

Board of Health Meeting

Monday March 23, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

Town Hall Office Meeting Space

* * * Meeting Minutes * * *

0. Meeting preliminaries

o Open meeting 5:02 / take attendance

Kat, Gina, Hanna, Hazel, Daniel, Kurt

o Approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting

MAPHCO rep in the minutes:

Gina and Hazel until Gina's term ends, then FRCOG

Discussed

Motion to amend the minutes: At the end of Gina's term, CPHS will be our primary rep, with a member of the BOH as a secondary rep as possible.

Moved: Gina

Second: Hanna

Unanimous approval.

Approval of minutes as amended

Moved: Daniel

Second: Gina

Approved - unanimous

1. Mail and Invoices

None

2. FRCOG inspections / report

Reviewed.

Randy met with Conway EMD.

MAHB representative to speak at CPHS OB on BESS and BOH. Open meeting.

3. Meetings / Trainings attended by board members

Hanna - reviewed slides in email from OLRH on SAPHE, esp slide #6 What is Local Public Health. Hanna will email to everyone.

Gina - seminar on Kratom. Draft regulations are in development. Will send slides to BOH.

4. Health and wellness report:

News from MDPH - two recent press releases

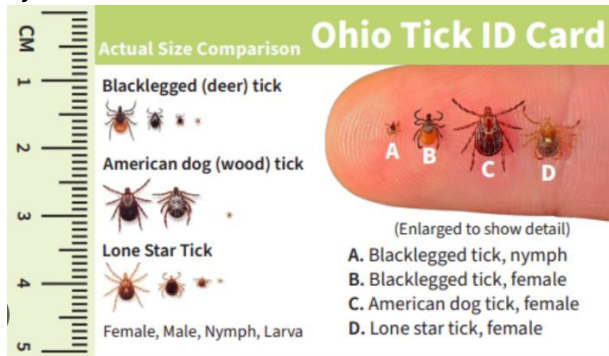
Massachusetts' flavored tobacco product restriction projected to save more than \$70 million in smoking-related health care costs since 2020 implementation.

Governor Healey Announces Support for Lifting Sunday Hunting Ban, Expanding Hunting Access

After statewide public listening sessions with overwhelming support

Why DPH? The press release included that it will also raise awareness about the emergence of tick-borne "alpha-gal syndrome" as a public health concern.

The state issued an advisory on March 19th saying that starting April 1 this year, AGS cases must be reported to the state. AGS is carried by lone star ticks, not the usual black-legged ticks that carry Lyme and other diseases.

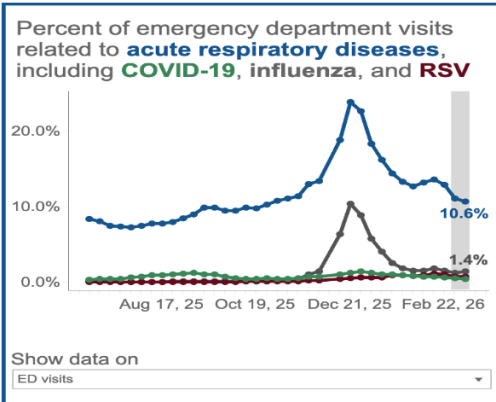


Lone star ticks differ in two important ways.

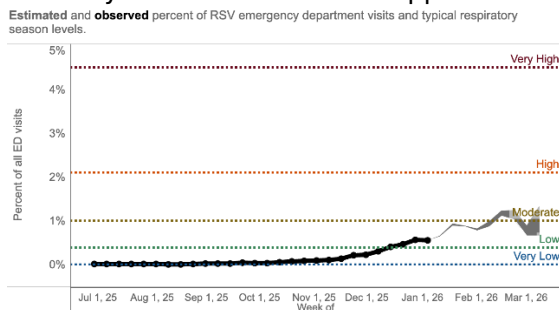
- They usually move towards a host, rather than wait at the end of vegetation as black-legged ticks do.
- They also usually occur in large numbers together, so if multiple ticks are seen, they are more likely lone star ticks. Removal with tape may be more feasible than one at a time.

Viral illnesses

Colds in general are low. Covid levels are low. Influenza continues to trend downwards.



RSV may still make more of an appearance:

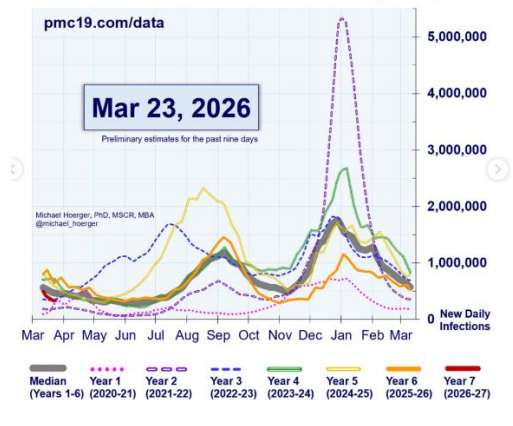


Similar patterns across the country. Transmission levels have plummeted nationally as we shift from the 12th wave toward a relative "lull." Over half the states have "Very Low" relative transmission, per the CDC.

COVID

Now in our 7th year since the WHO's pandemic declaration. Summer surge likely to occur sometime July to September.

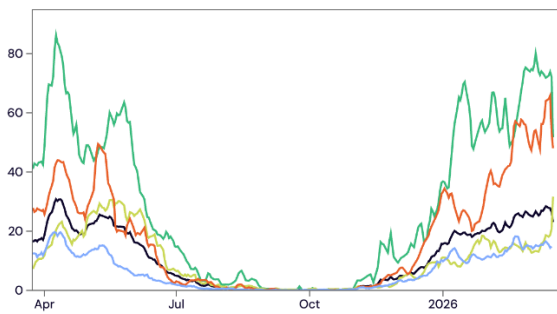
SARS-CoV-2 Year-Over-Year Estimates of Transmission (U.S.)



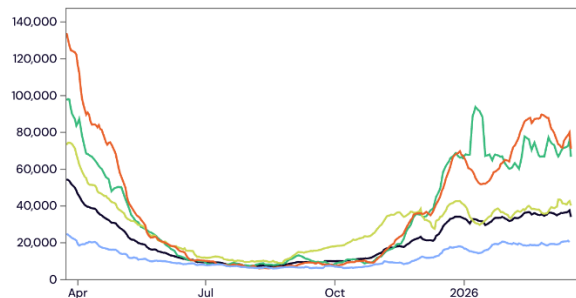
Metapneumovirus

Within the "colds," we may now recognize and track Metapneumovirus. Has probably been around for at least 60 years, though first identified in 2001. Now a common respiratory virus that typically increases in the US during colder months. It usually causes affects children and adults, causing mild symptoms.

Human Metapneumovirus



Norovirus



Black is national. Red and green are midwest and northeast.

Tick-borne illnesses

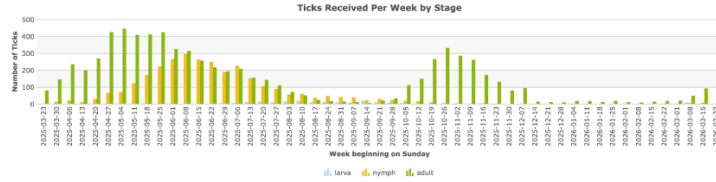
Good data from Tick Report, based in Amherst. Anyone can send a tick in for testing. \$60-200.

Data:

Adults spring and fall

Nymphs late spring into summer

We are starting to see adults now!

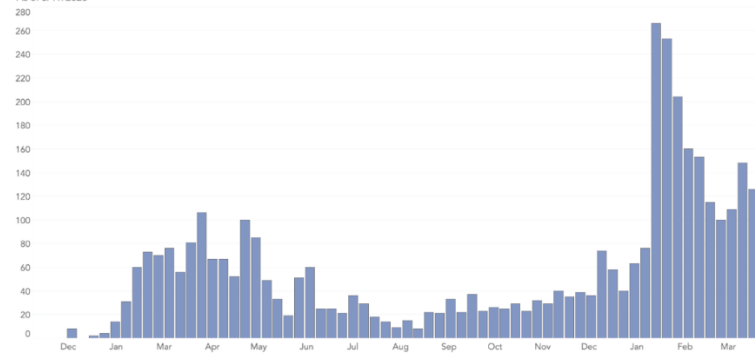


Measles

Overall, the outbreak continues. Approx 125-150 cases/wk in the past 6 weeks. Compares with 0-5 historically.

2025-2026 Weekly Measles Cases in the United States

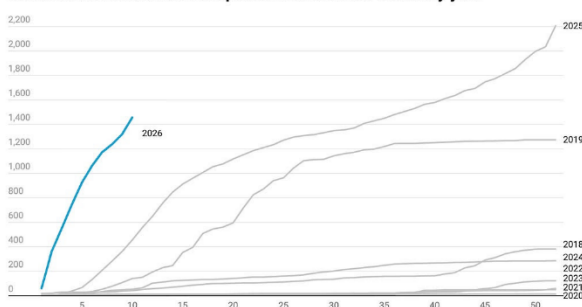
As of 3/19/2026



The outbreak in SC is slowing but there have been more than 1,000 cases in the state. The majority of new infections now are in people in Texas and Utah.

Comparison with prior years - 81 days into the year (22%), we already have 66% of the total number of cases we had last year.

Cumulative measles cases reported in the United States by year



Source: Johns Hopkins University - [Get the data](#) - [Download image](#)

Avian flu

The US continues to record millions of poultry affected by avian flu. 14.32 million in the last 30 days. However, there have been no new reports of dairy cattle herd infections since December 2025. By comparison, March 2025 had 23 herd infections.

Pertussis

Nationwide, 2026 pertussis cases have decreased 73% from last year, yet concern remains for states such as Arizona, California, and Wyoming.

5. Request by G.F. for a waiver on his Disposal System Works Permit

10 Pine Hill - resident seeking to add another dwelling. Discussed ADU stipulation regarding a facility. FRCOG will write up an appeal for relief on this and submit it to the BOH.

6. Board discussion of current organization and who takes the meeting minutes

Discussion re MGL, serving the function of the BOH, and supporting the town clerk.

Motion: that the BOH structure follow MGL 111 section 27, appointing a chair and may employ the necessary officers' agents and assistants. The clerk will take minutes for the Board, with someone else taking their place when they are not available.

MGL: Section 27. Every such board shall organize annually by the choice of one of its number as chairman. It may make rules and regulations for its own government and for the government of its officers, agents and assistants. It may appoint a physician to the board, who shall hold his office during its pleasure, may choose a clerk, who in a city shall not be a member of the board, and may employ the necessary officers, agents and assistants to execute the health laws and its regulations. It may fix the salary or other compensation of such physician and its clerk and other agents and assistants.

Motion: Gina

Second: Hanna

Four in favor, one abstention.

7. Chairperson update

Annual report to the town.

Offerings from the educational catalogue

Action plan for the coming three months

Will include in BOH Conway Currents submissions

8. Unanticipated items of concern that arise after posting

Hanna - email announcement from the state that we are in a Level 2 drought. BOH will provide information on this a drought preparation to the town, suggesting it be included on the town website.

Hanna - Annual MHOA meeting Oct 28-30: keynote speaker is Katelyn Jetylina, an outstanding epidemiologist. Highly recommend her. Springfield, MA.

9. Public comments

None

10. Meeting wrap-up

o Next meetings

i. April 13, 2026, at 5:00 pm

ii. April 27, 2026, at 5:00 pm - Hanna and Daniel not available

May 11 - Hazel not available

May 11 and 25th Hanna not available

May 11th - no quorum - canceled

May 25 - meeting as scheduled, with Hanna and Daniel absent

o Close meeting 6:37 pm

Motion: Gina

Second: Hanna

Approved unanimously