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September SBPHC MAVEN data

2 messages

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Hi Everyone,

After watching the sharp rise of local COVID-19 cases during August and early September, we have now seen numbers drop steadily for the past 4 weeks. Hopefully this trend will continue, or we'll stay at this low level of local transmission as we get closer to the late fall/winter season, when we do anticipate an uptick due to reduced humidity, more indoor gatherings, and holiday-related travel. Indoor masking will remain vital to keeping numbers low. Additional protection from the Pfizer booster should start to have an impact, given our high number of seniors, health- and service-related workers.

While several South County residents were hospitalized for COVID-related treatment last month (both unvaccinated and vaccinated), the majority of cases reported minor symptoms akin to a cold or allergies (a few with flu-like symptoms as well). We have not seen evidence of local school transmission in preschools or the K-12 group so far this year, although the pooled testing programs have been effective at catching asymptomatic student/staff cases (less than 10 so far this year). In September we mostly saw cases related to household exposure, travel, receiving visitors from other areas, and unknown community spread.

Town	Sept. COVID-19 Cases
GREAT BARRINGTON	24
LENOX	22
OTIS	21
LEE	19
NEW MARLBOROUGH	6
SHEFFIELD	6
MONTEREY	2
MT WASHINGTON	1
STOCKBRIDGE	1

Tick-borne and food-borne cases in the Collaborative towns have continued to be somewhat fewer than were reported last year for this period. There was one positive water sample for West Nile virus recently reported in Otis, but our area has remained at low risk for this disease. There have been 6 total cases for Massachusetts this year, all in the eastern part of the state.

We've had a great response so far to our local flu/COVID booster clinics organized with the CHP mobile unit. Fairview Hospital has drive-thru flu clinic dates coming up, and they are also partnering with the Berkshire Health Alliance to again offer school-site flu clinics this fall. Next year we plan to organize community and school flu clinics for the Collaborative, which means we'll be reaching out to you and other local leaders next summer to help us plan those for Fall '22.

I won't be at this month's SBPHC meeting on Friday, but Jill will update you on the other things we've been doing lately for the group. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or ideas you may have.

Stay well,

Amy Hardt MPH, BSN, RN

Regional Nurse Leader