

**MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 23, 2023, at 3:00 PM

In Person & Virtual Meeting

President MacMillan called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Debra Baldauff
Don Cassano (via phone)
Matthew Farber
Paul Stander (via phone)
Paula Banahan
Robert MacMillan

Members Absent:

Scott Celley
Supervisor Bill Gates
Kristen Acton

Ex-Officio: Marcy Flanagan

1. CALL TO ORDER

President MacMillan

- A. Roll Call**
- B. Call to the Public**

Addressing the public, President MacMillan advised all how to use the chat box to comment or add any questions for the agenda items. Ms. Sampler informed all that there were no requests known to speak at this time; all were told that they would have the opportunity to type questions using the chat box, which will be acknowledged during and or after the meeting accordingly.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. Approval of Minutes

President MacMillan

President MacMillan asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Health (BOH) meeting held on October 24, 2022. Dr. Farber motioned to approve the BOH minutes as presented and seconded by Mr. Cassano. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Health Update

Scot Pitcairn

2nd Quarter Update - Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Status Report

Mr. Pitcairn provided an update for the Public Health FY23 Quarter 2 Budget Status Report for the funds listed below. The finance memo is attached to the agenda outlining the updates for all funds reported.

- **Fund 100 – General Fund**
- **Fund 265 –Public Health Fee Fund**
- **Fund 293 – Justice Reinvestment Fund**
- **Fund 296 – State & Local Recovery Funds/American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

The board requested additional information for fund 296, Ms. Lee Ann Bohn provided a link to reference [COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act Funds | Maricopa County, AZ.](#)

- **Fund 297- Opioid Settlement Fund**
- **Fund 532 - Grant Fund**

The total amount for the new Workforce Infrastructure grant from the CDC is approximately \$38 million upfront one-time funding to be used over a five-year period and then \$1.7 million annually for each of the next five years. According to Ms. Flanagan, the Infrastructure Grant is the first time that the Federal Government has pledged this amount of funding for public health infrastructure. The purpose is to reinforce the staff that local public health hired during COVID, so when the next pandemic occurs, public health will avoid being behind as was seen nationally. Most of the health departments are trying to catch up so that they are prepared to do contact tracing, case investigation, and other types of work needed. Much of the funding is going to continue employing staff and ensure that public health has a stable minimum infrastructure in the department to respond to emergencies and continue to be an accredited health department to have comprehensive business and finance, grant management kind of department. A lot of the funds are going toward that purpose as well as staffing for additional clinics purchased with the ARPA monies. Those positions are billable activities that occur in the clinic. The CDC advises that the 1.7 million is not only for the five years the health department was rewarded, but the funds will be a part of their permanent budget from the federal government.

A discussion was had about obtaining qualified candidates. Should the department present an offer to a candidate for which they decline the offer, the department would need to start the recruitment process over again. This has caused a change in the pay scale midyear. The county approved a 10 percent pay rate, which made a difference.

There were no additional questions for any of the funds reported.

Environmental Services

Sylvie Donaldson

2nd Quarter Update - Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Status Report

Ms. Donaldson presented the Board with the Environmental Services FY23 Quarter 2 Budget Status Report for the funds listed below. The finance memo is attached to the agenda outlining the updates for all funds reported.

- **Fund 100 - County General Fund**
- **Fund 290 – Environmental Tire Fund**
- **Fund 506 – Environmental Fee Fund**

The department has also seen challenges with its recruitment due to wages; however, the large increase approved by the Board of Supervisors brought some relief to the process. There is a job fair coming up, which the department is hoping will help with recruitment. The board responded that various industries are still facing challenges even with the increase in wages and are not having a lot of success nationally. There were no additional questions for any of the funds reported.

4. Environmental Services Dept. Fee Waiver Applications –

Robert Stratman

Request for Board of Health approval of twelve (12) fee waiver applicants

This quarter, the department reviewed twelve (12) fee waiver applications. Of the applications reviewed, staff determined that all meet the criteria outlined in the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code.

As a reminder, only an operator of a charitable nonprofit establishment that operates to provide relief predominantly for the poor, distressed, or underprivileged may apply to the Board of Health for a waiver of a permit fee. A waiver of a permit fee may be granted only to the operator of an establishment that maintains a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt designation from the Internal Revenue Service and who demonstrates to the Board of Health that payment of said fee will cause financial hardship. In addition, a waiver of fees associated with the administering and issuance of a food employee certificate (in compliance with A.R.S. § 41-1080) may be granted to a current student enrolled in a K-12 culinary arts school program or similar curriculum-based programs requiring food employee certificates. The sponsoring school district must demonstrate to the Board of Health that payment of said fee will cause financial hardship. Again, all fee waiver applications reviewed this quarter appear to meet the criteria.

The Board had no questions, Mr. Stratman requested approval of the applications on the Fee Waiver Application Summary Sheet labeled P1 through P9 and C1 through C3

(memo and report summary attached to meeting agenda)

President MacMillan asked if there was a motion to approve the 12 fee waiver applications presented as P1 through P9 and C1-C3. A motion was made by Mr. Cassano to approve P1 through P9 and C1-C3 fee waiver applications and seconded by Ms. Baldauff. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Air Quality Department

Greg Verkamp
Kimberly Butler

Mr. Verkamp and Ms. Butler presented AQ-2021-004 Rule 205 (Emission Offsets Generated by Voluntary Mobile Source Emission Reduction Credits) to the board, requesting that the board make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the creation of Rule 205.

Maricopa County is currently designated as a nonattainment area for both the 2008 and the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. In ozone nonattainment areas, the Clean Air Act requires owners and operators proposing to construct a new major source or make a major modification to obtain emission offsets before the project may commence. Currently, insufficient emission reduction credits exist in the Arizona Emissions Bank for large businesses to use as emission offsets. The purpose of this rulemaking is to create a new economic development rule which will provide a mechanism for the creation of more emission reduction credits, specifically mobile source emission reduction credits (MERCs), for use as emission offsets.

In January 2022, the department requested the initiation of this rulemaking, and it was approved by the board. A summary of the regulatory background was provided, adding that stakeholders expressed support for the rulemaking. In December, the department posted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on its EROP website for a 30-day period. The department did not receive any comments after the Notice was posted. The department is requesting that the board make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval of a new economic

development rule, which is voluntary. Mr. Verkamp emphasized no one is required to comply with rule unless they decide to participate in the MERC program. It was confirmed that there were no comments of opposition to the Rule.

President MacMillan asked if there was a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the creation of AQ-2021-004 Rule 205 (Emission Offsets Generated by Voluntary Mobile Source Emission Reduction Credits). Ms. Banahan made the recommendation, seconded by Dr. Farber. All were in favor of the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the creation of AQ 2021-004 Rule 205.

Discussion Items

6. Public Health Report

Marcy Flanagan

- A. Human Resources
- B. Communications
- C. Infrastructure
- D. Strategic Planning
- E. Programs
- F. Disease Update
- G. Health Status/Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)
- H. Heat Report
- I. Future Topic
- J. Covid Status Update

Dr. Rebecca Sunenshine

Ms. Flanagan provided the board with Public Health's internal departmental updates informing all that Dr. Sunenshine was invited to give the board a Covid status update later in the meeting.

- New Organizational Departmental Chart was completed end of 2022
- Hired two additional Division Administrators
- New Organizational changes are expected to be completed by mid-February

The primary goal surrounding the new organizational structure was to get programs and departments that have similar functions or focus on the same populations to be answering to the same Division Administrator. So, there's a lot of shuffling going around within the department and clinical services to house all their functions in the same division.

- Business practices will be consolidated and centralized by the mid-Summer or early Fall of 2023
- Achieve more streamlined business operations and services offered to the public

Ms. Flanagan shared that she met with all the Arizona Local Health Officers, and Dr. Thresa Cullen, who currently is the Health Officer for Pima County, was identified as the new Health Officer for ADHS.

Public Health's General Fund 100 shows a positive variance (under budget) year-to-date (Epidemiology), being under by \$590,906; most of this is due to vacancy savings and reallocations of payroll to the ARPA funding. The department is making great efforts to help spend monies by working closely with ASU, U of A, and the county to fill positions. Maricopa County's Human Resource Department has also explored the option to telework out of State for those positions that are hard to fill. The county has also offered sign-on bonuses for positions like a nurse. All these things help with the spending of the General Fund monies being under budget, spending almost \$600,000 in Epidemiology. An example of State-to-State wages was provided. Ms. Flanagan believes that the

county is competitive with its wages and incentives; it is known as a national situation. Public Health pay aligns with others. However, the problem is that the pay the department has and the experience required for that pay match an entry-level in those fields. The county is willing to examine this closely. The incentives are being provided. It was also noted that people in the workforce like to move around nowadays as opposed to historically staying in one position.

Dr. Sunenshine presented the board with an update on infectious diseases giving an overview of each slide.

Global & National COVID-19 update

Global & National COVID-19 Update

Global

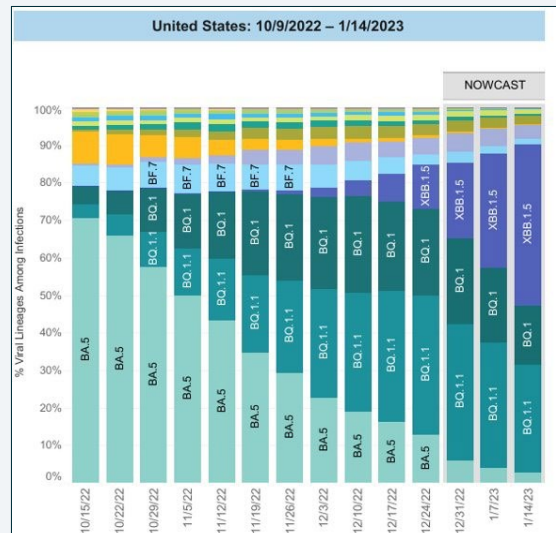
- Per WHO, reported cases have decreased slightly since the prior week; deaths remained fairly constant .
- China reported on January 12 that nearly 60,000 people with COVID-19 have died since early December, not including people who died at home.
- XBB.1.5 identified in Denmark and the UK.

National

- XBB.1.5 increased from 30.4% to 43.0% of sequenced samples.

Region 9 (AZ, CA, NV, HA, Pacific Islands)

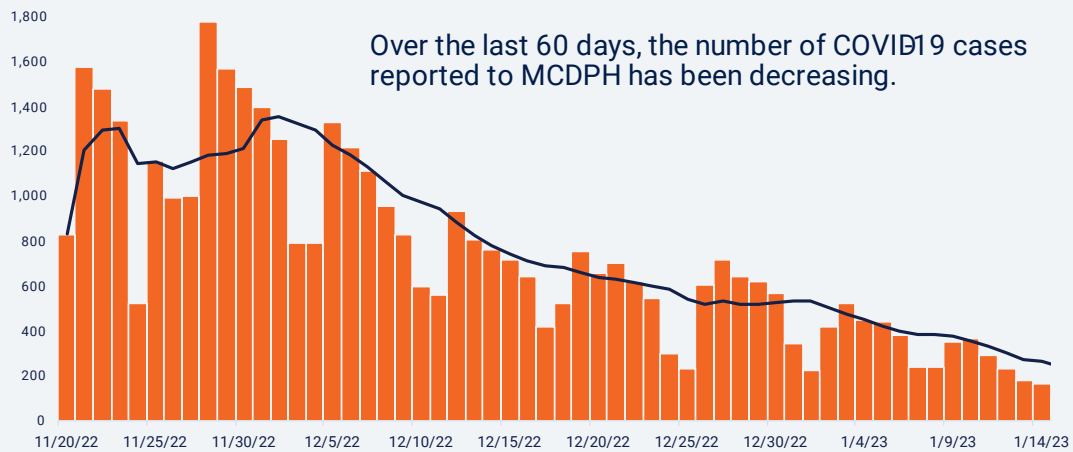
- XBB.1.5 associated with 15.8% of sequenced samples.



- It's believed that what's happening in China will have some global impact.
- Reports show that XBB.1.5 has been spreading rapidly
- Increased media coverage surrounding the newest variant XBB.1.5
- Public Health expects the Coronavirus to constantly mutate, which is what that type of virus does
- XBB.1.5 is rapidly spreading, as shown in Denmark and the UK
- People have immunity to the last variant, XBB.1.5 is very infectious than the last variant; outcompete the last strain
- Almost 43% for National Region 9 classified as how Public Health quality themselves in the preparedness world; were lumped with a bunch of states
- XBB.1.5 constitutes about 16% of all isolated viruses

COVID-19 in Maricopa County

60 - day epi curve



- The epidemiology curve for Maricopa County shows the last 60 days have been on a downward trend with COVID-19 for case numbers
- Many people are not being tested in a lab vs. in their homes, so the numbers are unrepresented here

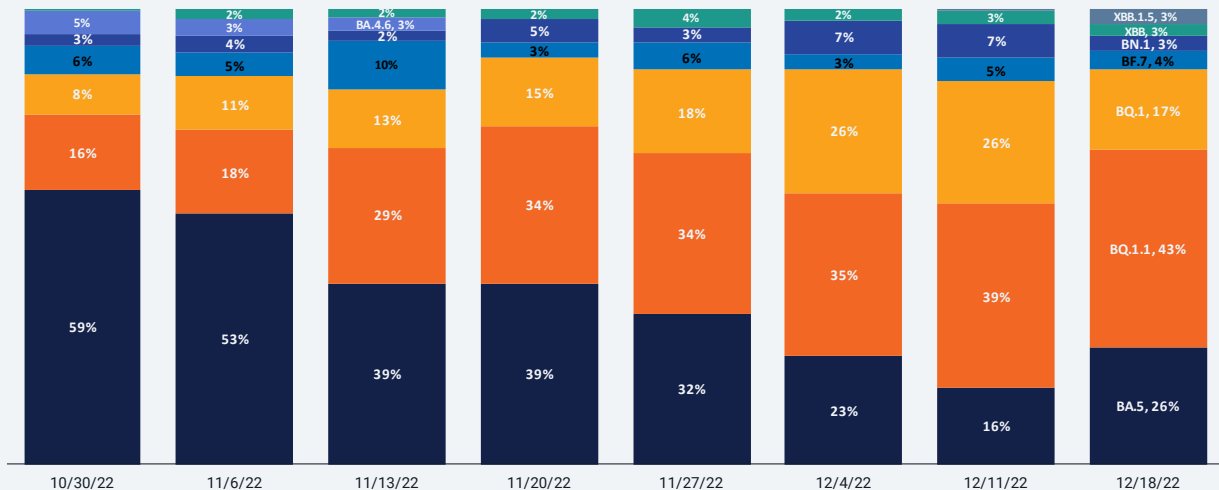
COVID-19 Hospital Metrics



The metric shown are in addition to case counts; the top graph is the number of new admissions due to COVID-19

COVID-19 Variants

COVID-19 Variants



A comparison was provided, displaying XBB.1.5 being at 3% (top right bar) with that of Region 9 being 16% and 43% nationally. The county has a much smaller proportion of XBB.1.5 compared to the rest of the country. The

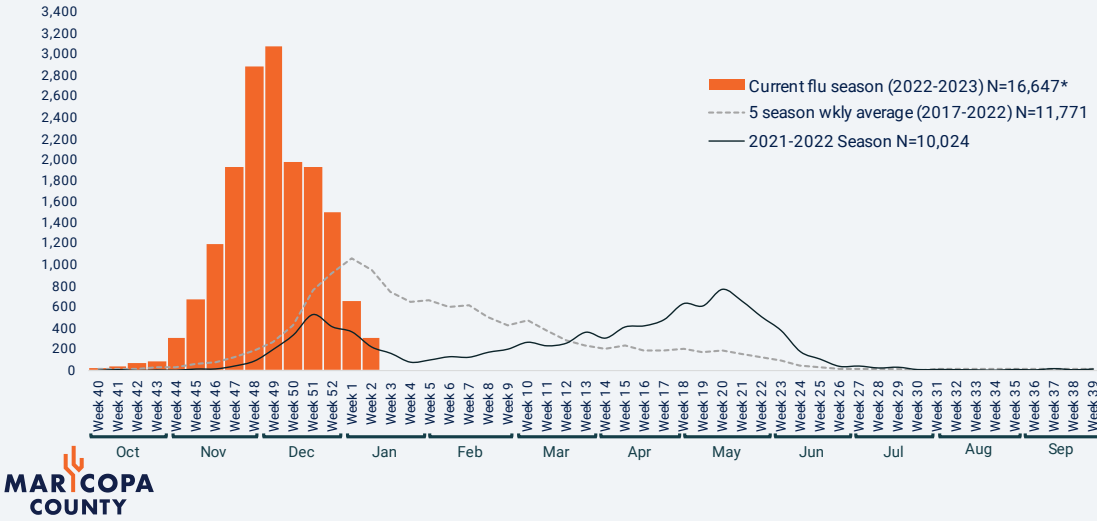
Reports show that almost every variant trend hits the East coast first and then travels West. Public Health has plans in place to address lots of outbreaks and situations; the difficulty is when something brand new like COVID, it takes time to gather how the virus behaves, spreads, and what mitigation efforts will work. Which helps in the future, but it didn't help when this occurred. No one had ever seen something such as this that lasted this long in over 100 years. There is talk about annual vaccines; however, according to WHO and the CDC, we are still in a pandemic that has lasted over three years, and plans are forming as they move forward.

DRAFT

Influenza

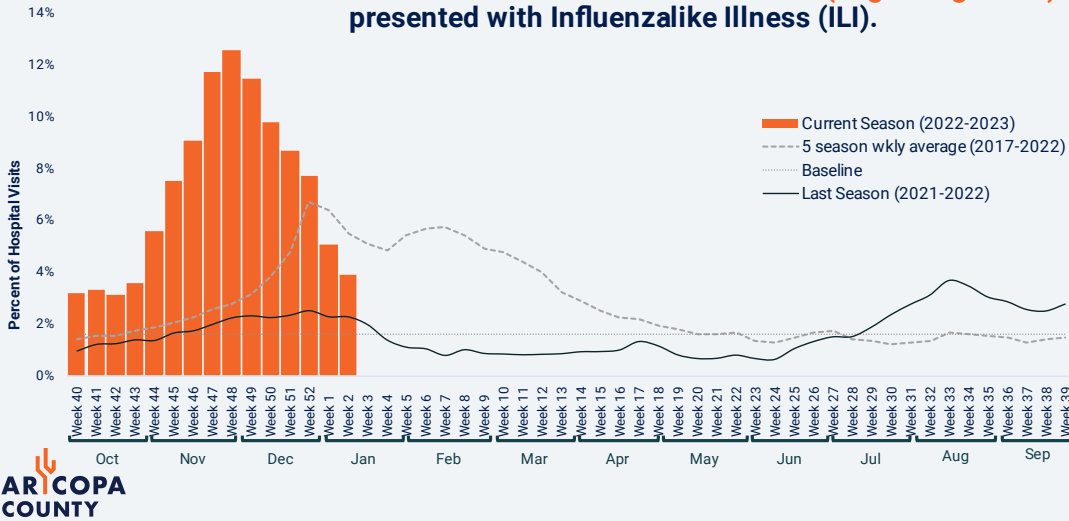
Influenza

There were **301** influenza cases reported in **week 2 (beginning Jan 8)** with a **2022-2023 season total of 16,636** cases.



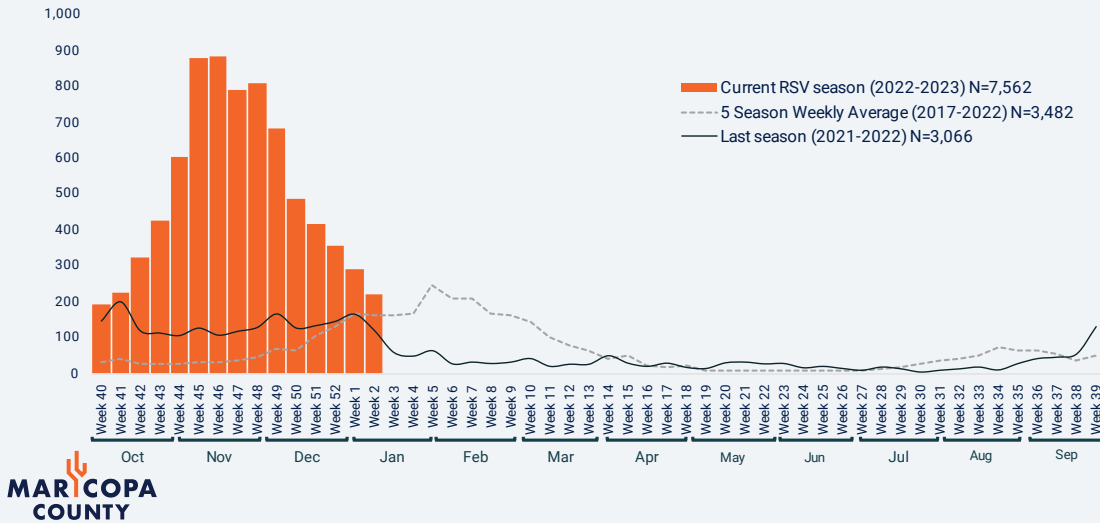
Influenza-like illness in MC hospitals and urgent cares

3.9% of all ED and UC visits in **week 2 (beginning Jan 8)** presented with Influenza-like illness (ILI).



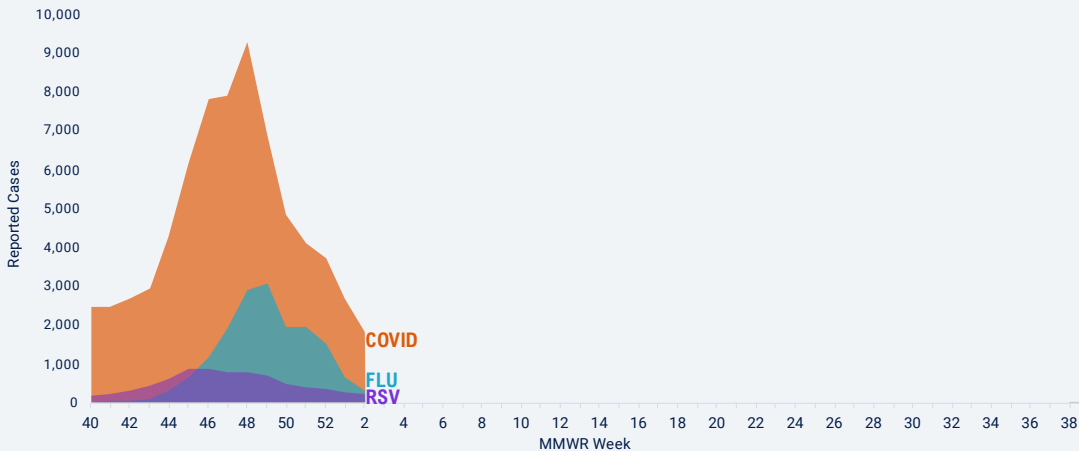
RSV

There were **214 RSV cases reported in week 2 (beginning Jan 8)** with a **2022-2023 season total of 7,558 RSV cases.**



COVID-19, influenza, and RSV

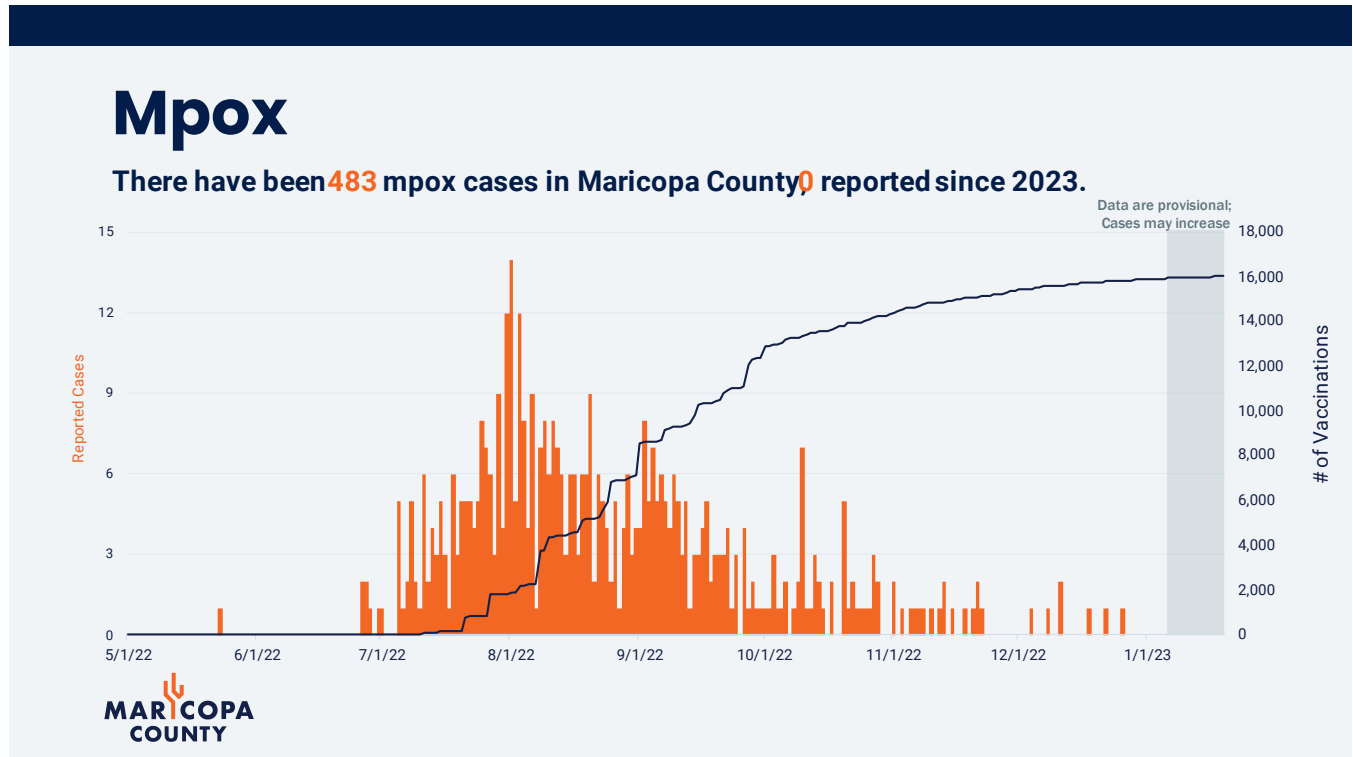
Reported cases of **COVID-19, flu, and RSV** are decreasing.



An overview of Flu data was shared, showing a dramatic decline. Based on a five-year average, flu season traditionally peaks around the end of December, which is what the charts show. A discussion was had concerning the different times' flu peaks in our county. Public Health is aware that there are still people who need to be vaccinated, and they're still people at very high risk. Public Health will continue to offer vaccinations

and push them out. Fully vaccinated people are nineteen times less likely to die. Being fully vaccinated and getting boosters significantly helps. Public Health receives its guidance from the FDA and CDC.

Mpox (formally known as Monkeypox)



The chart provided an overview of how Mpox peaked in August vs. now there are no cases since January, which is similar to the county’s Hepatitis curve, in which the county was able to provide more vaccinations and knock out the disease, unlike COVID, it has more to do with the way it’s transmitted, and with the portion of the population at risk because that was vaccinated.

Preliminary safety signal among Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 recipients aged 65+ years

FDA/CDC Press Release (1/13/2023)

- Preliminary signal in CDC's VSD (Vaccine Safety Datalink) "raised a question of whether people 65 and older who have received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent were more likely to have an ischemic stroke in the 21 days following vaccination compared with days 22-42 following vaccination."
 - No similar signal seen for Moderna Bivalent COVID -19 Vaccine
 - No similar signals in other data sets (VAERS, CMS, VA, Pfizer global safety database)
 - No similar signals from other countries
- CDC and FDA are running additional analyses and will present the findings at an FDA VRBPAC meeting on January 26.
- No changes to vaccine recommendations at this time.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/bivalentboosters.html>

Dr. Sunenshine closed out her presentation with the Pfizer Bivalent, which has received a lot of media coverage lately. There are no recommendations to change vaccination recommendations at this time, but the department will keep following them.

Announcements and Current Events

There was nothing presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Stander made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Baldauff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

**President/
Board Members**

President MacMillan