

Board of Health
Minutes for the June 22, 2026 Meeting

Present: Kat Llamas, Gina McNeely, Hazel Goleman, Daniel Sheff (remotely), Hanna Sherman (remotely)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of the Previous Minutes

Motion was made by Gina and seconded by Hazel to approve the Minutes of June 8th as written. All present were in favor and the motion carried.

Agenda #1: Mail and Invoices

Sludge Transport Tickets, two Title V reports, catalogs.

Agenda #2: FRCOG reports

No representative present

Agenda #3: Meetings and Trainings of the Board

Kat – CPHS meeting

Hanna – Planning Board Public Hearing for the Solar Development

Agenda items #4: Health and Wellness Report

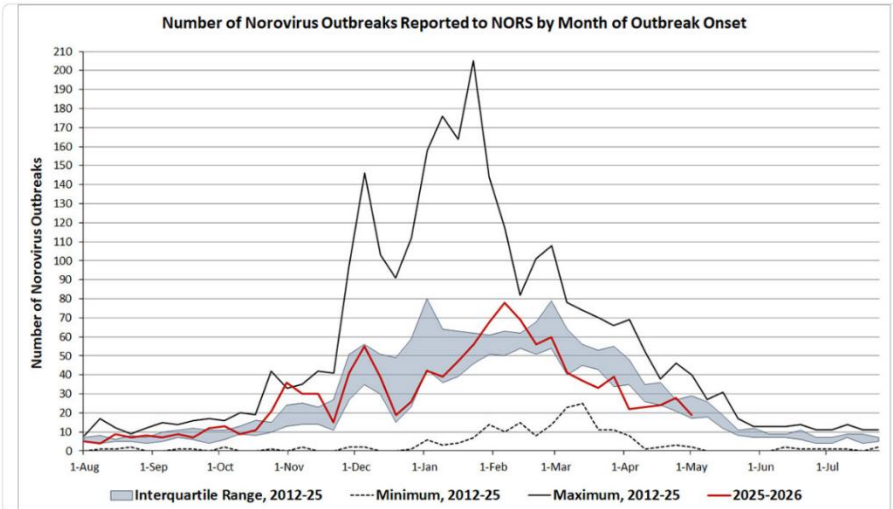
Viral respiratory illnesses

Flu, RSV and Covid all remain low

A Covid surge is common in the summer, but does not yet seem to be materializing. A pattern is emerging in which a strong winter surge leads to lower activity the following summer. We had strong Covid activity this past winter, and it may mean a more mild summer.

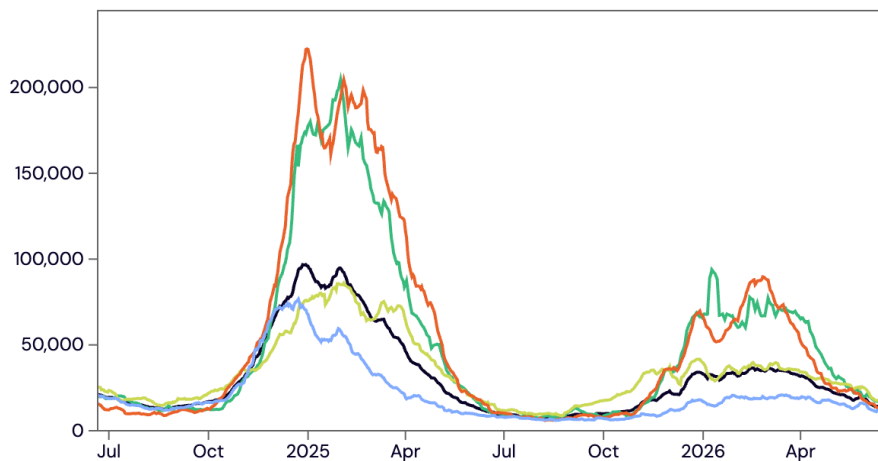
Norovirus

National activity remains in a low-average range compared to prior years:



Compared with last year, rates are much lower:
(Black is national, green is Northeast)

Norovirus



In MA, Norovirus activity is quite low (wastewater in Millbury, near Worcester):

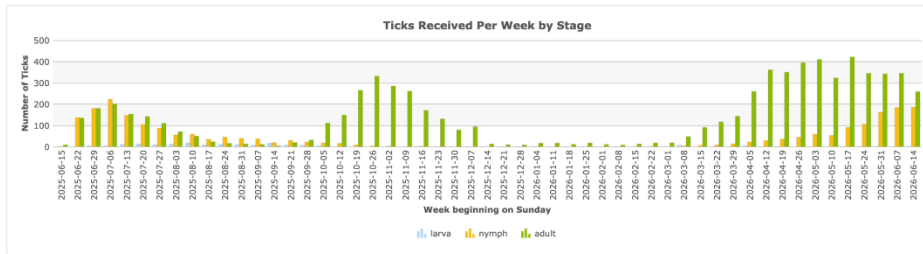
Arboviruses

There have been no cases of EEE or WNV in MA this year so far. Risk ratings for both are currently very low.

Tick-borne illnesses

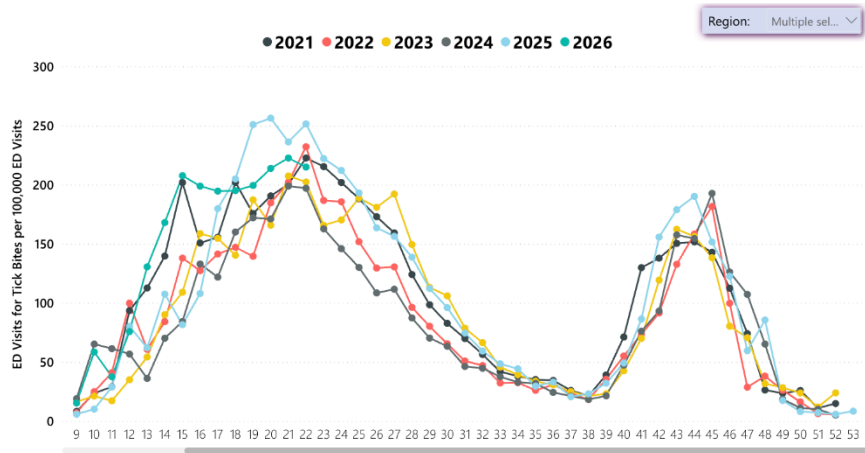
Historically, cases have risen during May and June, peaking in July. So we are in high tick season now.

The tick burden seems much higher this year. The tick testing lab in Amherst has twice as many ticks coming in for testing this year compared with last year:



Compared to the past 5 years, tick bites in MA got off to a slightly earlier start this year, but are not significantly different from other years.

Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Tick Bites by Week, United States, 2021-2026



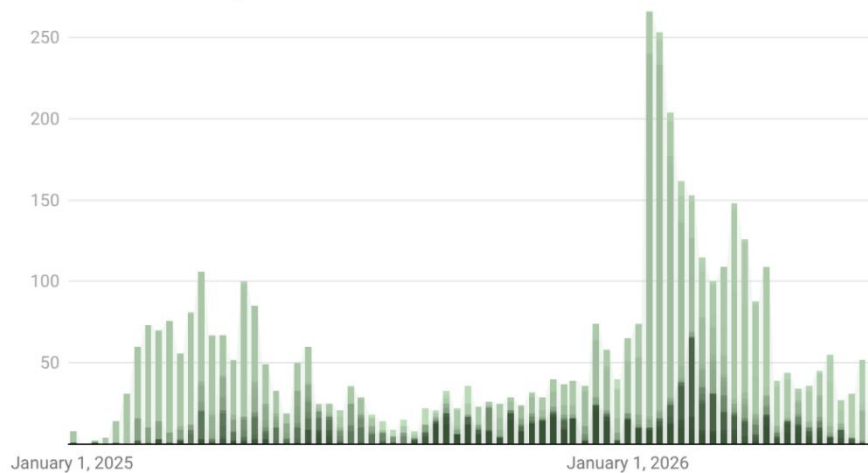
Surprisingly, I cannot find a graph of cases over time. Here are the YTD cases in MA:

Tickborne Diseases Reported in Massachusetts, 2015 - 2026 ¹												
Disease	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD ¹
Lyme Disease ²	4370	207	416	189	165	103	28	5102	9728	8840	8619	1835
Babesiosis	448	519	591	527	640	580	610	454	837	788	881	21
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	771	874	1218	658	703	740	773	625	747	1060	1496	269
Borrelia miyamotoi	8	16	43	63	32	16	26	16	47	57	107	17
Powassan virus	3	5	3	7	9	7	6	5	11	11	12	4
Total:											11,115	2146

¹Data are current as of 06/08/2026 and include yearly case counts through 05/31/2026, Data are preliminary and subject to change

Measles

Measles Cases per Week in US



During the past week, 42 new measles cases have been reported in seven states, a decrease from the 52 cases reported in seven states the previous week. The total number of measles cases in 2025 was 2,074, and the 2026 total is currently 2,312 cases, the largest number of cases since 1991.

Avian flu

Overseas, there have been three cases of avian flu reported in children in three different countries — Bangladesh, China, and India — over the past week. In the US, there have been no human cases of Avian flu, though H5N1 was detected this week in wastewater in Newark, New Jersey (June 8).

Pertussis

There are pockets of activity across the US, particularly in Florida, Maryland and Ohio.

Agenda #5 CPHS Meeting Update

None

Agenda #6: Noise Regulations

Nothing new to report

Agenda #7: Annual Organization of the Board

Motion made by Gina for Kat to remain Chairperson, seconded by Hazel – all present in favor and the motion carried.

Motion made by Hazel for Daniel to be Vice-Chair, seconded by Kat – all present in favor and the motion carried.

Agenda #8: Chairperson Update

Spoke with Randy re the mosquito control district. Randy provided information for Kat to move forward and present to the Selectboard.

Agenda #9: Unanticipated items of concern

Question if there is any updates re derelict house previously discussed – no update at this time.

Agenda #10 Public Comments

None to report

Agenda #11: Meeting wrap up

Nest meetings:

July 20, 2026, at 5:00pm

August 24, 2026, at 5:00pm

Motion to close the meeting made by Hazel, seconded by Gina, the meeting was closed at 5:25pm.