



# Director's Report

Debra L. Bogen, M.D.

Director, Allegheny County Health Department

## Board of Health Meeting

November 02, 2022



# Outline

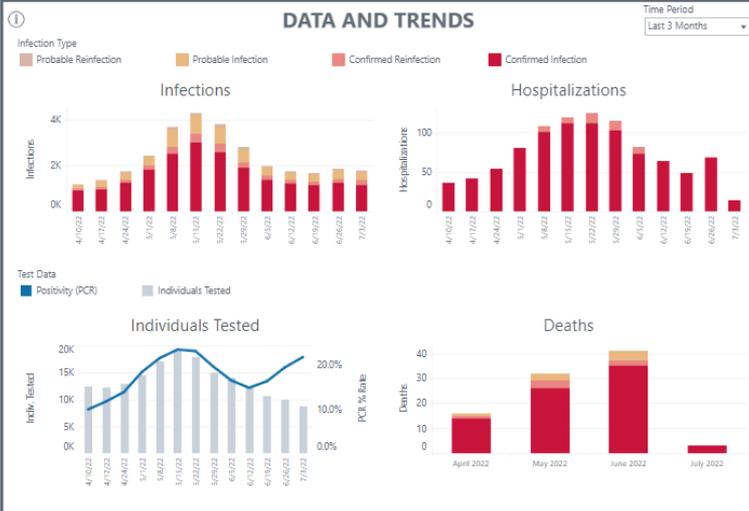
- COVID-19 update
- Monkeypox
- Human resources
- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- Notable activities
- Bureau and program updates



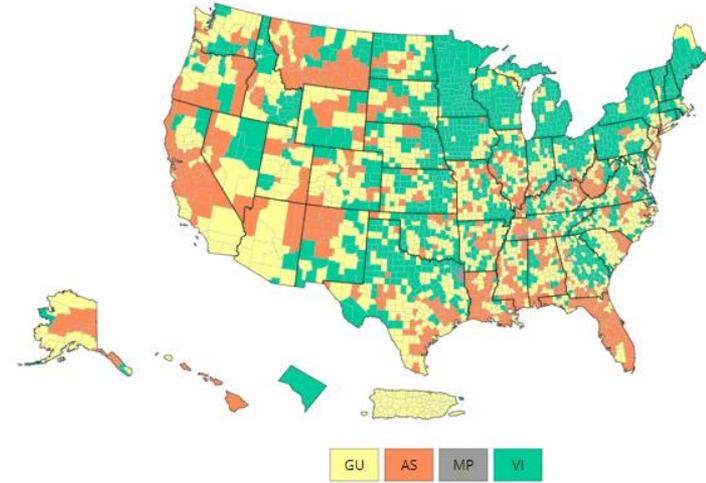


OVERALL				
<b>Infections:</b>	<b>Individuals Tested:</b>	<b>Positivity (PCR):</b>	<b>Hospitalizations:</b>	<b>Deaths:</b>
294,089	950,199	11.3%	14,206	3,346

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE				
<b>Infections:</b>	<b>Individuals Tested:</b>	<b>Positivity (PCR):</b>	<b>Hospitalizations:</b>	<b>Deaths:</b>
235	1,326	19.9%	9	1



Last Updated:  
7/12/2022 10:43:47 AM



## COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county. Data up to:

Select a Location (all fields required)

Pennsylvania Allegheny County

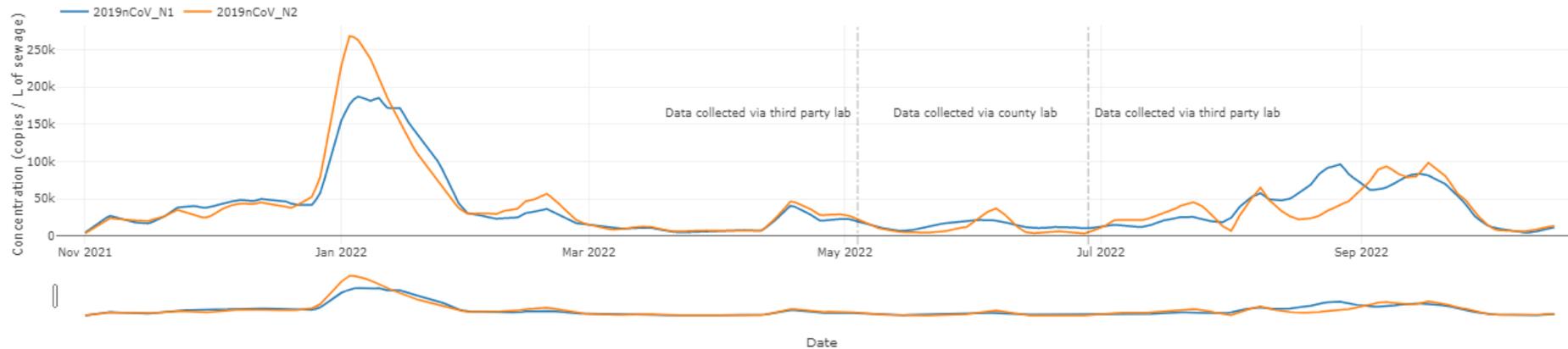
< Start Over

● Low

In Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, community level is Low.

# COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance

## Adjusted virus levels



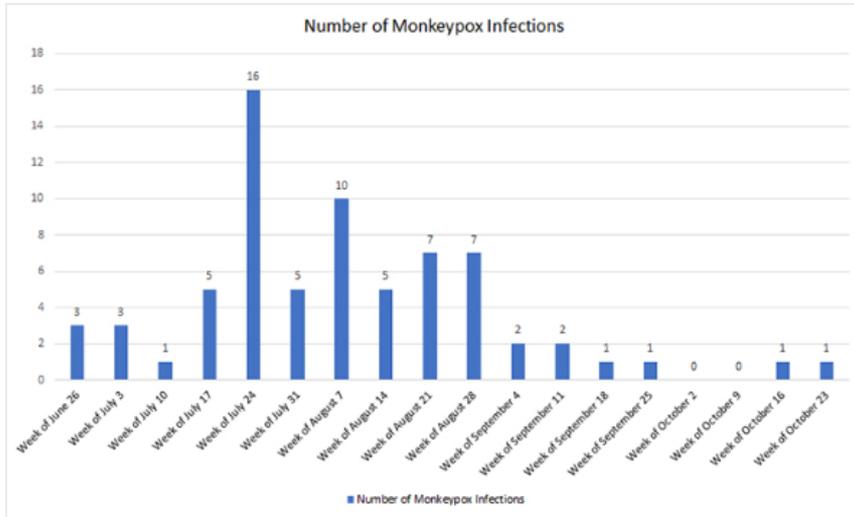
[COVID-19 Dashboards  
\(alleghenycounty.us\)](https://alleghenycounty.us)

From 10/09/2022 to 10/17/2022

Viral marker N1 trend  
**17% daily increase**

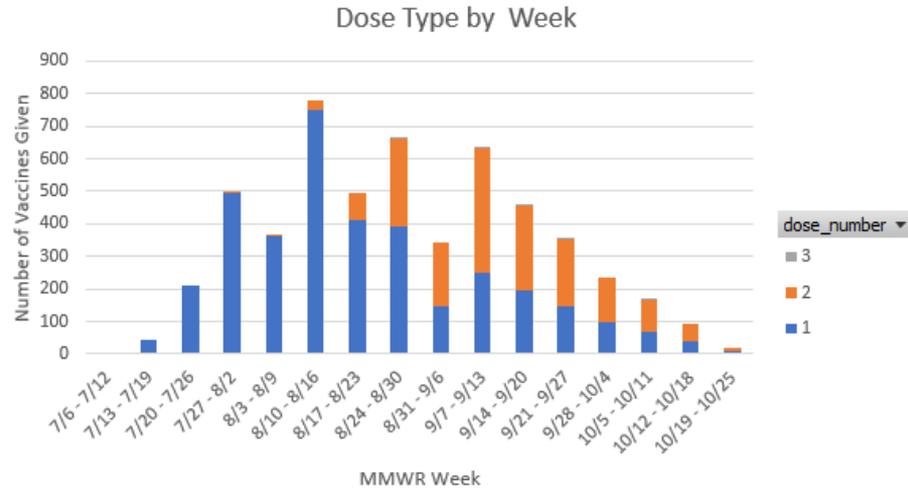
Viral marker N2 trend  
**13% daily increase**

# Monkeypox Update



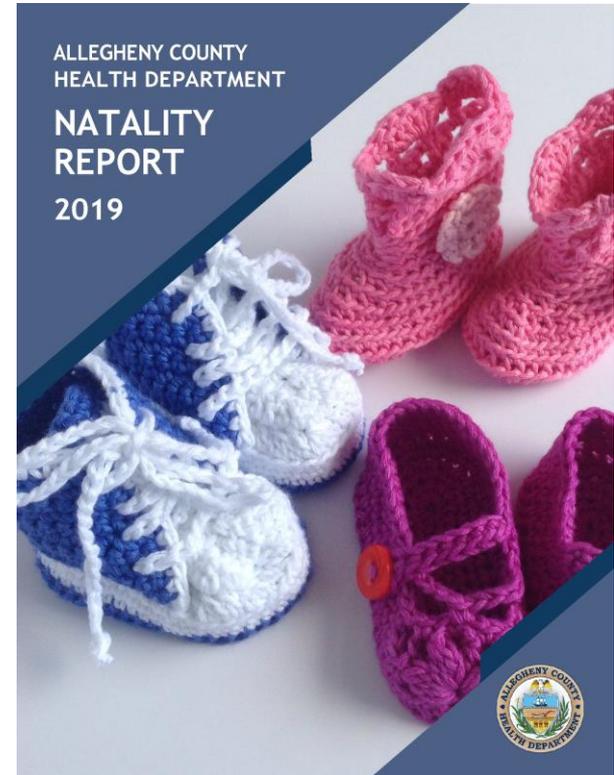
70 cases to date in Allegheny County

5081 monkeypox vaccines in Allegheny County



## Notable Recent Activities

- Report and website updates
  - [2020 Perinatal Periods of Risk Report](#) (10/4/2022)
  - [2017-2020 HPV Vaccination Coverage Report](#) (9/20/22)
  - [2021 Reported STD Cases in Allegheny County](#) (9/7/22)
  - [2019 Allegheny County Natality Report](#) (10/26/22)



# Don't Miss Your Shot



The Allegheny County Health Department Immunization Clinic is offering extended evening and weekend clinics for childhood and adolescent, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccinations at our downtown Immunization Clinic.

### Thursday Evening Clinics:

Every Thursday from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

### Saturday Clinics: from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

October 22nd	January 28th
November 19th	February 11th
December 17th	March 11th



Our clinic is located on the 4th floor of the Hartley-Rose Building, 425 First Ave., downtown Pittsburgh. Entrance to the clinic is on Cherry Way, under the green awning - in the lobby, use the elevator to your left.

## Extended Evening and Weekend Vaccination Clinic

Please bring all immunization records, a form of identification, and insurance card if applicable. **Face coverings are required.**

Appointments may be made at **412-578-8062**. Please schedule an appointment for all other vaccinations and services. Walk-ins accepted.

Visit our website for additional information: [Immunization Clinic](#)





▲ > Health Department > Programs > Environmental Health Notices Form

## Bureau of Environmental Health - Public Notices Subscription

ACHD publishes environmental health public notices online. If you would like to receive these notices via email, please complete this form.

\*Your name:

\*Your email:

Please choose the program notices you wish to receive:

- All Air Quality Notices
  - Air Quality Permitting
  - Air Quality Enforcement
  - Air Quality Planning
  - Air Quality Monitoring
- Water Pollution Control
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Plumbing

\* Denotes required field.

To receive email notification of environmental health public notices, complete [this form](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Environmental-Health-Notices-Form.aspx)

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Environmental-Health-Notices-Form.aspx>



## Mon Valley Episode Rule

- Significantly strong inversions and weather pattern caused extended episode
  - Inversion: When warmer air aloft and cooler air below helps to trap PM 2.5 and other pollutants at lower levels which causes increase in their concentration
- Since rule implementation - five episodes
  - 12/14/21: warning at 10 AM, ended noon 12/15
  - 03/15/22: warning at 8 AM, ended 4 PM 3/16
  - 04/24/22: warning at 9 AM, ended ~4 PM 4/25
  - 10/10/22: watch only
  - 10/22/22: warning at 7 AM, ended 6 AM 10/26
- Program analyzing data to help determine effectiveness of invoking an episode on air quality, specifically for PM 2.5



# Personnel Updates

- Vacancies
  - Opioid Program Manager
  - Public Health Nutritionist (WIC program)
  - Public Health Administrator III - Family & Child Health
  - Assistant Lab Director (CLIA)
  - Workforce development lead

# PHAB Reaccreditation Planning

- Community Health Assessment (CHA) completed
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) (helps/support from 4<sup>th</sup> Economy)
  - June: Held 9 listening sessions and ~400 surveys
  - July – Sept: used public input to draft goals, objectives, strategies
  - October – sent draft to public input via survey
    - Reviewing survey responses (~130)
    - Revising CHIP based on comments





# Bureau Updates

- Environmental Health
  
- Data Reporting and Disease Investigation
  - Hired Chronic Disease Epidemiologist
  - Published Reports
    - [PPOR](#)
    - [2019 Natality](#)
    - [HPV Vaccination Coverage](#)
    - [STD 2021](#)



# Bureau Updates

- Administration
- Clinical



# Food, Housing and Policy Bureau Updates

- **Overdose Prevention Program's** communications campaign (July launch) -
  - ~8.9M impressions (billboards, TV ads, social media posts)
  - Directs viewers to County's Harm Reduction Allegheny website (carrying naloxone, contact info OD prevention partners/services)
  - Next phase – launch additional locations for signage
- **Food Safety Program**
  - Continues outreach and implementation to re: Article III regulation
  - Notice of food facilities' classification/fee schedule mailed to all AC food facilities
  - Article III outreach sessions events coordinated with Live Well Allegheny and Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank (Nov)



## Food, Housing and Policy Bureau Updates

- **Housing and Community Environment Program**
  - Yearly uses National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (Oct. 23-29, 2022) as opportunity to raise awareness of lead exposure
  - This year teamed up with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
  - ACHD staff visited 5 branch locations in Pittsburgh
  - Shared info on most common sources of lead exposure and appropriate mitigation techniques

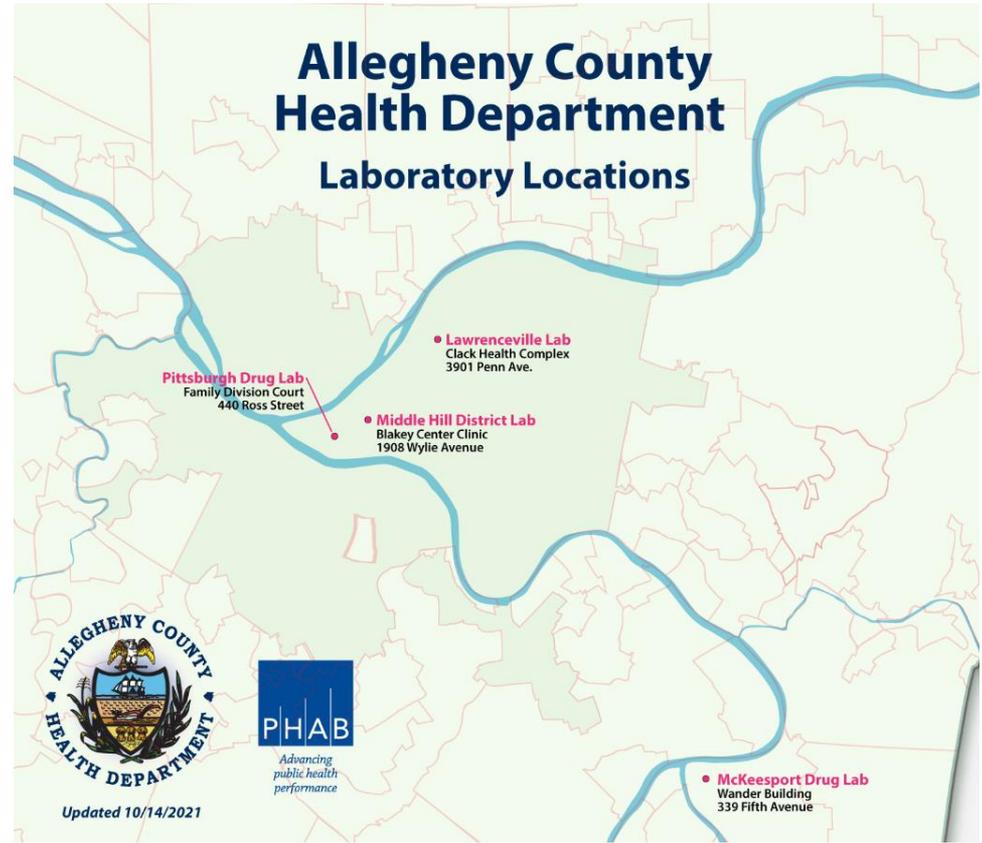
# Public Health Laboratory Update

Robert M. Wadowsky, Sc.D, D(ABMM)  
Laboratory Director



# 55,000 Tests in 2022

- Rabies Test
- STD, GI, Respiratory Molecular Tests
- Viral Culture
- Bacterial Culture and Sensitivity
- HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis, MMRV Serology
- Urine Drug Screen
- Saliva Alcohol Screen





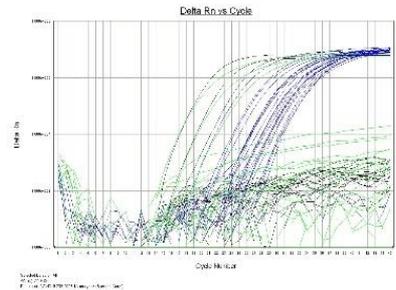
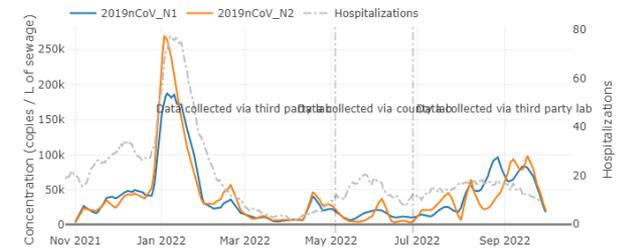
## New Laboratory Facility

- Approximately 50,000 gross square feet (12,500 GSF at present site)
- Support New Initiatives
  - Laboratory Response Network B Reference Laboratory
  - WHO Influenza Collaborating Laboratory
  - Nucleic Acid Sequencing Service
  - Immunological Test (IGRA) for Tuberculosis
- Move in by end of 2023

# Wastewater Testing for SARS Coronavirus 2

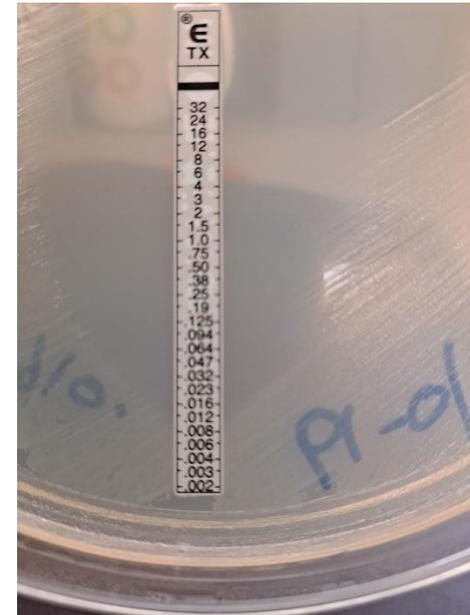
- Rolled Out in March 2022
- 8 Sewage Treatment Plants
- Samples collected 3 times per week
- Quantitative results in 4 to 6 days
- Results displayed on ACHD Dashboard

Adjusted virus levels



# Strengthening United States Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG)

- *Threat:* untreatable gonorrhea
- *Treatment:* ceftriaxone (IM)
- *Purpose:* identify stains with reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone and cefixime
- *Clinics:* ACHD STD, Central Outreach, Allies of Health
- *Methods:* Culture and Sensitivity (Etest)
- *Testing Started:* June 1, 2022
- *Results:*
  - 797 specimens cultured; 79 (9.9%) yielded *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
  - None of the isolates had reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone and cefixime



## Automated Molecular Testing

- Hologic Panther Instruments (N=2)
- Random-access, high throughput (300 specimens/shift/instrument)
- Instrument Interface with LIMS/EPIC systems under development
- SARS Coronavirus 2 testing available
  - 5,305 specimens tested
  - 323 (6.1% positive)
- Gonorrhea/Chlamydia assay being validated





## Second Shift Testing Service

- Began October 11, 2022
- Hours: M-F, 3 - 11 pm
- Staffing
  - Supervisor, Microbiologist, and Clerk
- Functions
  - SARS Coronavirus 2 molecular testing
  - Gonorrhea/Chlamydia molecular testing (2023)





# **Allegheny County Rules and Regulations Article II Update**

**Vote to Initiate Public Comment Period**

**Otis Pitts**

**Deputy Director – ACHD Bureau of Food Safety, Housing & Policy**





## Introduction

- Article II provides oversight to Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)
- SSPs prevent the spread of HIV, Hepatitis B and C, other bloodborne pathogens, and bacterial infections by providing clean injection equipment and biohazard containers
- SSPs provide an opportunity to connect individuals with substance use disorders to appropriate medical care, social services and treatment options



## Overview of Proposed Revisions

- **Modernizes terms and definitions**
  - Language updates throughout Article II reflect ongoing infectious disease crisis and incorporate harm reduction
  - Addition of current public health best practices definitions
- **Clarifies Administrative Requirements**
  - New “Application and Approval Process” section that clarifies responsibilities of SSP operator and ACHD
  - Clarifies SSP applications, including need for municipal engagement prior to Board of Health review



## Overview of Proposed Revisions

- **Clarifies Reporting Requirements**
  - Updated to current recommended practice and expanded infectious disease requirements
  - Added ability to report on complimentary harm reduction services
- **Sets Process for Decisions Regarding Non-Compliance**
  - Revised and added role of the BOH in determining status of SSPs
  - Specifies ability of municipalities to bring grievances to the BOH
  - Responsibilities of ACHD to provide notice to non-compliant SSPs added



## Vote for Public Comment Period

- Proposing 60-day public comment
- ACHD will conduct outreach to impacted community for feedback
- ACHD will conduct public hearing in early 2023 and compile public comments, as well as provide answers in response document
- After public comment period, ACHD would present final Article II draft to BOH during a future meeting for vote





# Allegheny County Rules and Regulations Article XXIII Update

Vote to Initiate Public Comment Period

LuAnn Brink

Deputy Director – Bureau of Data, Reporting & Disease Control





## Introduction

- Article XXIII established mandatory blood lead level testing for children in Allegheny County
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides guidance for performing blood lead level testing and the recommended health care and environmental actions to pursue based on testing results
- In 2021, CDC updated the blood lead level of concern from 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  to 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- Revisions align Article XXIII with the new CDC standard and reflect current department practices



## Overview of Proposed Revisions

- **Modernizes terms and definitions**
  - Replaces “lead poisoning” with “elevated blood lead levels”
- **Revises Blood Lead Level Testing Requirements**
  - Subsection B align blood lead reference value (BLRV) with CDC
  - Requires capillary blood samples to be confirmed with venipuncture test
- **Clarifies Schools, School Administrators and ACHD Responsibilities**
  - Removes unnecessary reporting requirements
  - Removes references to school reporting
  - Clarifies ACHD’s role in monitoring blood lead levels and assisting families



## Vote for Public Comment Period

- Proposing 60-day public comment
- ACHD will conduct outreach to impacted community for feedback
- ACHD will conduct public hearing in early 2023 and compile public comments, as well as provide answers in response document
- After public comment period, ACHD would present final Article XXIII draft to BOH during a future meeting for vote





# Request Permission To Go To Public Comment



# Public Comments

- Commenters will be allowed 3 minutes each to address the Board