

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

August 8, 2023

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approval of June 13, 2023 Minutes

2. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Smith)

- a. COVID Update
 - Wastewater Report
 - Predominant Strain
 - No New Clusters/Outbreaks
- b. Climate Change
- c. Temporary Residence Update
- d. Medical Examiner
 - Staffing
 - Stats

MEETING CONCLUSION

Ulster County Board of Health
August 8, 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, Kathleen Rogan, Dr. Gina Carena

EXCUSED: Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Dr. Carol Smith- Commissioner of Health

GUEST: None

Call To Order: 5:09 PM

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

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

- a. **COVID Wastewater Update:** The Wastewater report was distributed to the Board (See Attached). COVID levels appear to be fluctuating - nothing consistent.
- b. **COVID Update:** The CDC reports the predominant variant is EG.5. COVID vaccines are going commercial and free vaccines will not be able to be obtained. COVID and Pneumococcal combo vaccine has not "made it to the table".
- c. **Vaccinations:** NYS Commissioner McDonald on the weekly Communicable Disease call today, reported that Monroe County had a bus of Asylum Seekers come into the County. A company contracted through New York City will be overseeing their medical care. There have been a few mothers who have come to UCDOH to obtain school vaccinations. The concern is how to manage the school vaccination requirements with this population.
- d. **Data Collection:** Currently, data collection at the state level lags in time and is less than ideal. The state is trying to address this issue to provide more current data.
- e. **Staff Retention:** The state is struggling with staff retention. UCDOH has seen it at the local level as 3 nurses have left in approximately a 1 month time period.

- f. **Medical Examiner Update:** The Medical Examiner report was distributed to the Board (See Attached). The office is currently down 1 Investigator. The other Investigator is doing a great job at managing the Medical Examiner Office with reduced staffing. The office is a very busy office with many cases to juggle. There were 5 cases over this past weekend alone. There are cases in which a private MD can sign the Death Certificate but as of late, many of the MDs are refusing to do so, which creates a greater work volume for the Medical Examiner team.
- g. **Rodeway Inn:** UCDOH has been working with DSS and the owner/operator to address any concerns/issues. The situation reached a point where those residing at the Temporary Residence (TR) were relocated until the work was completed. The work has been done and those relocated were allowed to return. This is an on-going issue as these TRs are meant for short-term stays and not to house individuals on a long-term basis.
- h. **Summer Camps:** Summer camps are ending. There have been no reported outbreaks and there have been no other major issues this season.
- i. **Climate Change and Health:** Climate change and health needs to be a priority. The older population is more susceptible to the health impacts of climate change. 20% of Ulster County's population are 60+ years of age. There are many factors, such as age and income, that can affect an individual's health and ability to adapt. The priority needs to be educating individuals on climate change and educating them on how to adapt to it.
- j. **Healthy Ulster Radio:** Recently Healthy Ulster radio had a guest on the show and interviewed NYS Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha on what NYS is doing, and planning to do, to lead the nation in slowing climate change. Dr. Smith recommended that Board members listen to this interview. Shows are archived on <https://ulstercountyny.gov/health/healthy-ulster-radio>

Ms. Stevens stated, she was not hearing PSAs for RSV. Dr. Smith agreed and said there needs to be more. She also mentioned that UCDOH conducts their own PSAs.

Ms. Stevens also inquire about a combination vaccine for COVID, Pneumonia, and RSV. Dr. Smith explained that getting the approvals to market a combination vaccine is a major process.

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

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kathleen Rogan, Secretary

Ulster County Wastewater Surveillance Update

DATE: August 01, 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 **2023-07-12 to 2023-07-26**.

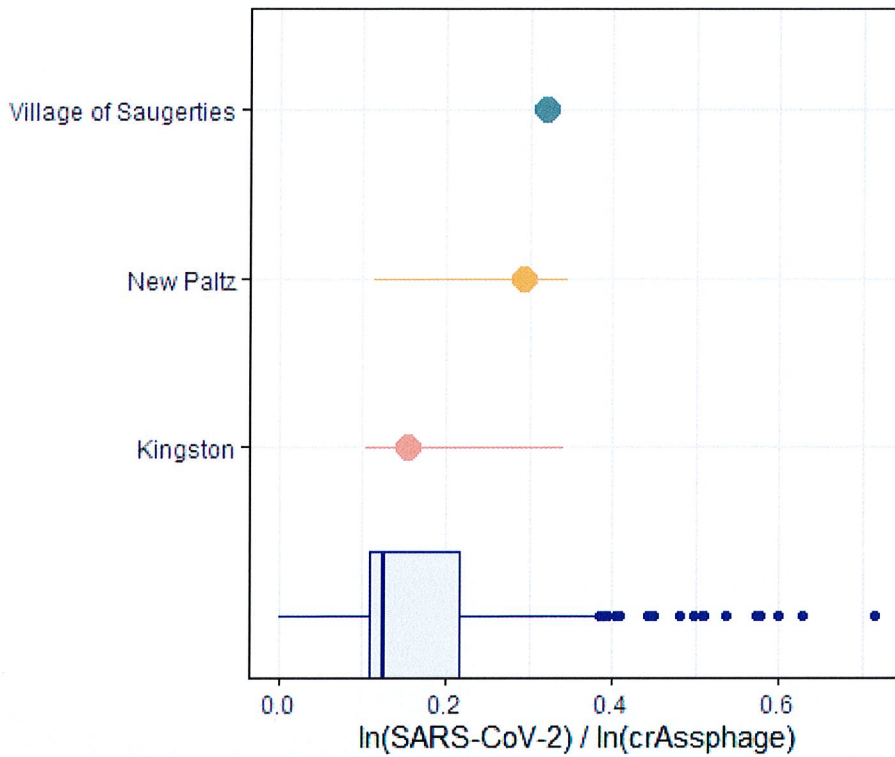
All Samples from Ulster County				
From to				
Collection Date	Detection Level	Compared to NYS	Quality Control	Two-Week Trend
New Paltz				
July 26, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	decreasing
July 19, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	good	decreasing
July 12, 2023	Quantifiable	comparable	good	decreasing
Kingston				
July 26, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	alert ¹	increasing
July 25, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	increasing
July 19, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	good	increasing
July 18, 2023	Quantifiable	lower	good	increasing
July 12, 2023	Detected, <LOQ	lower	good	increasing
Village of Saugerties				
July 19, 2023	Quantifiable	higher	good	NA

¹ 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 2023-07-12 to 2023-07-26

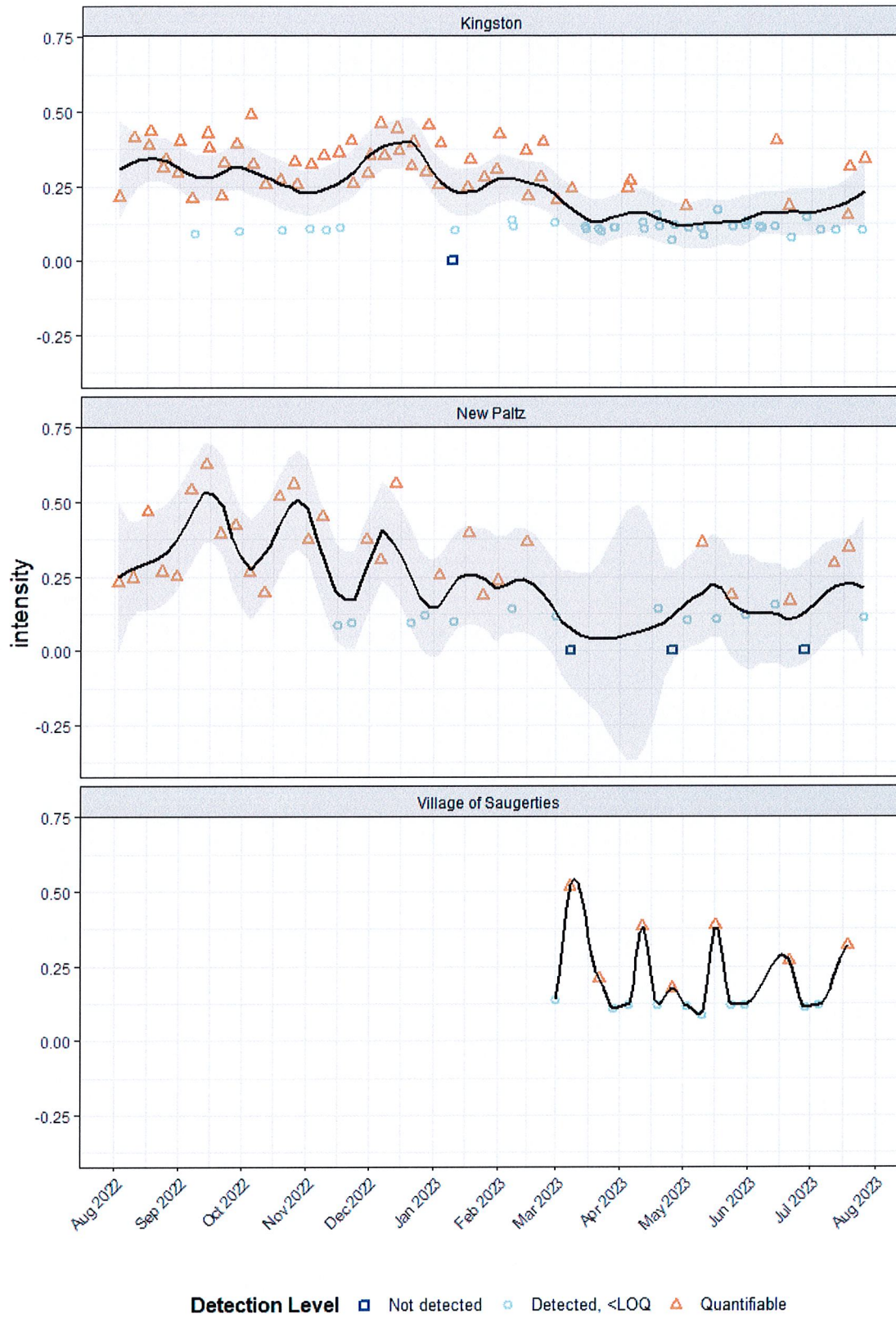


Points represent the SARS-CoV-2 intensity of samples taken at the influent over the last two weeks. The box plot represents all SARS-CoV-2 values from the previous two weeks as observed from wastewater treatment facilities across New York. The box plot shows the median (solid line), first and third quartiles (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 July 26, 2023 is higher when compared to New York State values.

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

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on July 19, 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

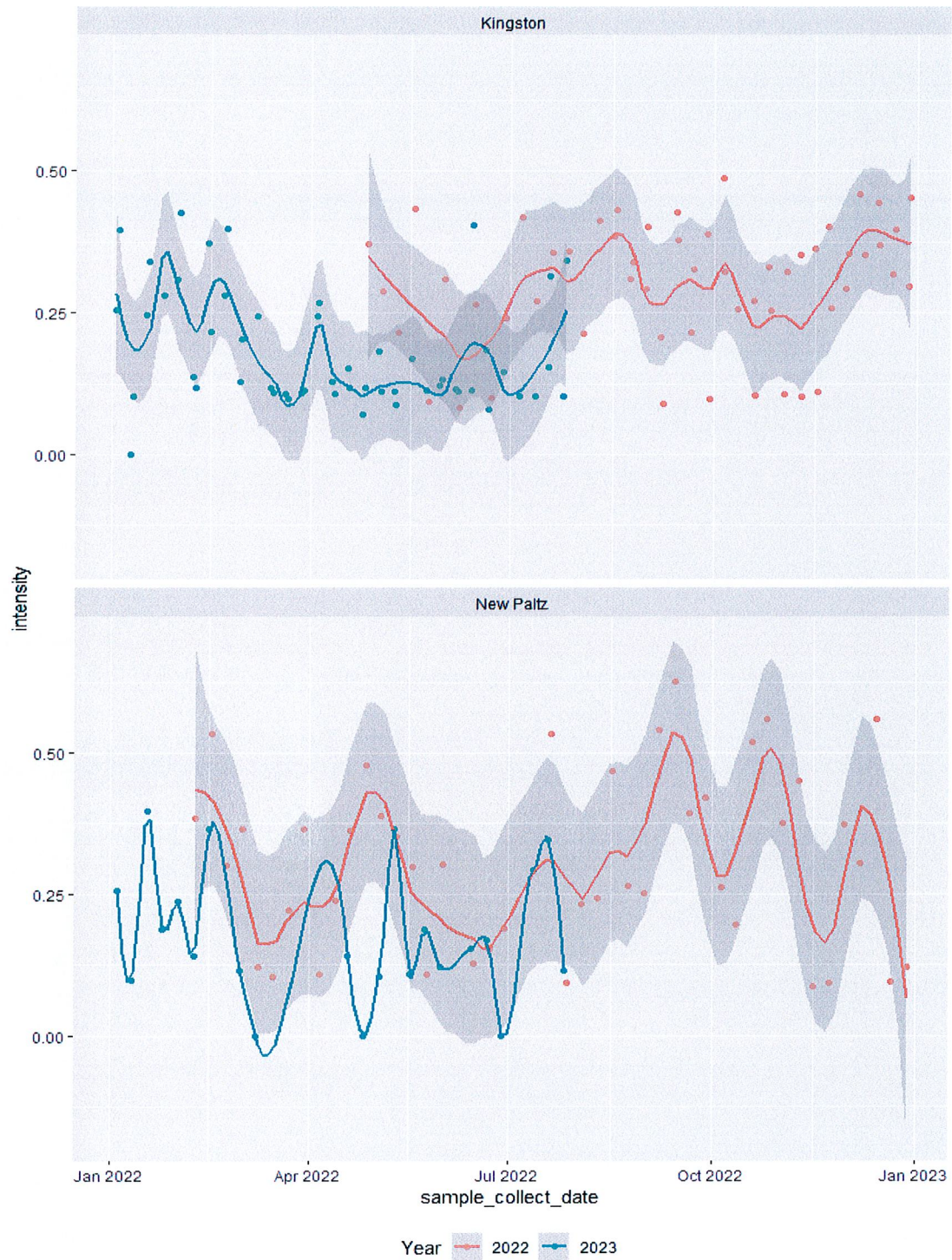
The most recent sample from Kingston on July 26, 2023, had a detection level of “Quantifiable” suggesting daily case incidence of more than 50 cases per 100,000 people.

The most recent sample from New Paltz on July 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 Village of Saugerties on July 19, 2023, had a detection level of “Quantifiable” suggesting daily case incidence of more than 50 cases per 100,000 people.



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

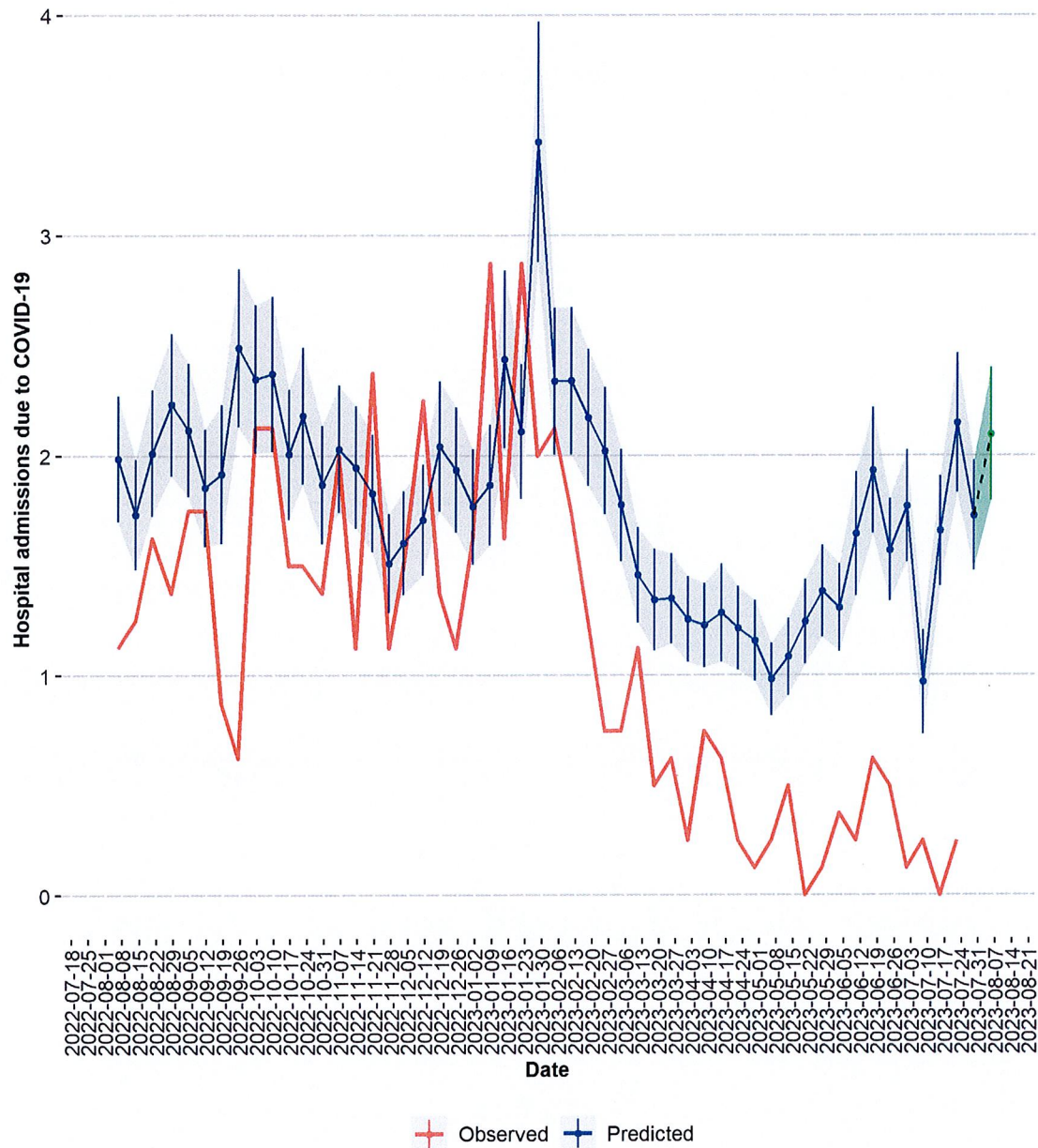


This figure shows an annual comparison of SARS-CoV-2 intensity. Smoothed trend lines, uncertainty (gray bands), and wastewater samples (dots) are shown. The recent trend is lower than year over year values.

Ulster County COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization trend

Predicted 7-day average in-patient hospitalizations in the next 10 days: **2.1***

21.39 percent increase from previous week's prediction



* 1.17 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 ¹	Presence within last six weeks ²
B.1.1.529	WHO	Variant of concern	not detected within state or county	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	not detected within state or county	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	detected at state-level
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 within county	detected within county
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	not detected within state or county

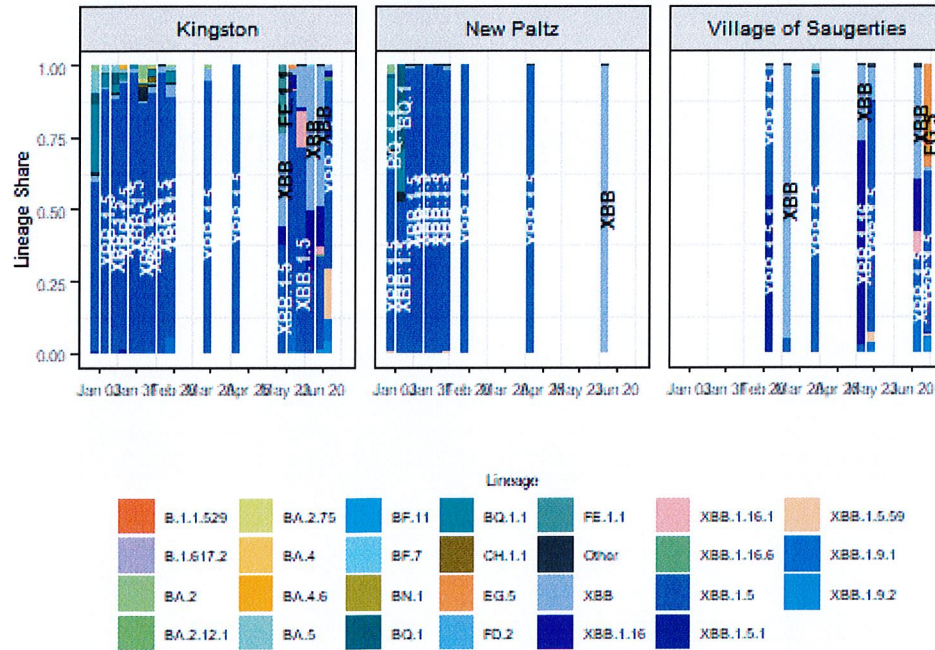
¹ Samples collected from Jul 04, 2023 to Aug 01, 2023

² Samples collected from Jun 20, 2023 to Aug 01, 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

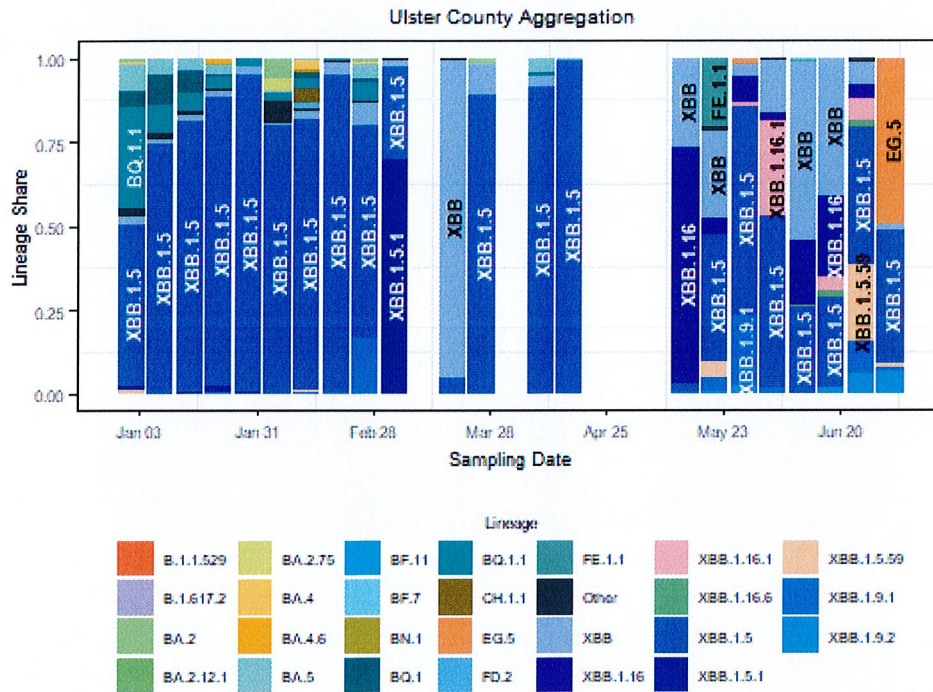
SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Sequencing in 2023 Sewersheds in Ulster County



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



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 7/31/2023

Total Number of Cases: 128

<i>Cases by Gender</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
F	4	5	6	3	5	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	36
M	12	13	17	13	15	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	92
Grand Total	16	18	23	16	20	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	128

<i>Cases by Manner</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	6	7	10	4	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	34
Homicide	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Natural	6	7	5	6	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	37
Pending	1	0	3	2	9	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	33
Suicide	2	2	5	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	16	18	23	16	20	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	128

<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	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	4	4	1	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	20
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
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	2	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	12
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	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Non-Opioid Substance	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Alcohol	0	0	0	1	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	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Other	1	4	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
Pending	0	0	1	1	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	11
Pending - Suspected Opioid	1	0	2	1	7	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	22
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
Grand Total	16	18	23	16	20	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	128