ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

June 11, 2024

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. OLD BUSINESS

a. Approval of May 14, 2024 Minutes

2. Department of Health Report

- a. Acting Public Health Director Update Tim Rose
 - 2025 Budget
- b. Medical Examiner
 - 2024 To-Date Stats
 - American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABDMI) Certification
 - ME Identification Shirts and Vehicle Magnets
- c. COVID Update
 - Wastewater Report
 - Hospitalizations

MEETING CONCLUSION

Ulster County Board of Health
June 11, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Golden Hill Office Building
239 Golden Hill Lane
Kingston, NY 12401

PRESENT: Stephanie Turco, Dr. Marta Sanchez, Christy Keegan, Naomi Stevens, Kathleen Rogan, Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Timothy Rose - Acting Public Health Director

Dr. Gina Carena - Medical Consultant

GUEST:

Call to Order: 5:03 PM

OLD Business:

• Vote to Approve Minutes: A motion was made to approve the May minutes by Dr. Sanchez, seconded by Dr. Saint Jean and unanimously approved.

Department of Health (DOH) Report: Mr. Rose reported on the following:

- 2025 Budget: The Department is currently working with its Division Directors on putting together the proposed 2025 DOH budget. A meeting is scheduled for July 2nd to do a preliminary review with the Executive's Office. The Lead Rental Registry will have a significant impact on the 2025 budget as it will require hiring additional DOH staff as well as requiring a partnership with the City of Kingston. The Department and the Executive's Office is currently ironing out the details of this new initiative. Tom Gibney, Deputy Director for Administration will be invited to the July Board meeting to present the 2025 proposed DOH budget.
- Commissioner of Health/Public Health Director Recruitment: Interviews are currently being conducted by the Executive's Office. The intent is to have a selection within the next few weeks and begin the state vetting and legislative approval process.

• NYS Public Health Corps:

a. Ms. Rogan brought to the attention of the Department and Board, the NYS Public Health Corps fellowship program. As described on the website, "The New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program's mission is to provide professional development opportunities to enhance and apply public health knowledge through training, education, and mentorship, which expands Fellows' public health networks throughout their communities, resulting in a robust New York State public health workforce." Ms. Rogan encouraged the

Department to look into this program as a way to hire staff and reduce the difficulty the Department has had in the recruitment process. The Department will look into this further to determine its feasibility.

b. A discussion ensued regarding the hiring of staff. Civil Service requirements and Tier 6 has been a major deterrent in the hiring process. In years past, individuals would accept lower pay for the benefit of a good pension. Currently, Civil Service jobs still offer lower pay then the private sector. However, the lure of a good pension has greatly diminished with the introduction of Tier 6, resulting in hiring difficulties.

Medical Examiner (ME) Update:

- a. The Medical Examiner reports for 2023 and 2024 YTD were distributed to the Board (see attached). Another category has been added to the report, train vs. pedestrian, to begin tracking motor vehicle deaths separately from train deaths. There was a significant discussion regarding the categories on the report. The Board thought it would be helpful to invite the ME Investigator(s) to come to a fall Board meeting to present and answer any ME questions the Board might have. The Department will schedule this. The Board also inquired about the percentage of autopsies verses total number of County Deaths. The Department will gather this information and report back to the Board with its findings.
- b. Both full-time investigators have received their certification from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (see attached).
- c. The Medical Examiner's Office has purchased polo shirts with the ME seal, as well as "Medical Examiner" magnets for the vehicles as a way to increase professionalism and ease of identification when conducting scene visits.

• COVID Update:

- a. The COVID Wastewater Surveillance report was distributed to the Board (see attached). It was decided that the reports would continue to be distributed until at least the fall, so it can be monitored throughout the summer tourism/festivals season.
- b. COVID hospitalizations were reported, as of 6/11/2024, to be one (1) in Ellenville Regional and two (2) in Hudson Valley Health Alliance.
- Park Workout Equipment: A discussion transpired regarding exercise equipment in parks and recreational areas. Townships are placing equipment in parks and recreational areas for adults to use to increase activity levels. Mr. Rose stated that he would reach out to the County's Department of Public Works to inquire about having equipment available in County owned parks. Furthermore, a conversation was had about free workout classes within the community.

Moving for Life is a NYSDOH grant offering free exercise classes at the Kingston Library. Age Well Kingston also offers free classes being held at the Andy Murphy Center. People's Place in Kingston offers a variety of health and fitness classes as well.

• Summer Board of Health Meetings: A discussion took place regarding Board of Health meetings being held during the summer months taking into consideration member's vacation plans. It was determined that a quorum would be in attendance at the July meeting. Therefore, the July meeting will be held. The August meeting will be determined at a later date.

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

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Rogan, Secretary

Ulster County Department of Health Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases Date of Death between 1/1/2023 and 12/31/2023

Total Number of Cases: 215

Cases by Gender	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
F	4	5	6	3	5	8	3	3	2	4	2	8	53
M	12	12	17	13	15	8	16	13	11	15	18	12	162
Grand Total	16	17	23	16	20	16	19	16	13	19	20	20	215
Cases by Manner	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	7	7	12	6	7	9	10	4	8	7	6	8	91
Homicide	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	7
Natural	6	6	6	6	9	7	5	11	4	8	8	8	84
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Stillborn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Suicide	2	2	5	4	2	0	3	1	1	3	5	2	30
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	16	17	23	16	20	16	19	16	13	19	20	20	215
Cases by Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Alcohol	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Blunt Force Trauma - non-MVA	0	2	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	4	4	1	3	5	5	2	5	1	4	2	6	42
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	0	12
Cardiovascular and Obesity	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	11
Diabetes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Fall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Gunshot Wound	2	2	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	2	2	0	17
Hanging	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	9
Infant	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	10
Non-Opioid Substance	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Alcohol	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Obesity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Opioid w/Other Substances including Xylazine	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	6
Opioid-Related, without Xylazine	4	2	6	4	6	4	6	3	5	3	1	2	46
Other	1	3	. 4	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	3	1	19
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
		-				0				0	0	1	

Ulster County Department of Health Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2023 and 12/31/2023

Total Number of Cases: 215

Grand Total	16	17	23	16	20	16	19	16	13	19	20	20	215
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Train vs Pedestrian	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stab Wound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Smoke Inhalation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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Ulster County Department of Health Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases Date of Dooth between 1/1/2024 and 6/10/2024

Date of Death between 1/1/2024 and 6/10/2024

Total Number of Cases: 89

Cases by Gender	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
F	3	1	6	5	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Fetal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
M	15	12	13	7	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
Grand Total	19	13	19	12	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	89
Cases by Manner	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	8	4	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Natural	8	5	10	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Pending	0	0	0	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Suicide	2	4	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Undetermined	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grand Total	19	13	19	12	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	89
Cases by Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Alcohol	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Asthma	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blunt Force Trauma - non-MVA	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Carbon Monoxide	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	5	2	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular and Obesity	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Complications of Natural Disease	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diabetes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fall - Intentional	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gunshot Wound	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Hanging	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hypothermia	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Motor Vehicle Accident	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Non-Opioid Substance	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances and Alcohol	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid w/Other Substances including Xylazine	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Opioid-Related, without Xylazine	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Other	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pending	0	0	0	5	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	15

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ulster County Department of Health Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2024 and 6/10/2024

Total Number of Cases: 89

Pending - Suspected Opioid	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pneumonia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sharp Force Trauma	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stab Wound	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sudden Unexplained Child/Infant Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Train vs Pedestrian	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	19	13	19	12	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	89

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The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators

professional certification board that has been established to promote the highest standards of practice for medicolegal death The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) is a voluntary national, not-for-profit, independent nvestigators. ABMDI certifies individuals who have the proven knowledge and skills necessary to perform medicolegal death investigations as set forth in the National Institutes of Justice 1999 publication Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator (2011 updated version available).

ABMDI was created, designed, and developed by veteran, practicing medicolegal death investigators who were involved in the development of *Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator*.

in 2005, the ABMDI was first accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board and reaccredited in 2010, 2015 and

The goal of FSAB is to establish a mechanism whereby the forensic community can assess, recognize and monitor organizations or professional boards that certify individual forensic scientists or other forensic specialists.

Purpose of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators®

- To encourage adherence to high standards of professional practice and ethical conduct when performing medicolegal death investigations.
- To recognize qualified individuals who have voluntarily applied for basic and advanced levels of professional certification.
- To grant and issue certificates to individuals who have demonstrated their mastery of investigational techniques and who have successfully completed rigorous examination of their knowledge and skills in the field of medicolegal death investigation.
- To maintain a listing of individuals granted ABMDI certification.
- To recertify individuals every five years according to established professional recertification criteria, including continuing education requirements and work verification.

Benefits of Certification

Official guidelines for medicolegal death investigators had not been established until publication of the National Guidelines for Death Investigation by the National Institute of Justice in December 1997. Twenty-nine tasks were identified that may need to be performed to properly conduct a medicolegal death investigation. The guidelines were renamed and published in 1999 as Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator. These national guidelines were validated by the Technical Working Group for Death Investigation (TWIGDI), the National Medicolegal Review Panel (NMRP) and 146 members of the TWGDI national reviewers network. Certification provides official recognition by an independent professional certification body that an properly conduct medicolegal death investigations. The individual agrees to adhere to the highest standards of professional individual has acquired specialized knowledge and demonstrated proficiency in the standards and practice necessary to practice and ethical conduct when serving the public and when representing the profession.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions of our certificants are not necessarily those of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

News

The ABMDI was formed in 1996 when the first working group for Medicolegal Death Investigators sta... 2024 Changes to ABMDI Certification Process - Tue 23, Apr 2024

ABMDI Certification Changes Effective July 1, 2022 - Wed 01, Jun 2022
As of July 1, 2022 the following changes are being made to the ABMDI Policy and Procedures. E...

Office of Justice Programs (OJP) / Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Interagency Medicolegal

Death Investigation Working Group (MDI-WG) Resource Page - Fri 30, Jul 2021
The link for the page is below: https://www.ojp.gov/resources/ojp-hhs-mdi-wg This is a gre...

More News...

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Ulster County Wastewater Surveillance Update

DATE: June 10, 2024

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

FROM: Shailla Raymond, MPH

RE: Ulster County Weekly Wastewater Surveillance Data Report

Dashboard | Website

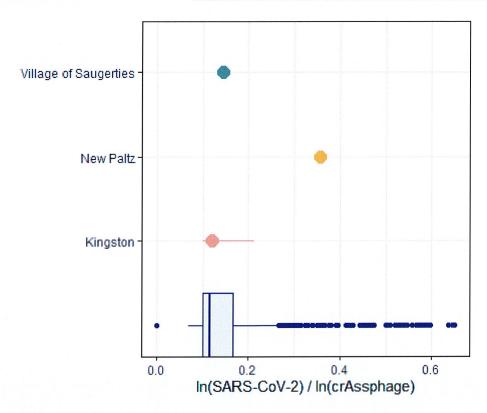
This report contains information **Ulster County** treatment plants over the time period of **2024-05-15 to 2024-06-05.**

		from Ulster County From to			
Collection Date	Detection Level	Compared to NYS	Two-Week Trend		
/illage of Saugerties					
June 5, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>higher</td><td>decreasing</td></loq<>	higher	decreasing		
May 29, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>lower</td><td>decreasing</td></loq<>	lower	decreasing		
May 22, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>higher</td><td colspan="3">decreasing</td></loq<>	higher	decreasing		
May 15, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>comparable</td><td>decreasing</td></loq<>	comparable	decreasing		
Kingston					
June 4, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>lower</td><td>increasing</td></loq<>	lower	increasing		
May 29, 2024	Quantifiable	higher	increasing		
May 28, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>lower</td><td colspan="3">increasing</td></loq<>	lower	increasing		
May 22, 2024	Detected, < LOQ	lower	increasing		
May 21, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>lower</td><td>increasing</td></loq<>	lower	increasing		
May 15, 2024	Detected, <loq< td=""><td>comparable</td><td>increasing</td></loq<>	comparable	increasing		
New Paltz					
May 22, 2024	Quantifiable	higher	NA		

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

Box Plot for Treatment Plants in Ulster County from 2024-05-15 to 2024-06-05

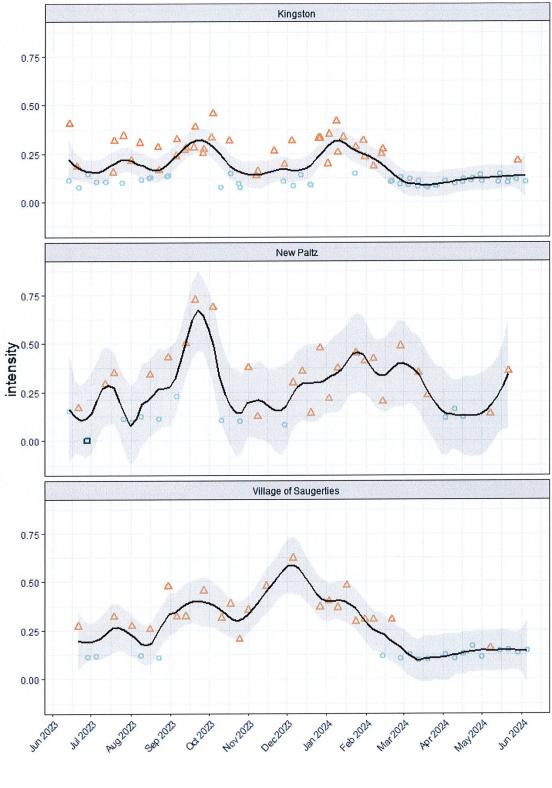


Points represent the SARS-CoV-2 intensity of samples taken at the influent over the last two weeks. The box plot represents all SARS-CoV-2 values from the previous two weeks as observed from wastewater treatment facilities across New York. The box plot shows the median (solid line), first and third quartiles (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(SARS-CoV-2)/ln(crAssphage), to give overall intensity.

The most recent sample from Kingston on June 04, 2024 is lower when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from New Paltz on May 22, 2024 is higher when compared to New York State values.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on June 05, 2024 is higher when compared to New York State values.



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(SARS-CoV-2)/ln(crAssphage), to give overall intensity.

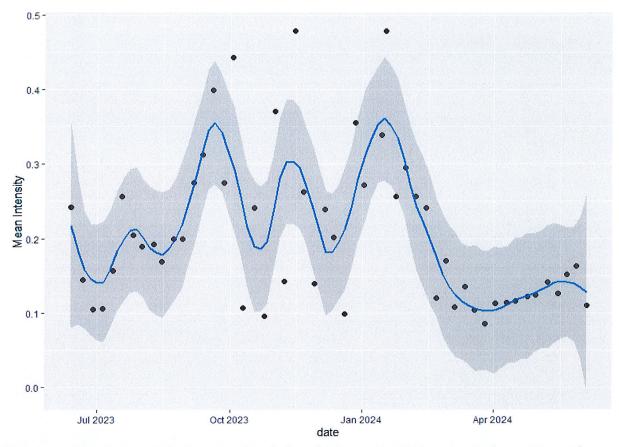
The level of SARS-CoV-2 RNA can tell us roughly how many cases can be expected in a population.

- 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 June 04, 2024, had a detection level of "Detected, <LOQ" suggesting daily case incidence of 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people.

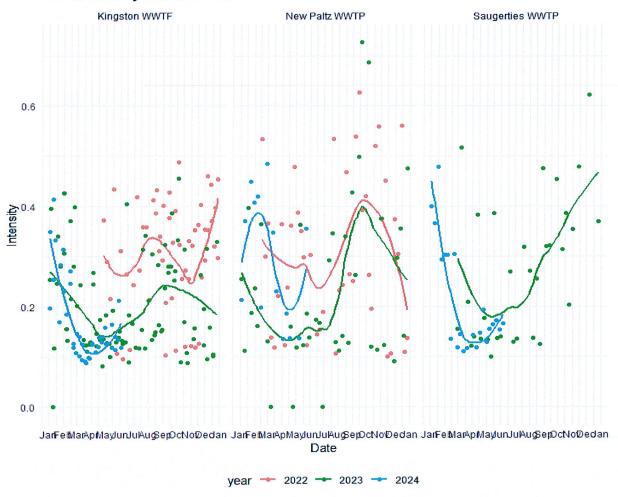
The most recent sample from New Paltz on May 22, 2024, had a detection level of "Quantifiable" suggesting daily case incidence of more than 50 cases per 100,000 people.

The most recent sample from Village of Saugerties on June 05, 2024, 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.

Trend lines by Site and Year

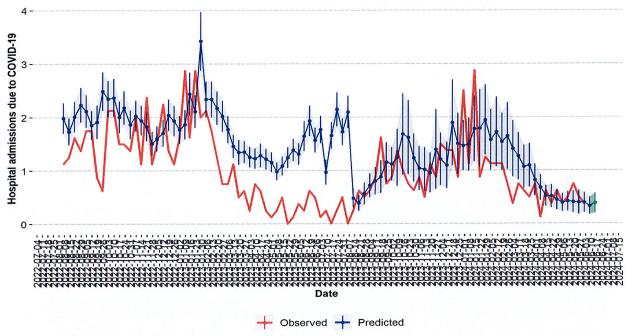


This figure shows an annual comparison of SARS-CoV-2 intensity. Smoothed trend lines, uncertainty (gray bands), and wastewater samples (dots) are shown. The recent trend is lower than year over year values.

Ulster County COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization trend

Predicted 7-day average in-patient hospitalizations in the next 10 days: 0.38*

15.15 percent increase from previous week's prediction



* 0.22 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, log transformed active case numbers, along with several covariates including population over 50 years old, estimated asthma and cardiovascular disease rate for the county, and county social vulnerability from the CDC social vulnerability index.

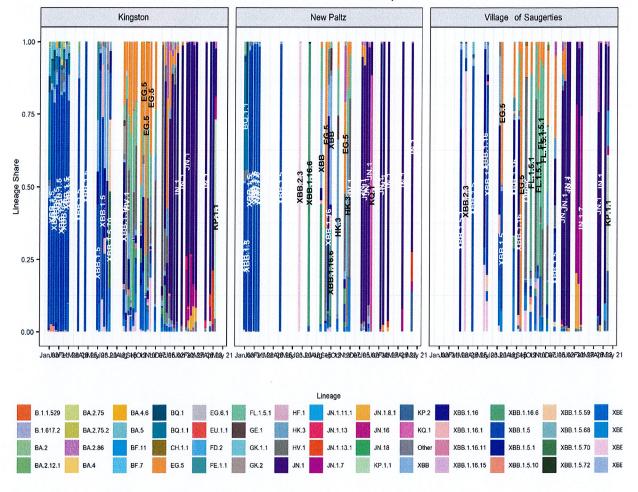
The new model also includes a regional average for SARS-CoV-2 intensity detection for the past 90 days indicative of the overall state of transmission for a region. This model makes predictions with new data for future hospital admissions and provides uncertainty around the prediction in the form of 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 HERDS or Health Electronic Response System data These data are up-to-date for most counties. We will update these data and the models as new data are provided. Estimated new COVID-19 hospitalizations are predictions only and come 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. 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.

Label	Sewershed	Variants Found
Variant of concern	Kingston	BA.2.86; JN.1.13.1; JN.1.16; JN.1.18; JN.1.32; JN.1.7; JN.1.8.1; KS.1; LB.1; XDV.1
Variant of interest	Kingston	JN.1; KS.1
Variant under monitoring	Kingston	JN.1; JN.1.16; JN.1.16.1
Variant of interest	New Paltz	KS.1
Variant of concern	Village of Saugerties	JN.1; JN.1.16; JN.1.18; JN.1.4.3; KP.3; XDP
Variant of interest	Village of Saugerties	JN.1.11.1
Variant under monitoring	Village of Saugerties	JN.1.16.1; JN.1.8.1; KP.2

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

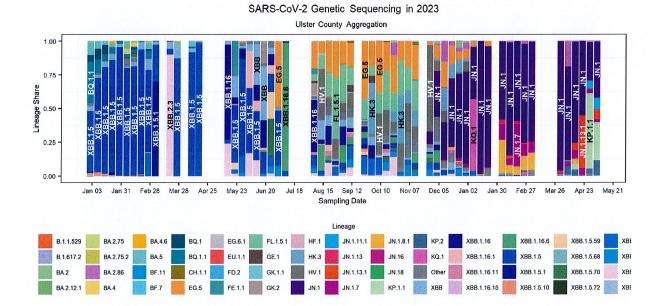
Find out more about monitoring status of SARS-CoV-2 variants: ECDC, WHO

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.



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.