Item 24-0113: Respiratory Virus Surveillance and Waste Water Reporting

Board of Health

Wed, Feb 14, 2024 7:00AM

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 50:15
So, we'll go on to 24-0113 respiratory virus surveillance and wastewater reporting. Dr. Sepers.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 50:23
I'll just have us turn to page 7 of the respiratory virus surveillance report there. That I just want to focus on these three data displays on page 7 and page 8. So, if we look at influenza, we're still at a very high level, particularly in—so let me explain the graph. This is the percentage of ED visits for influenza on page 7. So, we're seeing a very, still a very high rate of the ED presentations for influenza, in the 0 to 4 and the 5 to 17 age groups as of the end of January, early February. So that's of a concern. But if we look at—and this is statewide data, just to just to be clear.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 51:24
And then if we look at on page 8, we see that the sort of epi curves for COVID 19 or SARS-COV2 is in the decline. But I just want to highlight, you know, late January, we were at the highest point for all percentage there, so. And that—so that's for COVID, but we're on our way back down. And RSV, that that second page 8 graph, we can see that that trend is coming back down, but we can see the disproportionate and much higher in terms of total percentage of ED visits—right?—that spiked at 10% in comparison to for that age group for 0 to 4 in comparison to some of these others, right?

Health Officer Charles Sepers 52:29
So just to highlight what that looks like and just the shape of those curves, I just want to kind of identify that, in that we are—we're seeing like a perfectly cyclical or seasonal display of COVID-19 in in comparison with RSV and influenza. So, thinking about it not as cold and flu season, but respiratory virus season for sure, affecting all three of those viruses.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 53:06
And then just the only other thing I would highlight, it would be technically the page 13 of the same document, but the COVID-19 wastewater data. We can see that we see a similar trend in the local wastewater data in comparison to the statewide ED visits. We're well, you know, coming back down out of our peak. With that, we do see that in the in the second graph, we see that the peak for, you know, the late last year was much higher than the sort of end of year 2022. And so, if we're, you know, looking in a in a historical fashion, we see that it was a much worse seasonal year for COVID-19 this year than what it was locally for COVID-19 in 2022. So really all there is to say about that.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 54:18
Okay. Any other questions?