



Weekly Epidemiologist Report

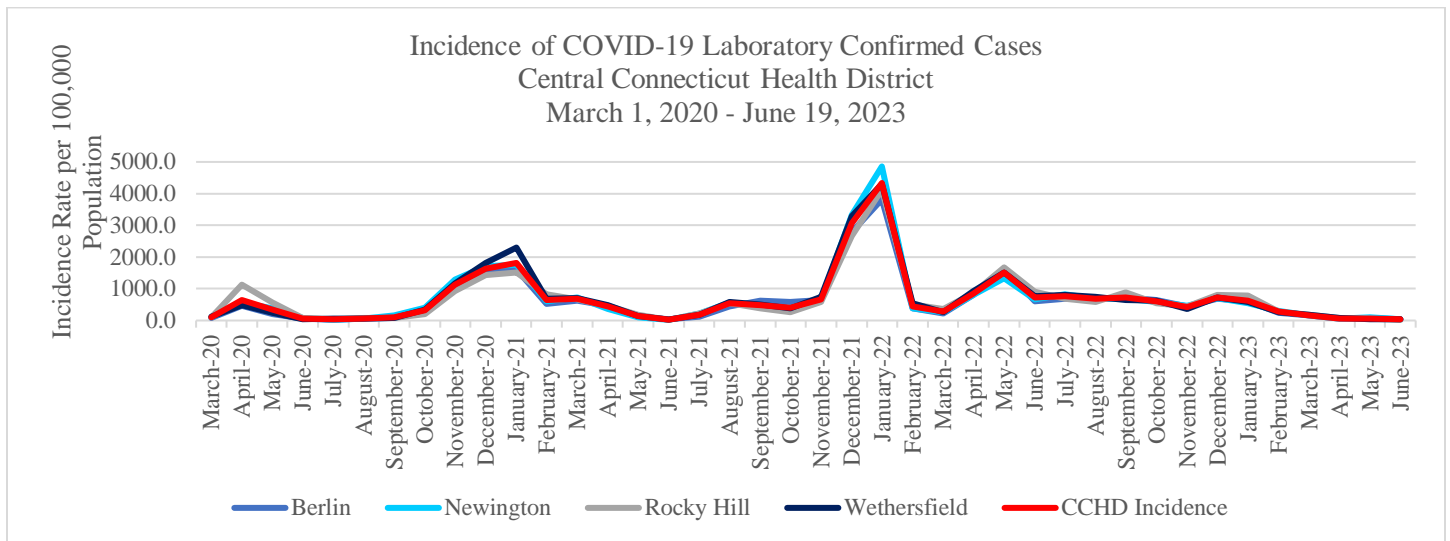
June 19, 2023

*Prepared by: Christine M. DePierro-Gacek,
Epidemiologist*

COVID-19

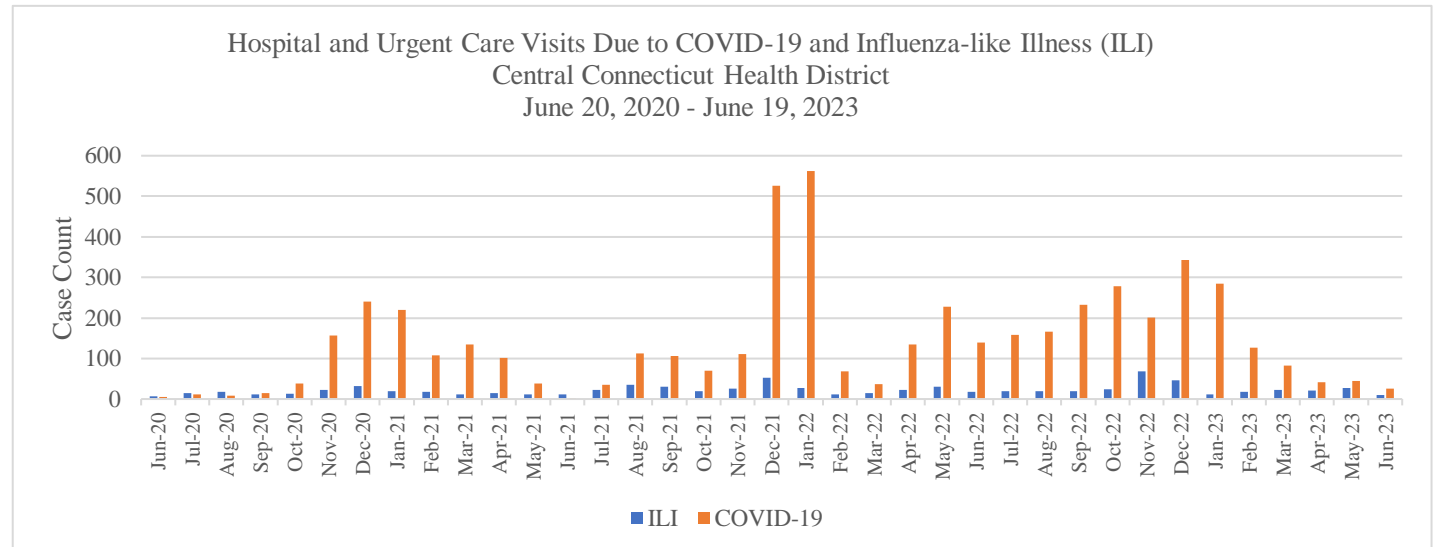
Data for COVID-19 was collected on Monday, June 19, 2023, from the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s Local Health Line List Portal. Figure 1.1 illustrates the incidence in the number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 tests in the Central Connecticut Health District since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020.

Figure 1.1



The bar graph below illustrates the syndromic surveillance of hospital and urgent care visits due to COVID-19 (those with a COVID-19 diagnosis and symptoms) and influenza-like illness (ILI). The cases in Figure 1.2 are residents of the Central Connecticut Health District who are seeking emergent care due to COVID-19 or ILI. COVID-19 testing and syndromic surveillance have remained low this past month.

Figure 1.2



NATIONAL RESPIRATORY AND ENTERIC VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NREVSS)

UPDATE:

Data for the following CDC disease surveillance programs were updated on June 13, 2023.

Norovirus

The Northeastern Region levels of PCR detection of norovirus are continuing to decrease. Norovirus can remain on surfaces for weeks at a time and is extremely contagious. Symptoms of norovirus include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/index.html>

Human Parainfluenza Virus Types 1-3

Nationally, parainfluenza virus types 1 (HPIV) antigen test positivity remains high, while HPIV 2 and 3 test positivity have not seen significant changes. HPIV is associated with croup and can cause upper and lower respiratory illness and cold-like symptoms. For more information on HPIV please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parainfluenza/hcp/clinical.html>

Adenovirus

Nationally adenovirus antigen test positivity has decreased from the previous reporting period, but remains high (>20%). Adenovirus is the most common cause of respiratory illness. Adenovirus can also cause gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and less commonly, neurological disease. For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/adenovirus/hcp/clinical-overview.html>

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

In the State of Connecticut, RSV (antigen and PCR) test positivity remains low and stable. RSV can cause different types of respiratory illness, however it most commonly causes cold-like symptoms. It can cause serious illness, such as bronchitis and pneumonia in infants and young children and people who are immunocompromised or who have chronic lung disease. For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/clinical/index.html>

Rotavirus

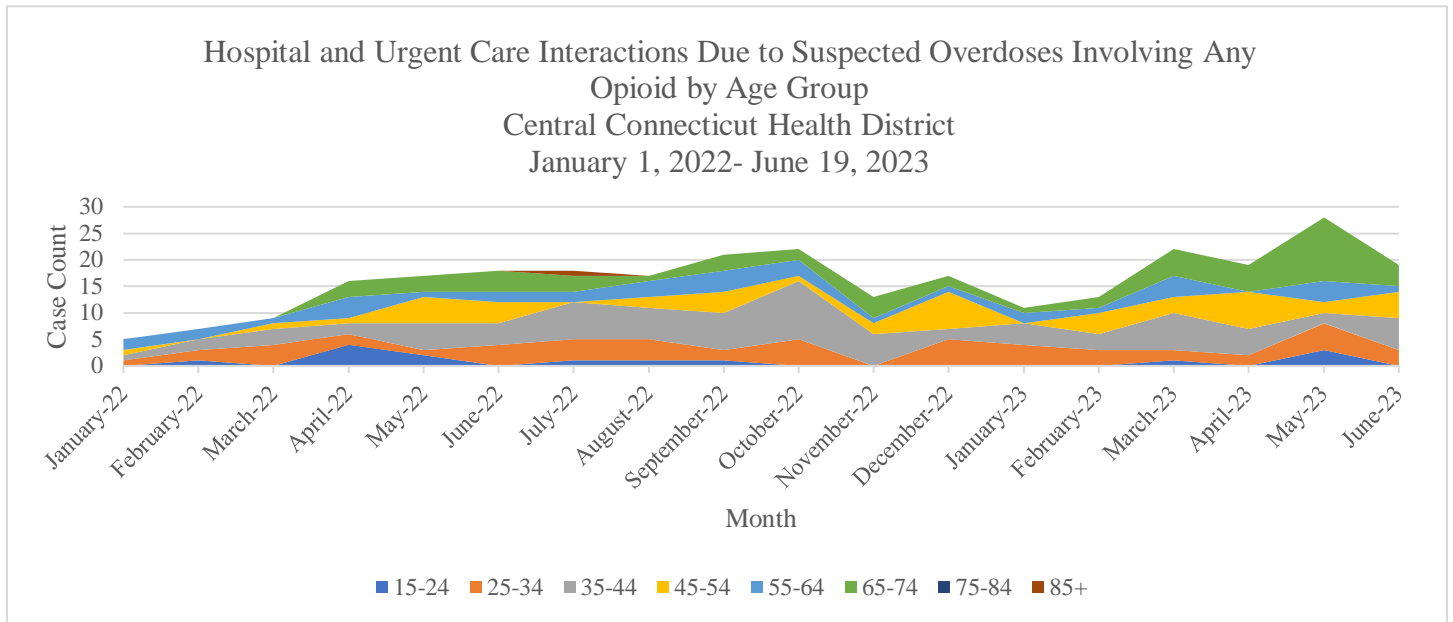
In the Northeast region, rotavirus antigen test positivity remains above 5%. Symptoms of rotavirus include vomiting and watery diarrhea for three to eight days. Fever and abdominal pain is also common. Rotavirus is primarily transmitted through the fecal-oral route. For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rotavirus/clinical.html>

SUSPECTED OVERDOSES

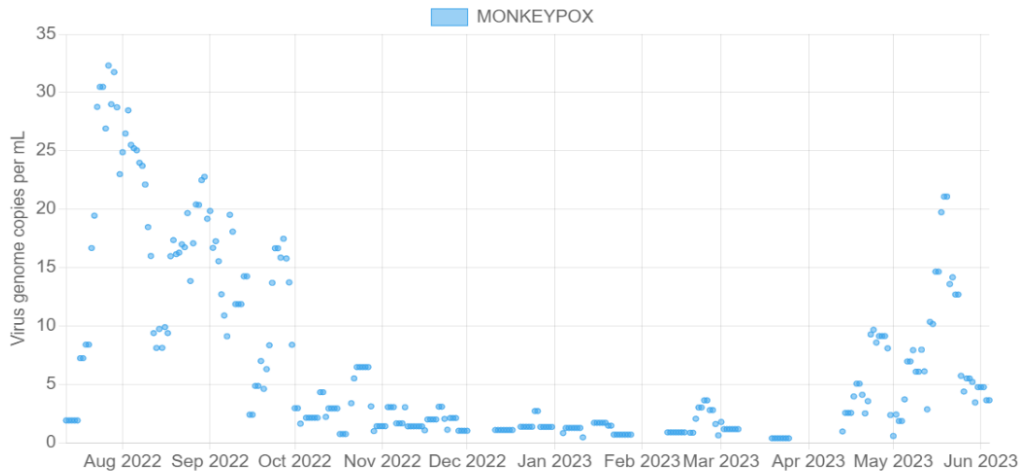
Figure 2.1 shows the syndromic surveillance of those brought to urgent care or the hospital for a suspected overdose due to opiates from January 1, 2022 to June 19, 2023 by age group. This Spring we are seeing an increased number in overdoses compared to last year. If you or a love one are experiencing addiction to opiates, please reach out to the health district, so we can help provide you with naran, fentanyl test strips, and resources and services for getting help (860)785-8380 or email Sara Piatti at spiatti@ccthd.org.

Figure 2.1



MPOX

Yale University currently conducts wastewater surveillance on MPOX (formerly known as Monkey Pox) through New Haven’s Water Pollution Control Authority. For the week of June 11, 2023, New Haven’s data showed elevated copies of viral genome sequencing of MPOX per milliter. Nationally, wastewater surveillance for MPOX is showing a similar trend. If you or a loved one is experiencing a pox-like rash, please see your primary-care provider as soon as possible. If you think you may be sick with MPOX please click the link to know what steps are needed to take care of yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/if-sick/what-to-do.html>.



<https://yalecovidwastewater.com/mpox/>

FOOD RECALLS

Click the link to know what foods have been recalled because they are contaminated. Please check your cupboards and throw out any of these items: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/>

FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS

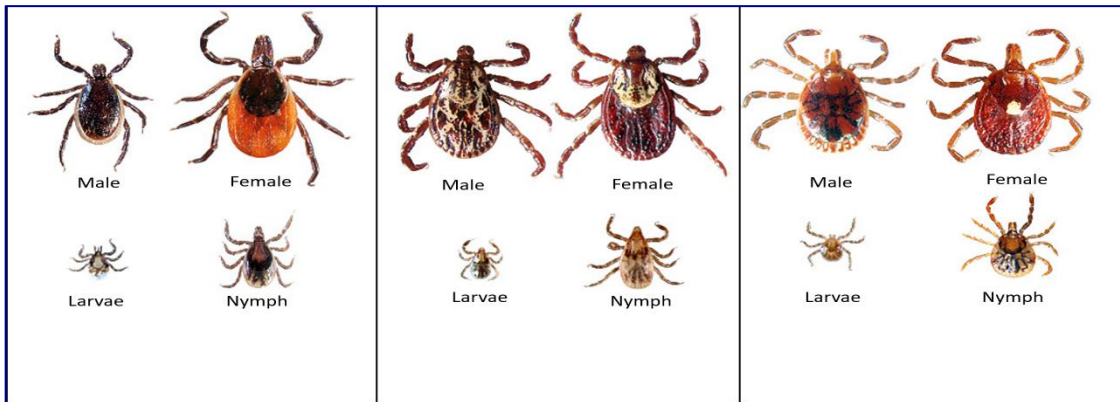
The District is currently seeing an increase in the number of Reportable Disease Confidential Case Report Forms PD-23 for food-borne illnesses. The PD-23 is the primary form used to report diseases, emergency illnesses and health conditions and are sent to both the State Department of Public Health and Local Health Departments. The form can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiology-and-Emerging-Infections/Provider-Reporting>.

To find out how to prevent food-borne illness please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe.html>.

If you believe you may be experiencing food poisoning, please contact your provider as soon as possible or seek medical attention at an urgent care practice and request a stool sample. Keep a log of the things you have previously consumed in the past three days from the onset of your symptoms. If you believe you may have developed your illness from eating out, save any leftovers you may have, to submit for testing. This will make it easier for an epidemiological investigation for potential food-borne illness outbreaks due to contaminated foods.

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

CCHD has been seeing an uptick in cases of Lyme Disease and Babesiosis. Please visit <https://www.ccthd.org/vectorbornedisease> to find out how to properly remove a tick and how to submit it to the health department for testing. Below are illustrations of what the Blacklegged Deer Tick, American Dog Tick and Lone Star Tick look like in the different stages of their life cycle, respectively.



The Health District continues to promote staying up to date with vaccinations, practicing proper hand hygiene and the frequent cleaning of surfaces to continue to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses and fomite transmission of other infectious agents.

If you need N-95 masks, at-home test kits, or help finding a primary care provider, please contact our health educator, Betty Murphy, at (860) 785-8380 or emurphy@ccthd.org.

The Central Connecticut Health District is committed to improving the quality of life in our communities through prevention of disease and injury, fostering of a healthy environment, and promotion of the health of our residents.