

# ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 9, 2023

## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

#### 1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approval of April 2023 Minutes

#### 2. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Smith)

- a. COVID Update
  - Wastewater Report
- b. Rhodeway Inn
- c. Personnel Update
- d. Medical Examiner

### MEETING CONCLUSION



Ulster County Board of Health  
May 9, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
Golden Hill Office Building  
239 Golden Hill Lane  
Kingston, NY 12401

**PRESENT:** Stephanie Turco, Christy Keegan, Dr. Gina Carena, Dr. Marta Sanchez, Naomi Stevens

**EXCUSED:** Kathleen Rogan

**ABSENT:** Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean

**UCDOH:** Dr. Carol Smith- Commissioner of Health

**GUEST:** None

**Call To Order:** 5:08 PM

**OLD Business:** A motion was made to approve the April minutes by Ms. Keegan, seconded by Dr. Carena and unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:** Dr Smith reported on the following:

- a. **COVID Update:** On May 11, 2023, the COVID Public Health Emergency will end. However, new variants keep surfacing. Dr. Smith is not sure if COVID will rise again to level of an emerging issue again. We will know when it happens and will respond accordingly.

**Rodeway Inn:** UCDOH is charged with permitting Temporary Residences (TRs) such as the Rodeway Inn. Currently, there are 98 permitted TRs in the County. 25 of the 98 provide housing for the Department of Social Services (DSS). There are approximately 300+ homeless within the County. DSS does "herculean" work in managing the homeless. TRs are not meant to be long-term as they have no access to Things like a kitchen, proper space for belongings or garbage. This can easily grow out of control and into something that most people would have trouble living in. Often these TRs that house long-term placement struggle with bed bugs and roaches which are very difficult to rectify. Individuals need to temporarily move out so an exterminator can properly spray which results in the bugs scattering to the next unit.

UCDOH has been working with the Rodeway owner/operator to address any concerns/issues. The owner/operator has been cooperative. As a result of a complaint made, the DEC went out to the Rodeway Inn to evaluate compliance with the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES)

permit and Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). This turned into a major issue as the Rodeway Inn has not had a valid SPDES permit since 11/2018. The owner/operator is trying to correct the issues and has hired Brinnier and Larios Engineering Firm to deal with the wastewater issues. Currently, DSS is doing its best to relocate individuals. They are struggling with placing individuals as there are not enough housing options available. UCDOH has been meeting regularly with the County Executive's Office and DSS to problem solve. However, there is no magic wand and no magic solution.

- b. **Asylum Seekers:** New York City (NYC) is wanting to move migrant asylum seekers to Ulster County as they are having trouble with accommodating the recent influx into NYC. Rockland and Orange County both said they could not take them. Ulster County does not have the capacity for more homeless as we are currently struggling with accommodating the existing 300+ homeless already within the County.
- c. **Medical Examiner Stats:** The report was distributed to the Board (see attached).

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Sanchez, seconded by Ms. Stevens, and unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Turco', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Turco, LCSW - Chair

# Ulster County Wastewater Surveillance Update

DATE: April 28, 2023

TO: Ulster County Health Department, Wastewater Facilities, & Stakeholders

FROM: Shailla Raymond, MPH

RE: Ulster County Weekly Wastewater Surveillance Data Report

## Dashboard | Website

This report contains information **Ulster County** treatment plants over the time period of **2023-04-18 to 2023-04-26**.

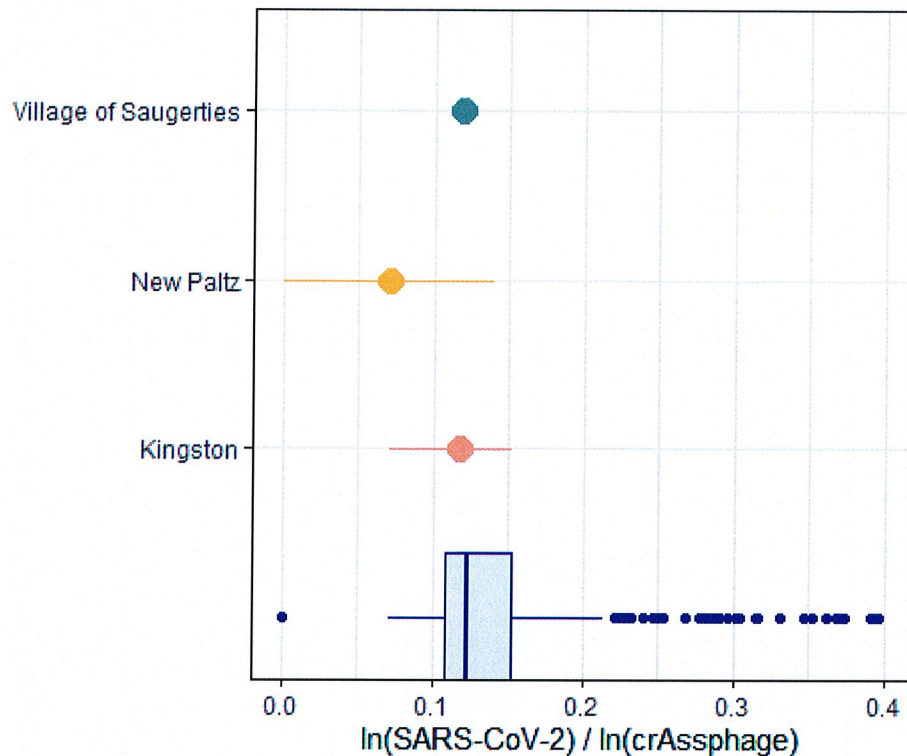
All Samples from Ulster County				
From to				
Collection Date	Detection Level	Compared to NYS	Quality Control	Two-Week Trend
<b>New Paltz</b>				
April 26, 2023	Not detected	lower	good	decreasing
April 19, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
<b>Kingston</b>				
April 26, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	comparable	good	decreasing
April 25, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	decreasing
April 19, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	decreasing
April 18, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
<b>Village of Saugerties</b>				
April 19, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	good	NA

<sup>1</sup> Our quality control variable (crAssphage) came back with a lower than average value (< 10,000), which suggests that we should be cautious when interpreting this sample.

Above is a table describing the samples collected from the last two weeks. The table includes:

- Catchment location and sample collection date
- Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 from a facility to all NYS wastewater
- Level of SARS-CoV-2 detection: “Quantifiable” and “Detection <LOQ” levels suggest community-level transmission
- Quality control indicator: Samples that are “good” have a crAssphage level > 10,000. Samples that are “alert” have <10,000, suggesting low sample recovery and confidence

## Box Plot for Treatment Plants in Ulster County from 2023-04-18 to 2023-04-26



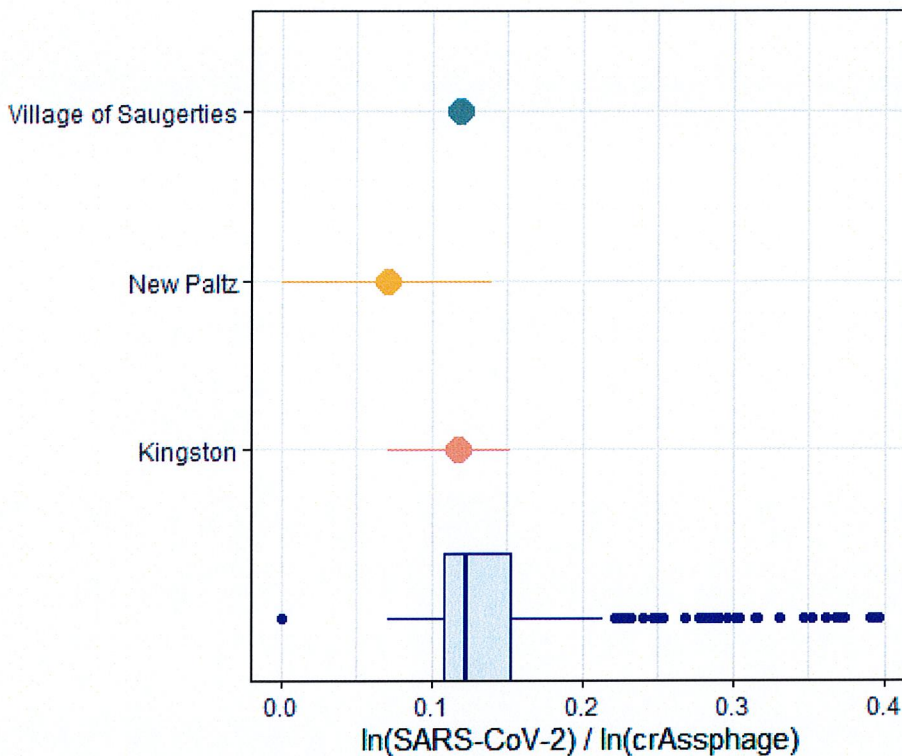
Points represent the SARS-CoV-2 intensity of samples taken at the influent over the last two weeks. The box plot represents all SARS-CoV-2 values from the previous two weeks as observed from wastewater treatment facilities across New York. The box plot shows the median (solid line), first and third quartiles (box edges), minimum (lower whiskers), maximum (upper whisker), and outliers (black dots) for all NY WWTP's. The concentration of SARS-CoV-2 is normalized by population,  $\ln(\text{SARS-CoV-2}) / \ln(\text{crAssphage})$ , to give overall intensity.

The most recent sample from Kingston on April 26, 2023 is comparable when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from New Paltz on April 26, 2023 is lower when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on April 19, 2023 is higher when compared to New York State values.

## Box Plot for Treatment Plants in Ulster County from 2023-04-18 to 2023-04-26

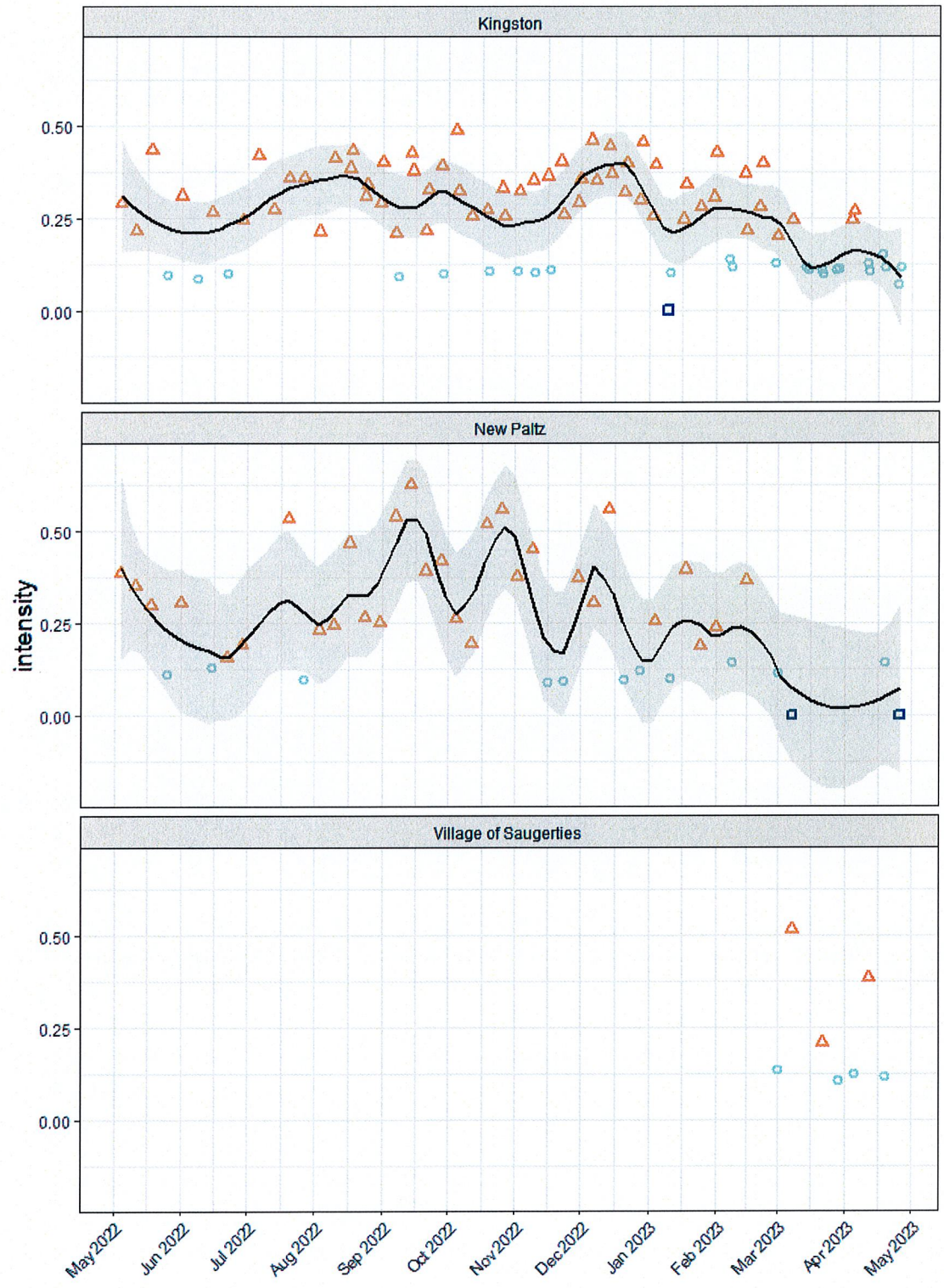


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**Detection Level**   ■ Not detected   ● Detected, <LOQ   ▲ Quantifiable



A smoothed trend line (black), uncertainty (gray), and wastewater samples (shapes) are shown. Wastewater sample points are color coded to specify the level of SARS-CoV-2 detected. The concentration of SARS-CoV-2 is normalized by population,  $\ln(\text{SARS-CoV-2})/\ln(\text{crAssphage})$ , to give overall intensity.

The level of SARS-CoV-2 RNA can tell us roughly how many cases can be expected in a population.

- Not detected: <10 cases per 100,000
- Detected, <LOQ: 10-50 cases per 100,000
- Quantifiable detection: >50 cases per 100,000

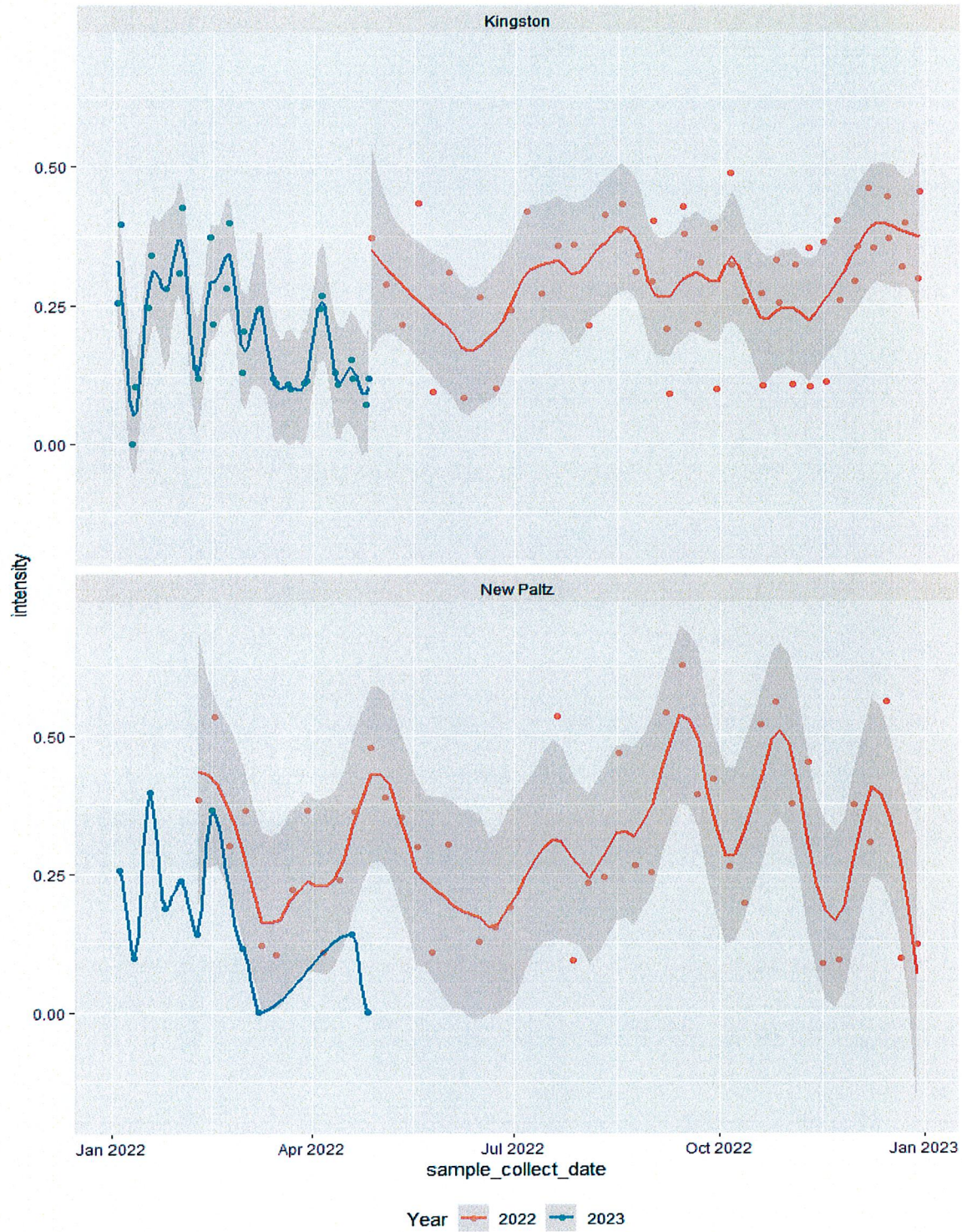
The most recent sample from Kingston on April 26, 2023, had a detection level of “Detected, <LOQ” suggesting daily case incidence of 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people.

The most recent sample from New Paltz on April 26, 2023, had a detection level of “Not detected” suggesting daily case incidence of less than 10 cases per 100,000 people.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on April 19, 2023, had a detection level of “Detected, <LOQ” suggesting daily case incidence of 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people.



Average intensity (population weighted) for all Ulster WWTP's over the last 12 months.

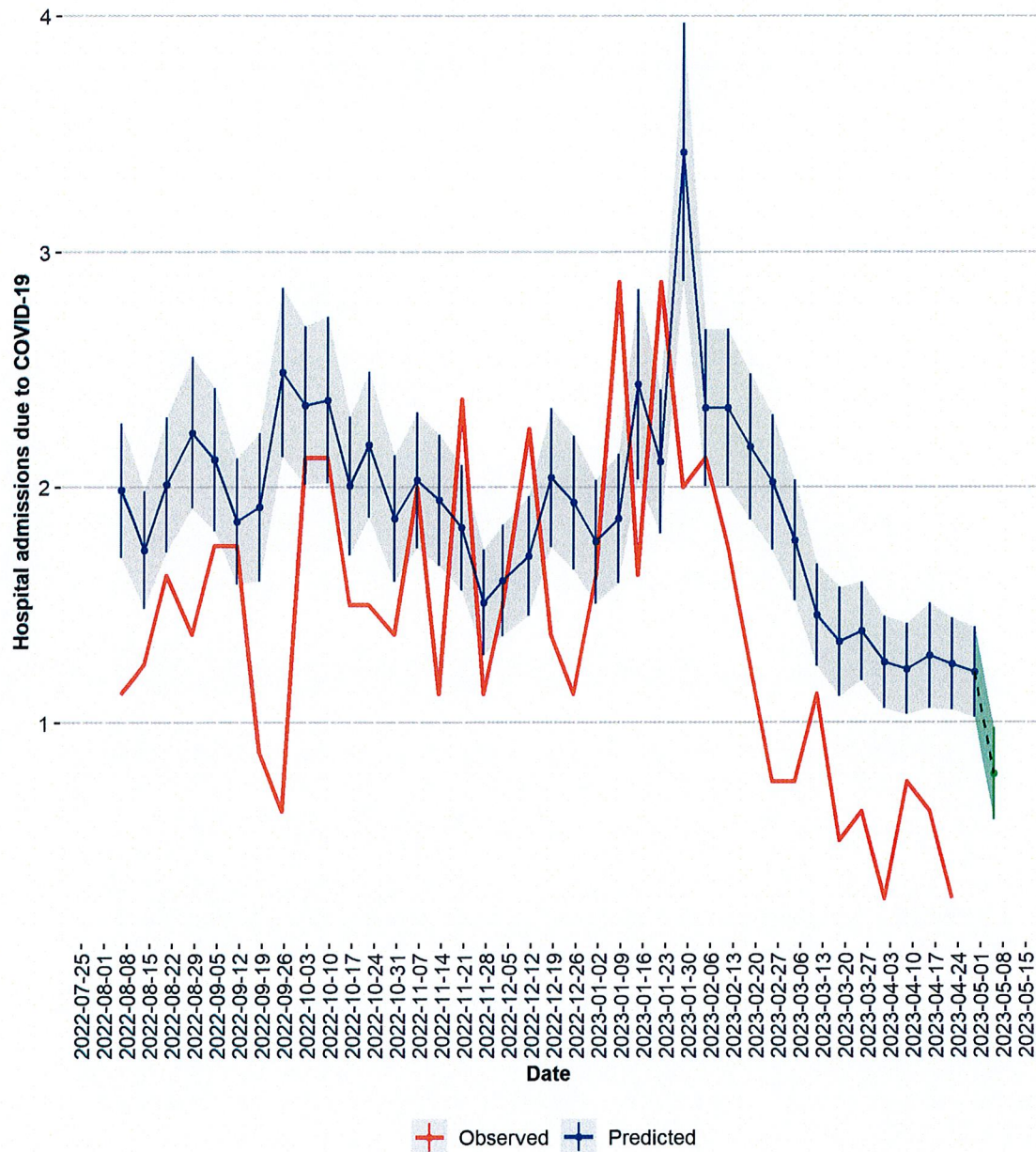


This figure shows an annual comparison of SARS-CoV-2 intensity. Smoothed trend lines, uncertainty (gray bands), and wastewater samples (dots) are shown. The recent trend is lower than year over year values.

# Ulster County COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization trend

Predicted 7-day average in-patient hospitalizations in the next 10 days: **0.78\***

**35.54 percent decrease** from previous week's prediction



\* 0.44 Per 100,000 population

This figure shows predicted new in-patient hospital admissions due to COVID-19 for your county. Predictions are calculated from a generalized linear mixed model that fits wastewater data with a ten-day lag, test positivity (ten-day lag), proportion of the county population that has full series of mRNA vaccine, along with several covariates including population over 50 years old, estimated asthma and cardiovascular disease rate for the county, county social vulnerability from the CDC social vulnerability index, and whether the day was within one week of a major or minor holiday. This model makes predictions with

new data for future hospital admissions and provides uncertainty around the prediction in the form of the 95% confidence interval (the light grey and green band around the predictions). Past predictions are in blue with the current prediction in light green. The red line is actual hospital admissions from the Department of Health SPARCS or Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System database. These data may have up to a 6-month reporting lag and therefore may stop prior to the recent prediction periods, however, future predictions can be accurately made without that data. We will update these data and the models as new data are provided.

Estimated new COVID-19 hospitalizations comes with several uncertainties including whether new variants have arisen, what the current immunization state of the county is (including booster and bivalent shots or immunity from previous infection), and other factors not captured in the model such as intervention behaviors such as masking. Week to week predictions will vary in their accuracy and the width of the confidence interval around the prediction due to changes in the data.

# Ulster County Department of Health

## Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2023 and 4/30/2023

Total Number of Cases: 74

<i>Cases by Gender</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
F	4	5	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
M	12	12	17	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>

<i>Cases by Manner</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	6	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Natural	5	6	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Pending	2	2	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Suicide	2	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>

<i>Cases by Category</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Alcohol	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blunt Force Trauma - non-MVA	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cardiovascular	3	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cardiovascular and Obesity	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diabetes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gunshot Wound	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Hanging	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Infant	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-Opioid Substance	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid-Related	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Other	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Pending	1	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Pending - Suspected Opioid	1	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Smoke Inhalation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>