

Ulster County Board of Health  
June 13, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
Golden Hill Office Building  
239 Golden Hill Lane  
Kingston, NY 12401

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

**EXCUSED:** Kathleen Rogan, Dr. Gina Carena, Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean

**ABSENT:**

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

**GUEST:** None

**Call To Order:** 5:03 PM

**OLD Business:** A motion was made to approve the May minutes by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Sanchez and unanimously approved.

**NEW Business:** A discussion took place regarding the July 2023 meeting and vacations. A motion was made to cancel the July meeting by Ms. Turco, seconded by Ms. Stevens and unanimously approved.

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

- a. **COVID Wastewater Update:** The latest report from 6/13/2023 showed Kingston and New Paltz numbers were decreasing while Saugerties showed an increase. (See Attached)

Ms. Stevens inquired about the latest recommendations/requirements regarding COVID.

Dr. Smith stated that getting the booster is the latest recommendation.

Ms. Stevens asked if there will ever be a COVID/Pneumococcal combo vaccine made available.

Dr Smith explained it would be up to the pharmaceutical companies.

- b. **Temporary Residences/Camps:** This is the busy season for camps. DOH is anticipating the normal yearly issues. Currently, there are some facilities attempting to exceed their permitted capacity.
- c. **Air Quality:** Wildfires are increasing and becoming a climate change issue of concern. Wildfires create 2.5-micron particles that are able to get into the lungs of an

individual. N95 masks may be helpful in preventing this. Individuals with preexisting respiratory issues will be at higher risk for difficulties than those without. Air quality can be monitored at <http://airnow.gov>.

- d. **2024 Budget:** DOH is currently preparing for the 2024 budget review. The Budget needs to be submitted to the County's Budget Office on 6/23/2023 with the Legislative submittal on 8/1/2023.
- e. **Infrastructure Funding:** The plan for the Infrastructure Funding will be submitted to the State on 6/16/2023. DOH found creative ways to use the monies received.
- f. **Medical Examiner Stats:** The report was distributed to the Board (see attached).

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

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stephanie Turco, LCSW - Chair

# ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

June 13, 2023

## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

#### 1. OLD BUSINESS

a. Approval of May 2023 Minutes

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

a. COVID Update

- Wastewater Report

b. Temporary Residences/ Camps

c. Air Quality

- Update
- N95 Masks

d. 2024 Budget Prep

e. Medical Examiner

- Stats
- Meeting with the County Executive

### MEETING CONCLUSION



# Ulster County Wastewater Surveillance Update

DATE: June 06, 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 **2023-05-17 to 2023-05-31**.

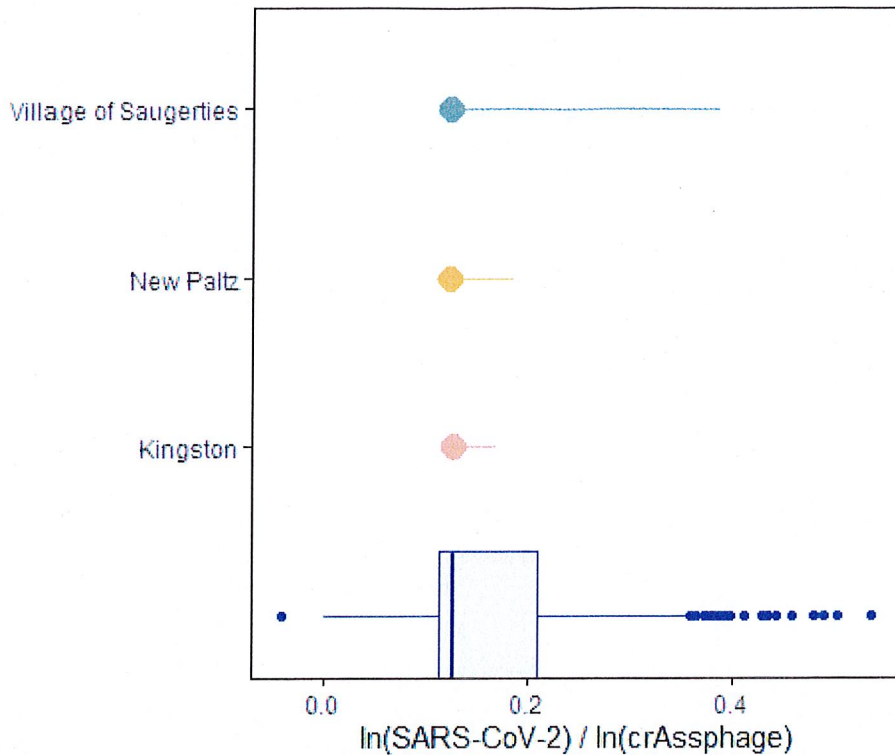
All Samples from Ulster County				
From to				
Collection Date	Detection Level	Compared to NYS	Quality Control	Two-Week Trend
<b>Village of Saugerties</b>				
May 31, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
May 24, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
May 17, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
<b>New Paltz</b>				
May 31, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	comparable	alert <sup>1</sup>	increasing
May 24, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	good	increasing
May 17, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	increasing
<b>Kingston</b>				
May 31, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
May 30, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing
May 24, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	decreasing
May 17, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	higher	alert <sup>1</sup>	decreasing

<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 2023-05-17 to 2023-05-31

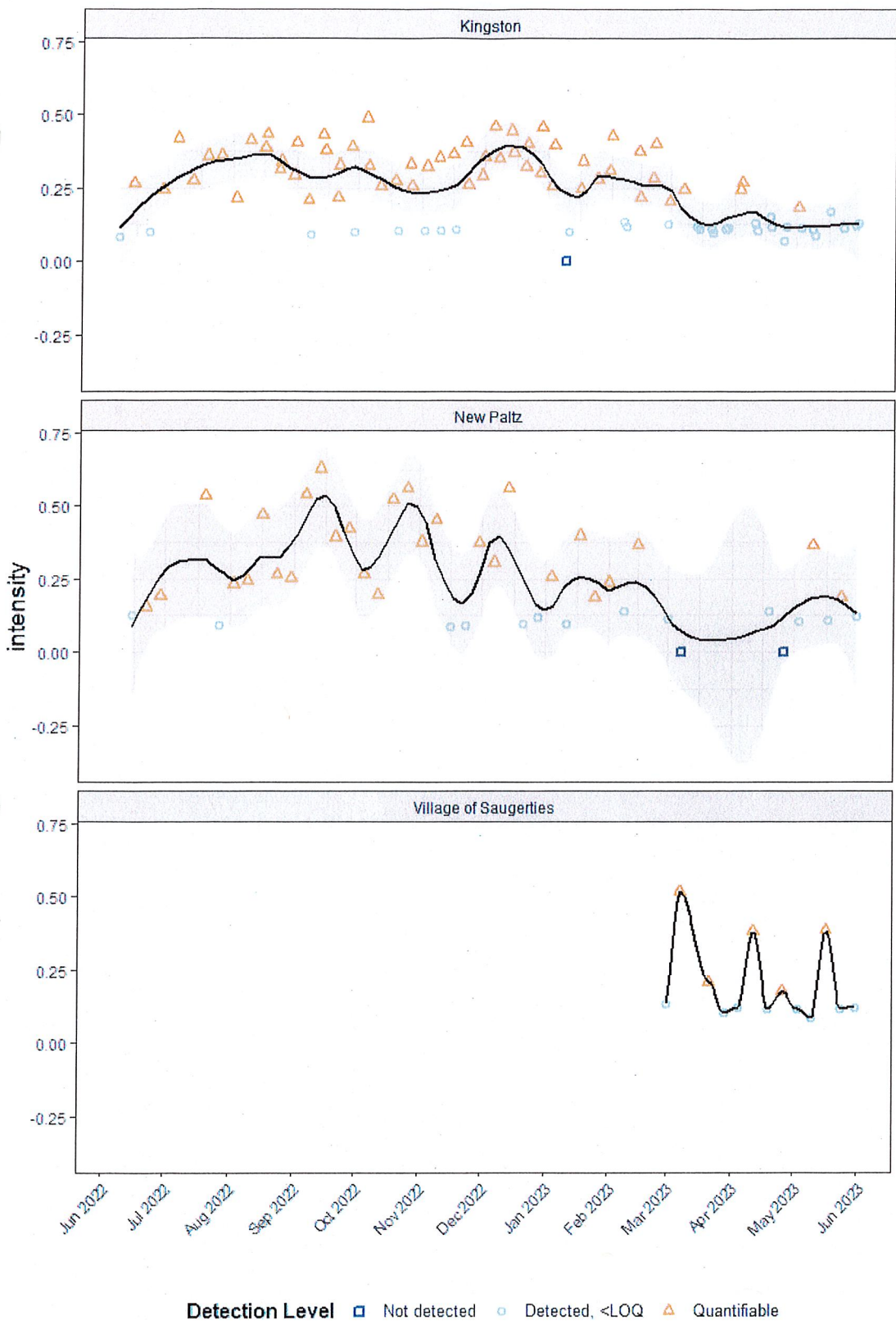


Points represent the SARS-CoV-2 intensity of samples taken at the influent over the last two weeks. The box plot represents all SARS-CoV-2 values from the previous two weeks as observed from wastewater treatment facilities across New York. The box plot shows the median (solid line), first and third quartiles (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 May 31, 2023 is higher when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from New Paltz on May 31, 2023 is comparable when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on May 31, 2023 is higher when compared to New York State values.



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

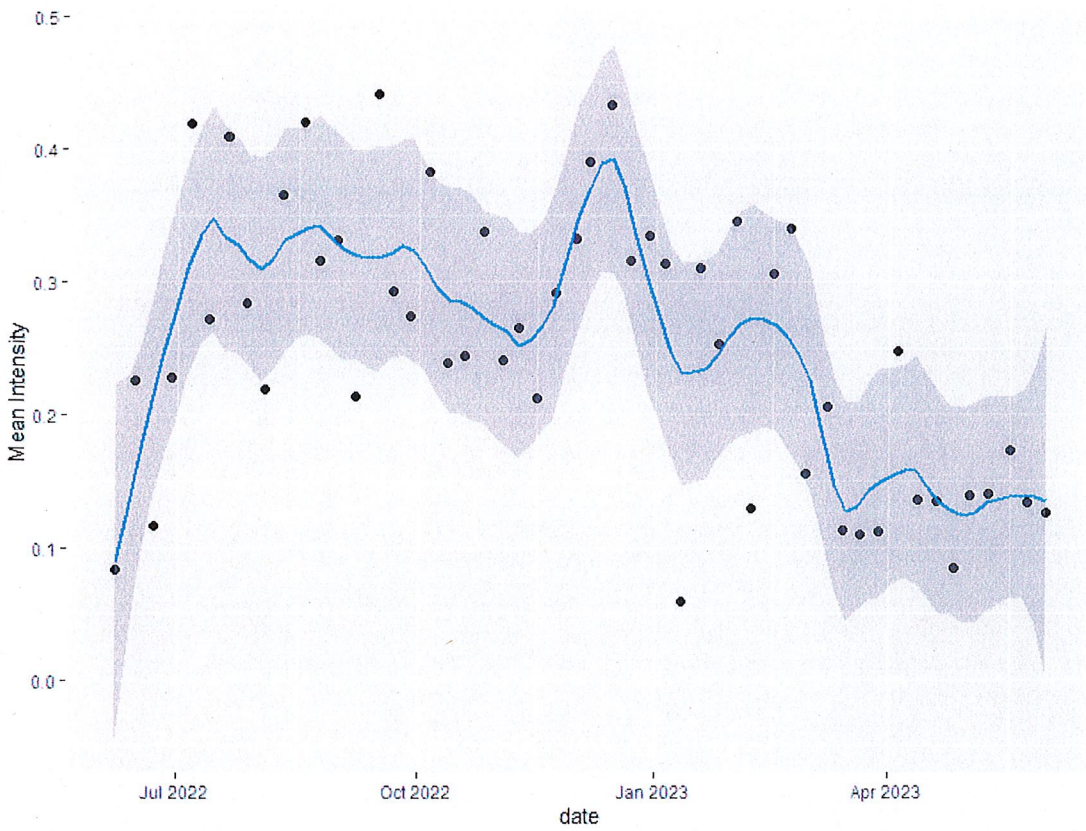
- Detected, <LOQ: 10-50 cases per 100,000
- Quantifiable detection: >50 cases per 100,000

The most recent sample from Kingston on May 31, 2023, had a detection level of “Detected, <LOQ” suggesting daily case incidence of 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people.

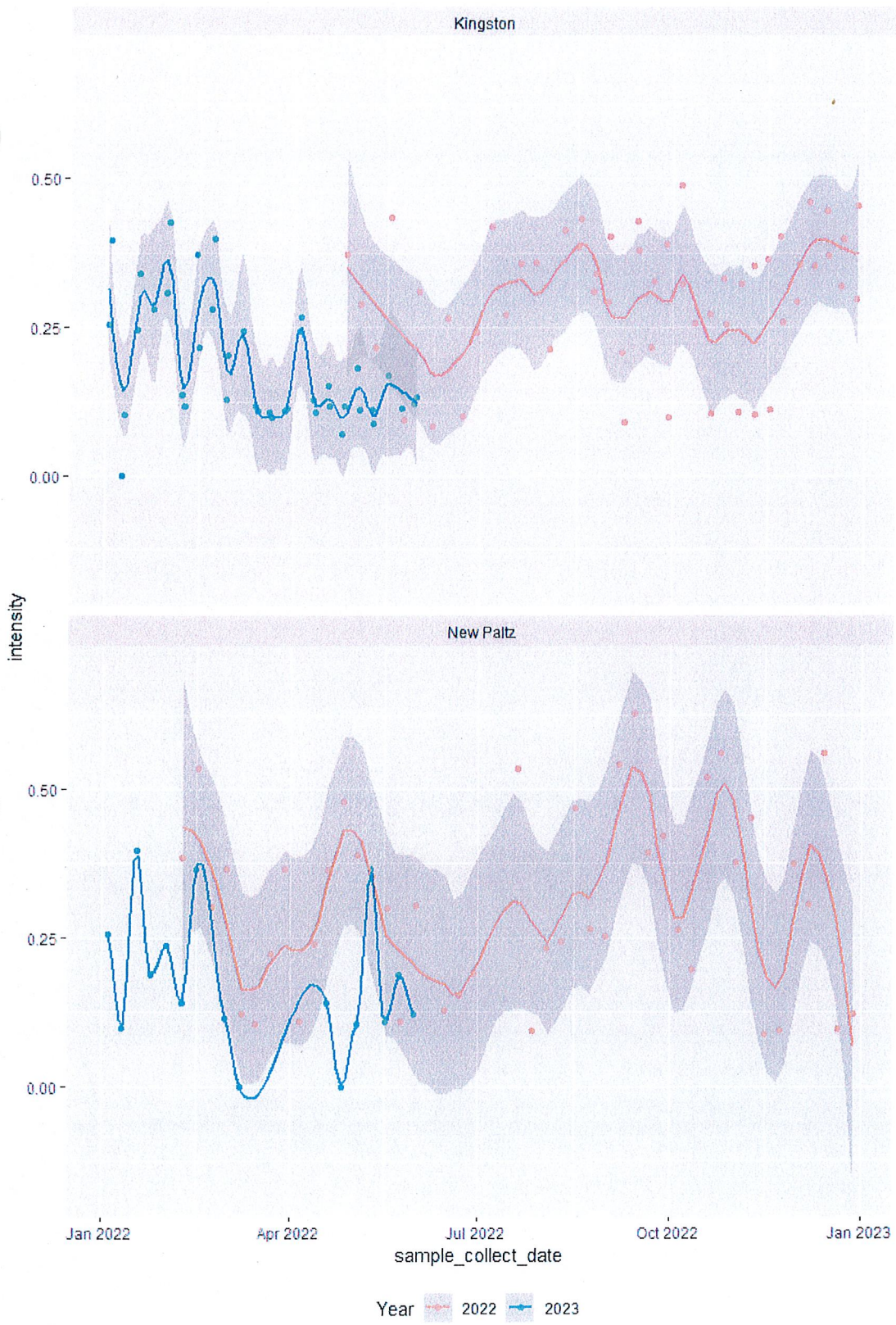
The most recent sample from New Paltz on May 31, 2023, had a detection level of “Detected, <LOQ” suggesting daily case incidence of 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on May 31, 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.

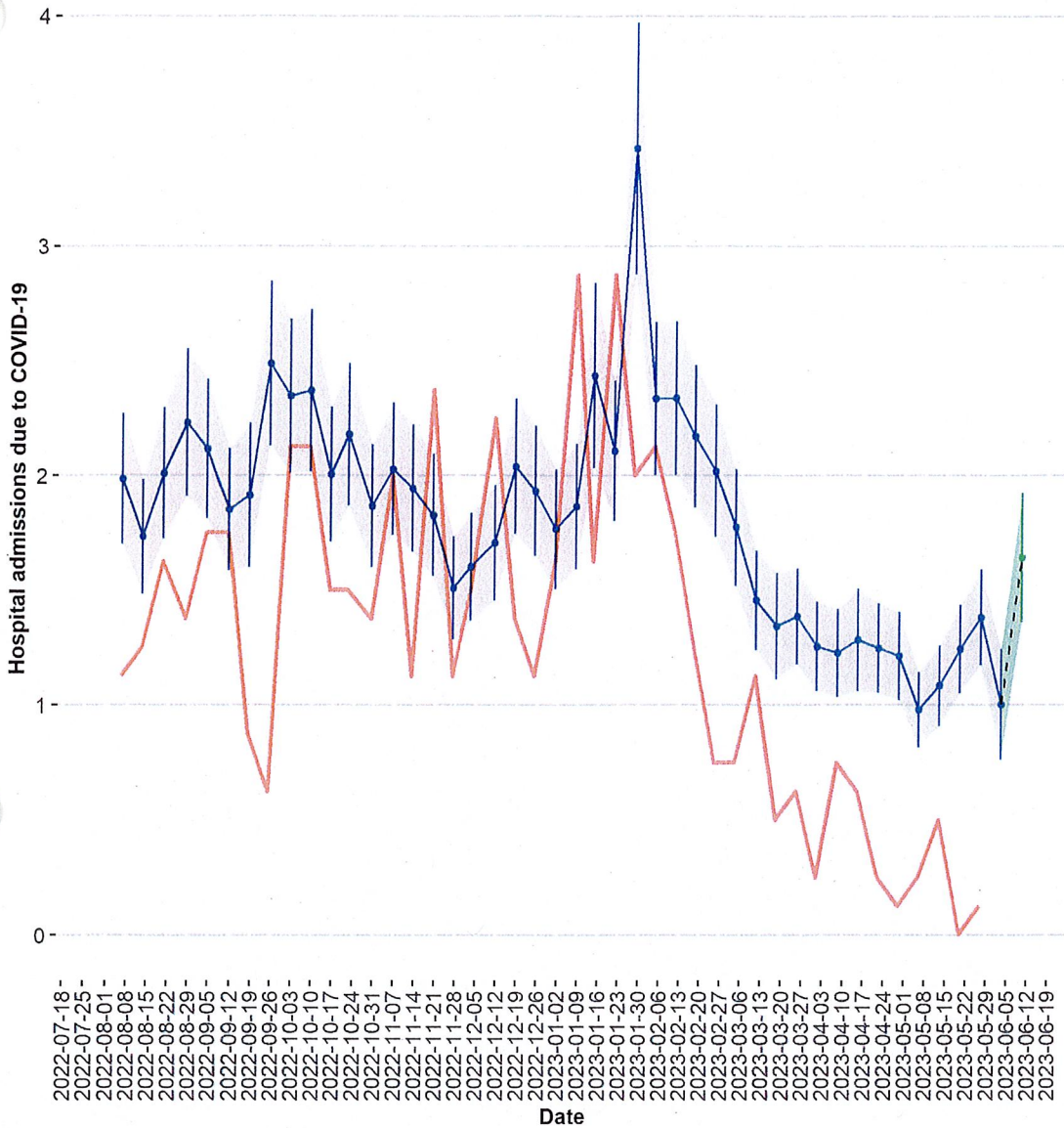


This figure shows an annual comparison of SARS-CoV-2 intensity. Smoothed trend lines, uncertainty (gray bands), and wastewater samples (dots) are shown. The recent trend is lower than year over year values.

# Ulster County COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization trend

Predicted 7-day average in-patient hospitalizations in the next 10 days: **1.64\***

**64 percent increase** from previous week's prediction



— Observed — Predicted

\* 0.92 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.

**SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Sequencing Data**  
In Ulster County and New York State

Variant	Source	Label	Presence within last four weeks <sup>1</sup>	Presence within last six weeks <sup>2</sup>
B.1.1.529	WHO	Variant of concern	detected at state-level	detected at state-level
BA.2	ECDC	Variant of concern	detected at state-level	detected at state-level
BA.2.3.20	ECDC	Variant under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
BA.2.75	WHO	Omicron subvariants under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
BA.2.75(x)	ECDC	Variant of interest	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
BA.4	ECDC	Variant of concern	not detected within state or county	detected at state-level
BA.5	ECDC	Variant of concern	detected at state-level	detected at state-level
BF.7	ECDC; WHO	Variant under monitoring; Omicron subvariants under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
BN.1(b)	ECDC	Variant under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
BQ.1	ECDC; WHO	Variant of interest; Omicron subvariants under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
CH.1.1	WHO	Omicron subvariants under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
CH.1.1(c)	ECDC	Variant under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
XAY	ECDC	Variant under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
XBB	WHO	Omicron subvariants under monitoring	detected at state-level	detected at state-level
XBB(z)	ECDC	Variant of interest	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
XBB.1.5	ECDC; WHO	Variant of interest; Omicron subvariants under monitoring	detected at state-level	detected at state-level
XBC(a)	ECDC	Variant under monitoring	not detected within state or county	not detected within state or county
XBF	WHO	Omicron subvariants under monitoring	not detected within state or county	detected at state-level

<sup>1</sup> Samples collected from May 09, 2023 to Jun 06, 2023

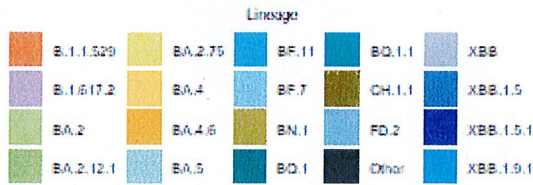
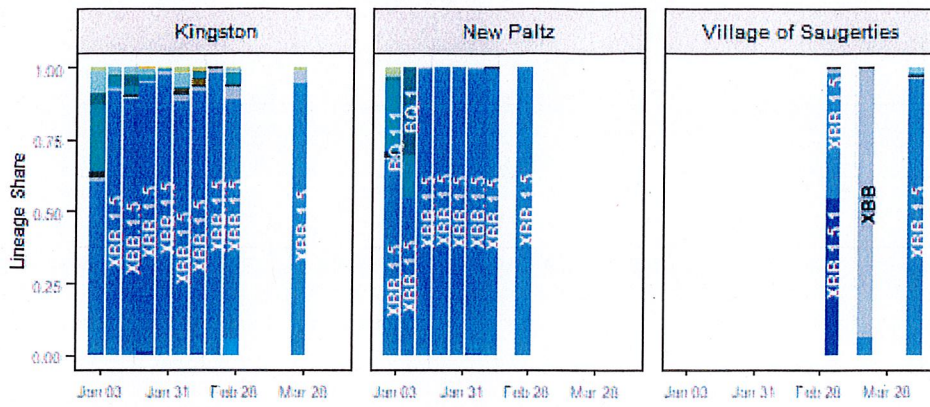
<sup>2</sup> Samples collected from Apr 25, 2023 to Jun 06, 2023

County level variants under monitoring table in the last four and six weeks This table shows variants being monitored by various public health organizations. Variant name, source of information, monitoring status of variant, and presence within the county and state within the last four and six weeks are shown. Each variant is shown at four and six week intervals shown in the footnotes. Not detected within state or county: variant not detected at the state or county-level Detected at state-level: detected somewhere else in the state, but not in the county listed Detected within county: detected within the county showed

Find out more about monitoring status of SARS-CoV-2 variants: ECDC, WHO

# SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Sequencing in 2023

## Sewersheds in Ulster County

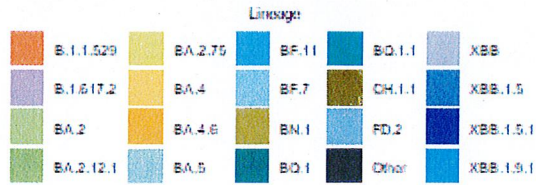
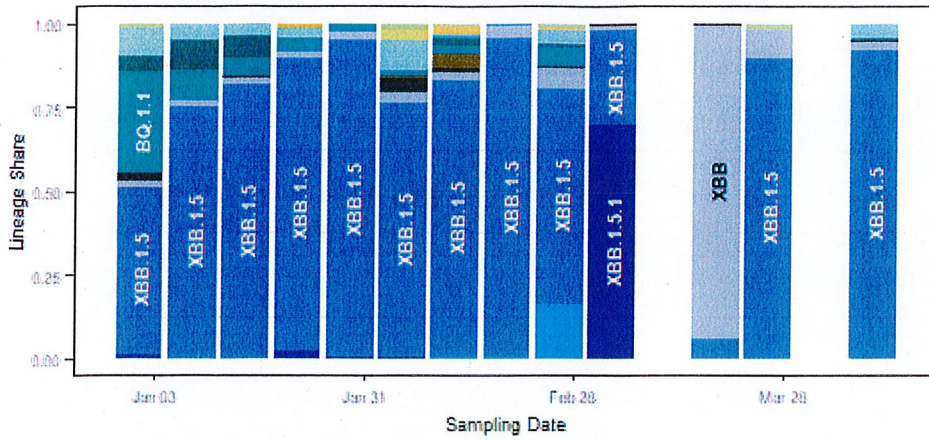


### Sewershed level of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing throughout time

Each bar shows the relative abundance of SARS-CoV-2 lineages during a sample collection date. Lineages with an abundance of at least 20% are labeled on the bar sections with the lineage name. The color of the bar corresponds to lineage. See the legend for more information regarding lineages.

# SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Sequencing in 2023

## Ulster County Aggregation



County aggregation of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing throughout time

Each bar shows the relative abundance of SARS-CoV-2 lineages per sample collection date. Lineages with an abundance of at least 20% are labeled on the bar sections with the lineage name. The color of the bar corresponds to lineage. See the legend for more information regarding lineages.

# Ulster County Department of Health

## Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2023 and 5/31/2023

Total Number of Cases: 92

<i>Cases by Gender</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
F	4	5	6	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
M	12	12	17	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
Unidentifiable	0	1	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>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Homicide	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Natural	5	7	3	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Pending	2	1	8	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Suicide	2	2	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	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>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	3	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cardiovascular and Obesity	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Diabetes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gunshot Wound	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
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	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pending	1	1	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Pending - Suspected Opioid	1	0	5	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Smoke Inhalation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	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>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>