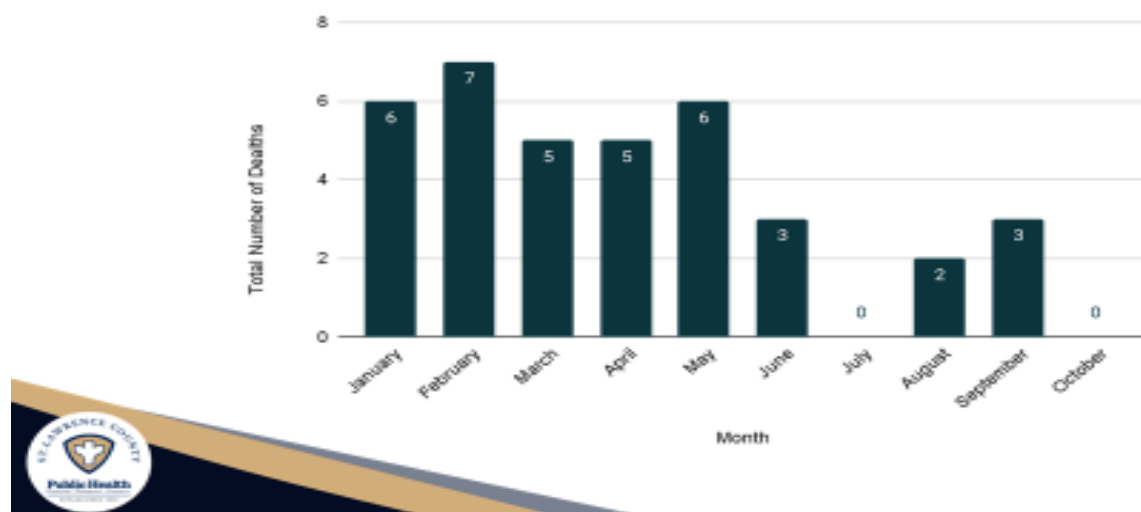
Case Update: As of September 30, 2022

This data is from PCR tests performed and self-reported home tests. Of last week’s total tests reported (246), there were (50) home tests.

Weekly New COVID-19 Cases



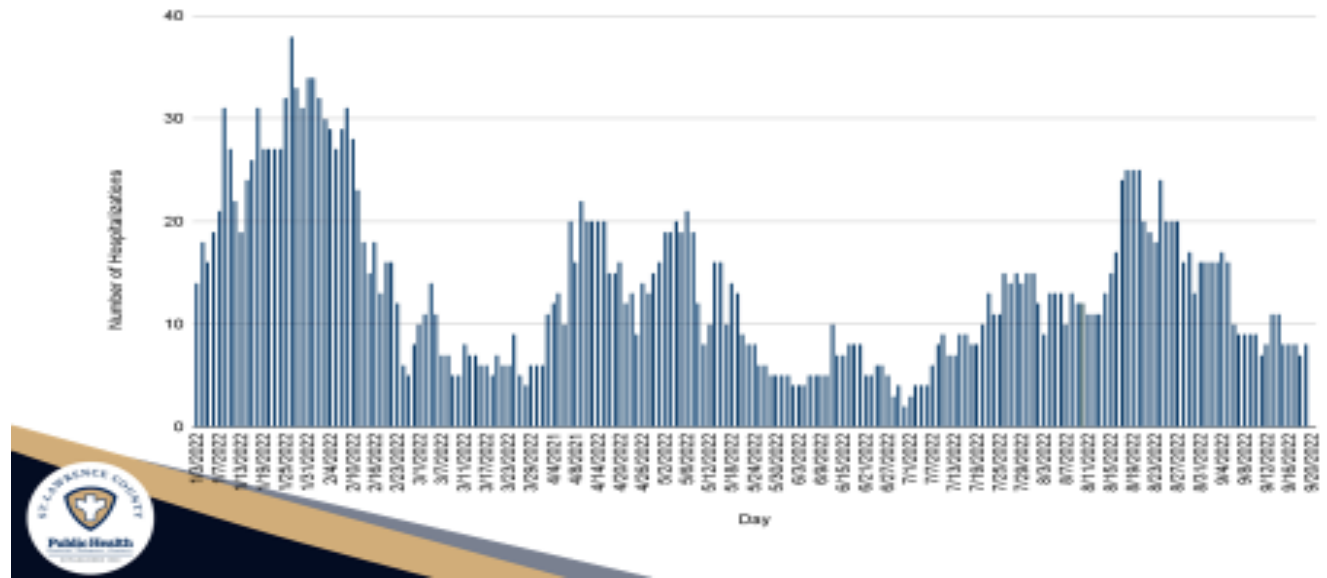
Total Monthly Deaths



2022 Daily Hospitalizations:

We have seen an increase in hospitalizations. These numbers are for any patient hospitalized that tested positive for COVID-19 (symptomatic or incidental).

2022 Daily Hospitalizations



COVID-19 Update

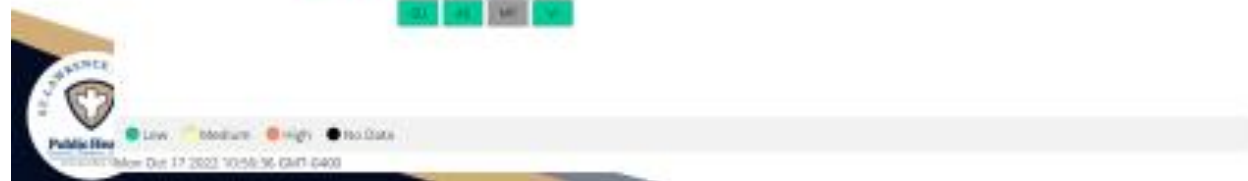
COVID-19 Community Levels of All Counties in US



COVID-19 Community Levels in US by County

	Total	Percent	% Change
High	67	2.08%	- 0.37%
Medium	585	18.17%	- 2.24%
Low	2568	79.75%	0.0%

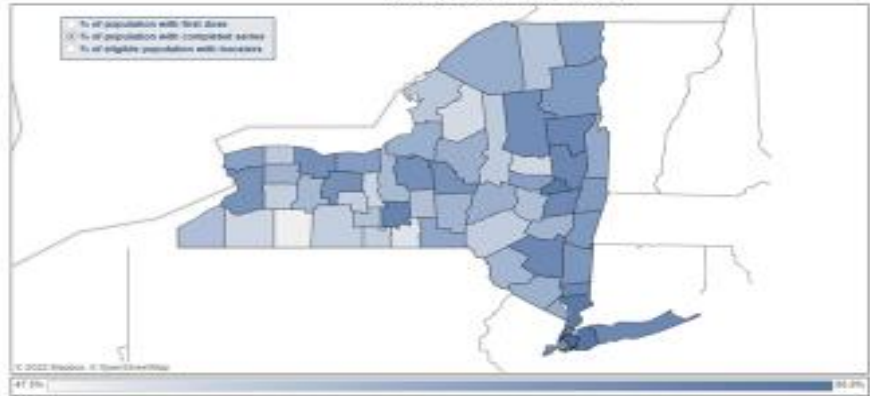
[How are COVID-19 Community Levels calculated?](#)



COVID-19 Update

Percentage of the Population with a Completed Primary Series
As of 10/14 at 11 am

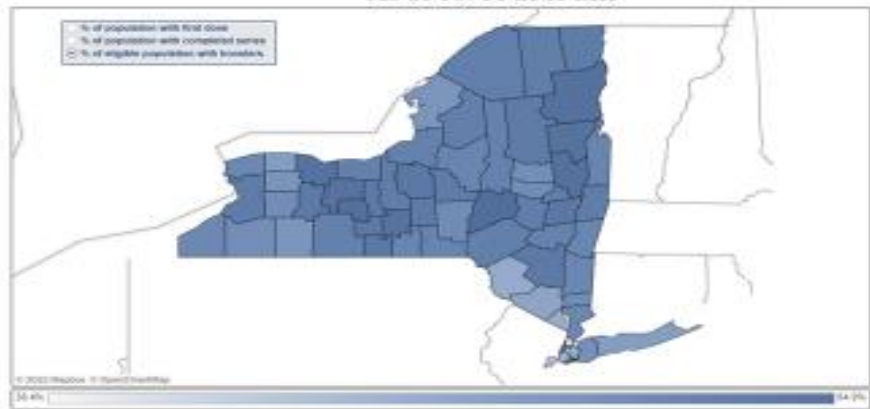
- 69,333 people with a completed series
- 108,047 total county population
- 64.2% of population with a completed series



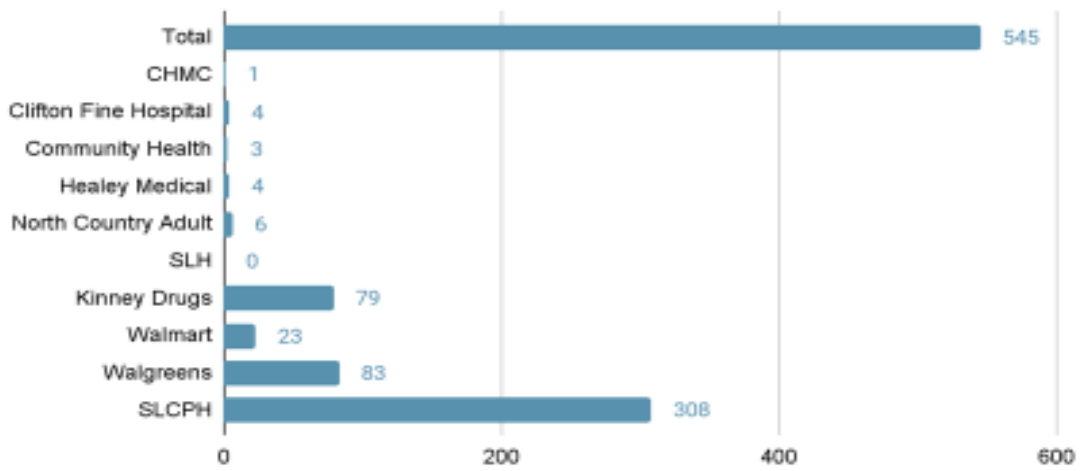
COVID-19 Update

Percentage of Eligible Population with Boosters
As of 10/14 at 11 am

- 41,056 people have received a booster dose
- 68,690 eligible population
- 59.8% of eligible population with a booster dose



Since 9/1/22 - 10/14/22
Number of COVID-19 Booster Doses Administered to St. Lawrence County Residents (>=12 yo)



Monkeypox Update: Carly Zimmermann

- On July 29, 2022 Governor Hochul declared a State of Disaster Emergency in response to the ongoing Monkeypox outbreak.
 - Extended through October 27, 2022
- On July 13, 2022 we issued a press release that we had (1) county resident who tested positive for Monkeypox.
- On August 1, 2022 we issued another press release outlining symptoms to look for as well as precautions to take.
- On October 6, 2022, Monkeypox was declared to be an STI by the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council.
 - We issued a press release on October 14, 2022
 - This action was proposed by the NYSDOH as a means of ensuring minor under the age of 18 can consent to their own Monkeypox related services without parental consent.

Monkeypox Update

Location	Number of Immunizations Provided
SUNY Potsdam	32
St. Lawrence University	27
SUNY Canton	17
St. Lawrence County Clinic	7
Total	83



- We are still coordinating with Clarkson University for a date/time for a vaccination clinic.
- All clinics are open to the public and we are offering COVID-19 and Monkeypox at these clinics to reduce stigma.
- Public Health staff are providing the vaccinations at all clinics. We will provide the 2nd dose after (28) days – 1st dose will also be available.
- We continue to meet with school nurses and provide education around Monkeypox.

Monkeypox Update

Monkeypox Vaccine Administration U.S. Map

Data as of October 11 2022 4:08 AM EDT

Total Vaccines Doses Administered and Reported to CDC



A total of 23,783 doses have been given in New York State.
A total of 128,062 doses have been given in New York City alone.

Influenza Update: Carly Zimmermann

- As of October 17, 2022 there have been <10 laboratory confirmed cases in St. Lawrence County.
- As of October 5, 2022 influenza is already considered widespread.
- Cases have been increasing since September, with (596) laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza for the week ending October 1, 2022.
- NYSDOH influenza dashboard for the 2022-2023 influenza season will begin at the end of October.

Per CDC for week 40 “Early increases in seasonal influenza activity have been reported in most of the United States, with the southeast and south-central areas of the country reporting the highest levels of activity.”

NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship Program (NYSPHC): Carly Zimmermann

- This program was established in 2021 by the NYS Governor in an effort to expand the public health workforce.
- It is a 12-month minimum placement.
- Participating LHDs write their own job descriptions based upon needs.
- All fellows complete the Cornell University Public Health Essentials Certificate Program and have a public health mentor.

There will be (3) fellows with the Public Health Department: Account Clerk, Community Health Epidemiologist Graduate Fellow (filled Nov 14th), and Health Provider Outreach Fellow. There will be (2) fellows with St. Lawrence Health Initiative: Community Health Educator (filled already) and Center Business Development Specialist.

Tick-borne Illness in St. Lawrence County: Carly Zimmermann

Since last meeting some work was done on messaging around ticks and the upcoming hunting season. Information was posted on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and a press release was issued on September 26, 2022.

Tick-Borne Illness Messaging

It's Open Season on Ticks
Protect yourself from tickborne disease this hunting season

Before the Hunt:

- Treat gear & clothing with 3% permethrin
- Use EPA registered insect repellents
- Treat dogs for ticks
- Tack in clothing & socks to prevent ticks from crawling inside clothing

During the Hunt:

- Walk in the center of the trails when possible
- Wear gloves when dressing or handling game and wash hands afterward

After the Hunt:

- Shower immediately after being outdoors
- Check your body for ticks daily
- Remove attached ticks
- Watch for fever, rash or flu-like symptoms

Tickborne diseases can be treated effectively when caught early but when ignored, may lead to long-term health problems. Contact your doctor right away if you suspect a tick bite!

Tick-Borne Illness Messaging

Press Release September 26, 2022

Tick Bite: What to Do

- Remove the Tick as Soon as Possible
 - Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as you can
 - Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick
 - After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water
 - Dispose of the tick by flushing it down the toilet. If you would like to bring the tick to your healthcare provider for identification, put it in rubbing alcohol and place the tick in a sealed bag/container.
- Call your Healthcare Provider
 - Most tickborne diseases can be treated with a short course of antibiotics. However, it is important to seek treatment as soon as possible as many tickborne diseases can become more challenging to diagnose and treat in the long-term.
- Watch for Symptoms for 30 Days
 - Rash
 - Fever
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headaches
 - Joint pain and swelling

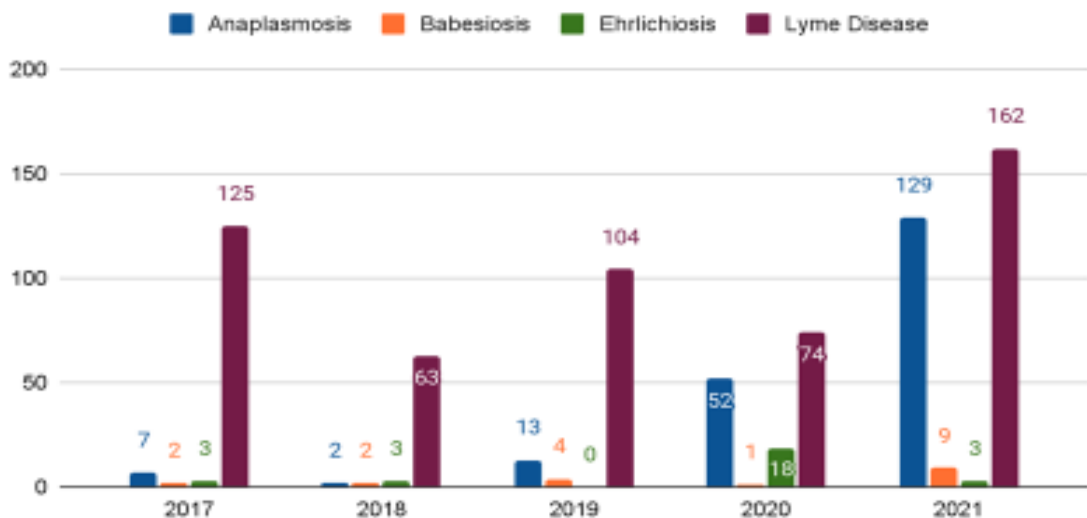


<https://stlawrence.org/news/default.aspx/PublicHealth/Press/3308Release/Environmental/Tick%20Bite%20Handling%20Season%202022.pdf>

We currently investigate 20% of the positive Lyme disease laboratory results, selected random by the NYSDOH ECLRS system, in addition to 100% of physician reported cases.

Dr. Williams strongly recommended adding (under 2nd bullet) “if an engorged tick is found and it has been attached for more than 72 hours, call your doctor to discuss any illness prevention treatment.” A similar recommendation was made for future press releases, specifically noting the option for preventive treatment (Doxycycline) rather than waiting until there are symptoms and then treating. Also suggested including education for providers around tick-borne illness other than Lyme disease.

Number of Tickborne Cases in St. Lawrence County



Note: 20% of reported Lyme cases are selected at random by the NYSDOH ECLRS system, in addition to 100% of physician reported cases for investigation.



October Election of Officers:

Members in attendance voted for election of Board of Health Officers.

Upon motion by Dr. Scillieri Smith, seconded by Kevin Acres, and unanimously carried, members in attendance voted for Dr. Williams to continue as President of the Board of Health.

Upon motion by Dr. Scillieri Smith, seconded by Kevin Acres, and unanimously carried, members in attendance voted for Dr. Kathleen Terrence as Vice President of the Board of Health.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

1. There was a discussion regarding the relevance of the Board members having to complete annual Public Health trainings and Corporate Compliance Training. It was noted Jody Wenzel's (Risk Manager/Compliance Officer) email noted receiving "employee" feedback. Some noted they are volunteers for this Board and should not have to do them. Dr. Williams will discuss with Steve and Ruth.
2. Nancy asked about a breakdown of the budget for next meeting – she will email Jolene.
3. Tonight at Cornell Cooperative Extension SLCPHD staff were accepting the "Friend of Extension Award 2022." This award is presented to the individual or group whose support and dedication furthered the mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County. It was presented to the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department for enhancing and expanding outreach and service to county agricultural producers.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bylaws need to be reviewed prior to the November 15, 2022 meeting for any revisions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

- Breakdown of budget for November 15, 2022 meeting.