

Preventing and controlling the spread of disease is at the heart of much public health work. From influenza and Lyme disease to malaria and Ebola, outbreaks of infectious diseases can have an extraordinary impact on human health.

*- From the Nation's Health*

This report captures Lincoln County Health Department's programs and services that focus on the prevent and control of disease and conditions facing our county each day. It also covers how, as a department, we respond to public health emergency.



# Lincoln County's 2022 Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Annual Report

## In this Annual Report:

- ❖ Program Updates
- ❖ Data Dashboard
- ❖ Performance Objectives
- ❖ Program Evaluation





# Program Updates

## Third Year of the Pandemic Comes New Mitigation Recommendations

### Community Level Mitigation

In May 2022, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided recommendations that created a shift in the COVID-19 Pandemic. With widespread access to vaccines, tests, and effective treatments, the risk of severe health outcomes associated with COVID-19 have been greatly reduced. These tools now allow for a shift in focus to preventing severe outcomes, such as hospitalization and death, related to COVID-19 and focusing resources on those who are most vulnerable to poor outcomes.

During this phase of the pandemic, CDC used COVID-19 Community Levels to guide the COVID-19 response. The CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool for monitoring the following data metrics to support state and local decision making about strategies to prevent the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19:

- The number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.
- New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.
- The average percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients in the past 7 days.

Using these metrics, every county in the country is assigned a weekly COVID-19 Community Level of “low,” “medium,” or “high.” Each COVID-19 Community Level contains specific guidance that should be followed by organizations and individuals to minimize the impacts of COVID-19. DHS monitors Wisconsin's COVID-19 Community Levels closely to assess the risk and provide relevant technical assistance to partners across the state.

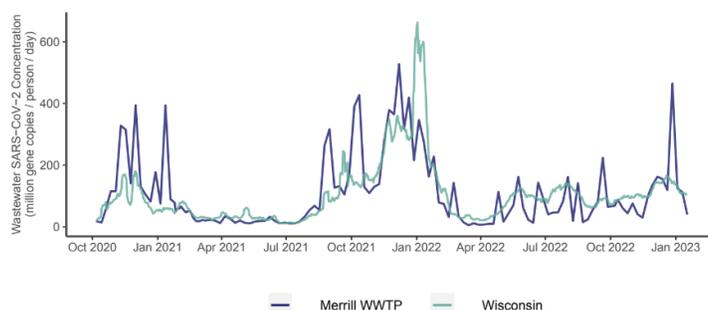
### COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccine

In August 2022, the US Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. The bivalent vaccines, which we will also refer to as “updated boosters,” contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the other one in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

### Coronavirus Wastewater Monitoring

The WI Department of Health, along with collaboration from the WI State Lab of Hygiene and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, monitor wastewater to get early detection of COVID-19 within a community. For people with COVID-19, the virus can be detected in their feces shortly after they are infected with the virus, even before they experience symptoms or if they are infected but asymptomatic. The City of Merrill participates in this project, which provides LCHD with a weekly report

Comparison of Merrill Wastewater Trends with Statewide Average



indicating the levels of the COVID disease. This assisted LCHD in preparing staff and the community for potential increases in disease.

### Health Officer Statutory Power

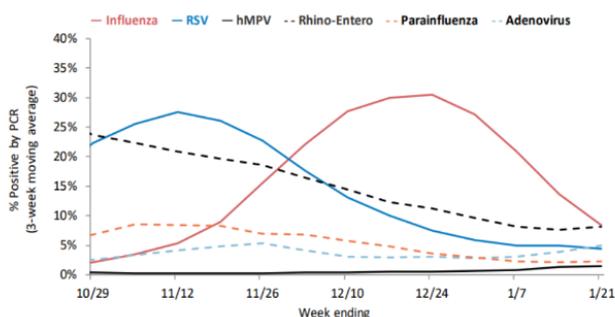
July 2022, The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that local health officials have the statutory power to issue public health orders without first getting permission from elected officials. According to Wis Politics, “The ruling stems from a challenge of COVID-19 orders issued by Janel Heinrich in her capacity as the public health officer and director of Public Health of Madison and Dane County. The lawsuit sought an injunction and a declaration that Heinrich's orders were unenforceable unless adopted by the county board. In a 4-3 ruling, the court found state law gives local health officers the authority to issue such orders.”

### RSV, COVID-19, Influenza

During the 2022-2023 flu season, there was a unique challenge that included 3 simultaneous respiratory disease outbreaks: Influenza, RSV, and COVID. Also unusual this year, influenza hit the under 65 population harder in severity than is typical. This season, 41% of hospitalized influenza cases were among those under the age of 65 and 9% were among children 18 and under. The outbreaks began early in fall and continued through January. RSV was widespread

throughout Lincoln County schools and even closed one daycare center due to high transmission levels. One infant RSV hospitalization was reported to LCHD; more RSV hospitalizations may have occurred but are not reportable to local health departments, so the true number is unknown. The outbreaks may have been worsened by the fact that cases began picking up with schools starting in the fall and increases in family and social gatherings with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. LCHD worked closely with long-term care facilities during this time to provide guidance on any facility outbreaks for COVID-19 or Acute Respiratory Infections.

WISCONSIN LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES



### Monkey Pox 2022 Wisconsin Outbreak

Since May 13, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been monitoring clusters of monkeypox in countries where it is not endemic. On May 20, 2022, the CDC issued an official Health Advisory asking clinicians in the U.S. to be vigilant to the symptoms associated with monkeypox infection and to understand that current cases are presenting atypically. Monkeypox is caused by a virus of the *orthopoxvirus* genus of the *Poxviridae* family and is endemic in several countries in Central and West Africa. Historically, cases of monkeypox in the U.S. have been rare and travel-associated (2 cases in the U.S. since 2018). The current outbreak, which features cases in multiple non-endemic countries that are not linked to travel or animal contact, is atypical and concerning. Although investigations are still ongoing, person-to-person spread through close, intimate contact is suspected. Despite these epidemiologic differences, genomic sequencing has found the viruses in the current outbreak to be similar to those causing cases exported from endemic areas during 2018 to 2019. In 2022, Lincoln County did not see any cases of monkeypox, although the department was able to answer questions from the community, as well as provide vaccine to those at higher risk for infection.



## Communicable Disease and Conditions

<b>Enteric</b>		<b>Hepatitis C</b>	
<b>9</b>	# of foodborne and or waterborne diseases Lincoln County average: 10.3	<b>4</b>	# of Hepatitis C Lincoln County average: 4
<b>Vectorborne</b>		<b>Sexual Transmitted (STD)</b>	
<b>14</b>	# of vectorborne disease Lincoln County average: 24	<b>62</b>	# of STDs Lincoln County average: 67
<b>Disease Outbreaks</b>		<b>COVID-19</b>	
<b>27</b>	# of disease outbreaks (4 non COVID/23 COVID) Lincoln County average: 48	<b>3085</b>	# of COVID-19 Lincoln County Average 2714



## Vaccine Preventable Disease

<b>Two Year Old Immunizations</b>		<b>Student Immunization Compliance</b>	
<b>62%</b>	% of two year old receiving recommended vaccines Lincoln County average: 72% Wisconsin average: 72.5%	<b>85.3%</b>	% of all students meeting school immunization requirements. Wisconsin average: 87.2% Lincoln County average: 90.7%
<b>Influenza</b>		<b>School Vaccination Clinics</b>	
<b>22</b>	Number of Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations for 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Lincoln County average: 16	<b>191</b>	# of Lincoln County students receiving the flu vaccine at a school based vaccine clinic. Lincoln County: 307 (2018-2022)



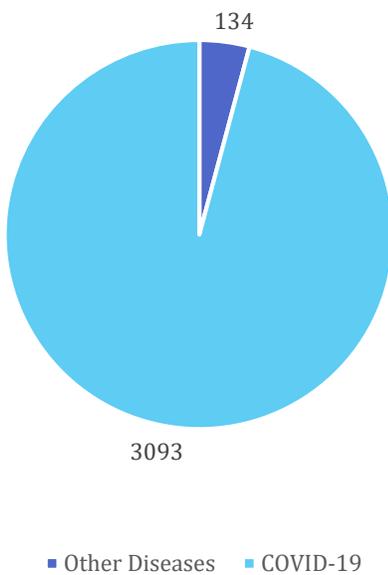
## Emergency Preparedness

<b>Trainings</b>		<b>Emergencies/Event</b>	
<b>4</b>	# of public health preparedness trainings, exercises and drills completed by staff. Lincoln County average: 4	<b>1</b>	# of public health emergencies in Lincoln County where emergency plans were activated. Lincoln County Average: 1 per year

See Data Sources: Appendix C

# 2022 Communicable Diseases

COVID-19 cases  
still at pandemic  
levels in 2022.



Confirmed Outbreak Investigations	2020	2021	2022
Blastomycosis	-	-	1
COVID-19	60	55	23
Norovirus	-	1	2
Gastro-Intestinal	-	1	-
Acute Respiratory	-	-	1

Confirmed Disease Cases	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Enteric / Gastrointestinal (also includes suspect cases)</b>					
Campylobacter	11	4	3	2	-
Cryptosporidium	-	2	2	-	4
E-Coli (shiga toxin)	-	1	1	-	-
Giardia	4	10	6	6	3
Listeria	-	1	-	-	-
Salmonella	7	5	2	3	5
Shigella	6	-	-	-	-
Vibriosis, Non Cholera	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Invasive Bacteria</b>					
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-
Streptococcus Group A	1	1	-	-	1
Streptococcus Group B	3	7	2	5	4
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	-	4	2	-	-
<b>Mycotic</b>					
Blastomycosis	3	-	-	2	-
<b>Respiratory</b>					
COVID-19	-	-	2454	2607	3086
Influenza Hospitalization	29	15	26	-	22
TB, Active	1	-	-	1	-
Mycobacterial Disease (non TB)	4	3	4	3	4
Parapertussis	-	-	-	-	-
Legionellosis	-	2	-	1	1
<b>Sexually Transmitted</b>					
Chlamydia	50	64	49	70	56
Gonorrhea	10	12	16	4	6
Syphilis	-	1	1	-	-
<b>Vaccine Preventable</b>					
Haemophilus Influenzae	-	-	-	1	-
Pertussis	-	-	-	-	-
Parapertussis	-	1	-	-	-
Streptococcus Pneumonia	7	-	-	2	-
Varicella	8	2	2	-	3
Hepatitis A	-	-	-	1	3
Hepatitis B / Non AB	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Vectorborne</b>					
Arboviral, West Nile	-	-	-	1	7
Babesiosis	1	1	2	5	5
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	11	-	7	15	-
Lyme Disease	12	15	19	15	2
Powassan, arboviral	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other</b>					
Hepatitis C Chronic/Acute)	14	17	2	6	4
CP CRE	-	-	-	-	1
Carbon Monoxide	-	4	4	-	3



# Disease Prevention and Control



The ability to conduct timely investigations of suspected or identified health problems is necessary for the detection of the source of the problem, the description of those affected, and the prevention of the further spread of the problem. When public health or environmental public health hazards are investigated, problems can be recognized and rectified, thus preventing further spread of disease or illness. *-Public Health Accreditation Board*

## Program Performance Objectives

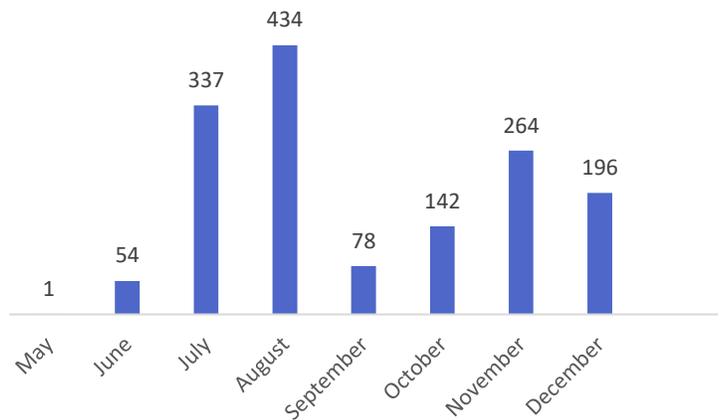
### COVID-19 accessible and timely COVID-19 testing

**Objective:** By December 31, 2022, Lincoln County will implement 5 strategies to assure equitable, accessible and timely COVID-19 Testing Lincoln County.

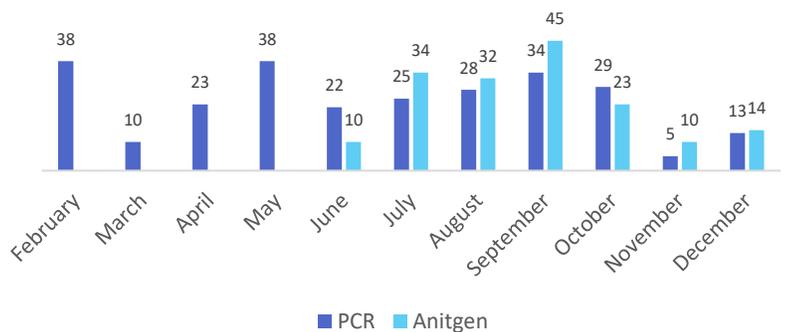
**Outcome:** In 2022, Lincoln County Health Department completed the following activities that supported COVID-19 availability of testing in Lincoln County.

- National Guard Testing Clinics – 6, provided **407** vaccinations
- Distribution of Home Testing Kits – **1506** Kits distributed, **15 locations**
- LCHD PCR and Antigen Testing Clinics – **265 tests PCR, 158 of Antigen, 225 of clinics**
- Community Flyer on where testing is available –**over 85 locations**
- Community Outreach in Newspapers, Radios, Facebook, flyers, mailings, Website and COVID Hotline

1506 Home Tests Distributed by LCHD



PCR an Antigen COVID-19 Tests Provided by LCHD



**3386 Face Coverings were distributed in 2022 by LCHD**

## Addressing barriers for 60+ population in accessing COVID-19 vaccine

**Objective:** By December 31, 2022, LCHD will implement 5 strategies to address barriers and equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution among adults aged 60 years and older.

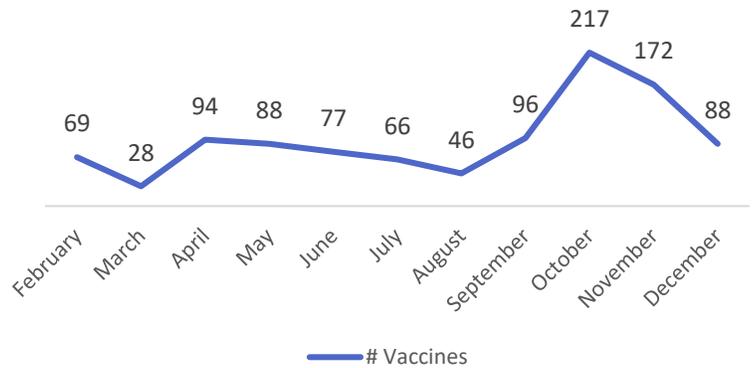
The following are activities that promoted COVID-19 Vaccination for adults aged 60 years and older.

**Outcome:**

- Promotion of AMI (AMI Expeditionary Healthcare) Clinics at Stockbox Event
- AMI Clinics held at TB Scott Library on Saturdays and Merrill Housing Authority
- 91 AMI COVID-19 Immunization Clinics held at LCHD
- AMI Home Bound Vaccinations as needed
- Promotion Newspapers, Weekly Radio Program, Facebook, flyers, mailings, Website and COVID Hotline

*As of March 2023, 51.8% of those 65 and older received the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine*

1041 Vaccines Provided by AMI at LCHD



## Addressing COVID-19 Staff Recovery

**Objective:** By December 31, 2022, average reported stress levels among LCHD will decrease from 3.2 in 2021 to 2.5 in 2022. (1 - no stress, 5 - extreme stress)

**Outcome:** This performance objective was selected to measure staff's stress levels as the department transitions to the recovery phase of COVID-19 the second half of 2022 calendar year. Staff completed quarterly surveys to learn about current stress levels and if activities have helped reduce workplace stress. The results show a decline in stress levels from 3.2 in 2021 to 2.9 in 2022, which did not meet our target metric of 2.5. In all 4 surveys, staff noted that "lack of time" was a major stressor. Other top stressors have changed over the course of the year. This is most likely due to the change and shortages in staffing. Stress is subjective—the same events or circumstances might feel especially stressful to some employees, but less so to others. Work related stressors can be influenced by personality, outside personal situations, job position and duties, and timing of the survey. The top stress management tools used in 2022 were: combining lunch and breaks, flexible scheduling, asking co-workers for help, talking with co-workers, meeting face to face with coworkers, and refraining from negative thoughts. All though we did not meet our performance measure of 2.5 reported stress level, we do find it beneficial to continue to offer opportunities for team building in the department in 2023.

**STAFF RATED THEIR STRESS LEVEL  
AT (2.5)  
WITH (5) BEING EXTREMELY  
STRESSED.**



# Vaccine Disease Prevention



## Program Performance Objectives

Vaccines are one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century. Prior to the development of immunizations, people routinely died from infectious diseases. Maintaining high immunization rates protects immunized individuals from vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) and prevents the spread of these diseases to people who cannot be immunized.

### Assuring 2 year olds are up to date with recommended vaccines.

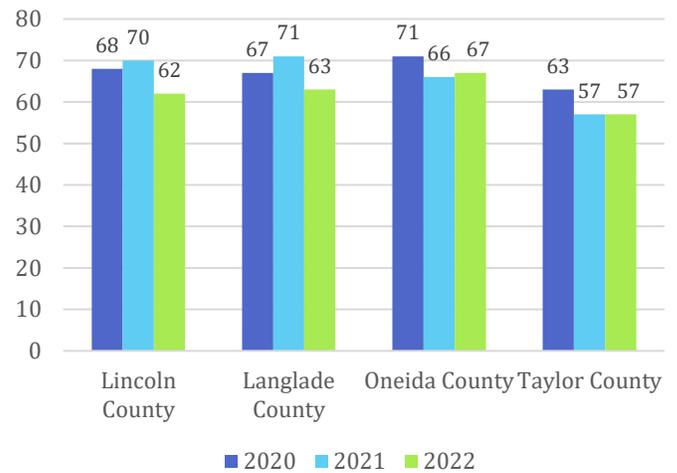
**Objective:**

By December 31, 2022, 78% children residing in LCHD jurisdiction who turn 24 months of age during the contract year will complete 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella and 4 Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV) vaccination by their second birthday.

**Outcome:**

Immunization objectives are closely chosen to help educate and promote to help prevent disease in all ages of residents in Lincoln County. Families are sent reminder recalls for all 2 year olds who are not up to date with the recommended CDC vaccination schedule. In 2022, Lincoln County did update educational materials that are used for this objective in hopes to provide additional information to families.

The percentage of 2 year olds that are up to date with immunizations in Lincoln County has been **above or equal to** adjunct jurisdiction rates in 2020-2022



How many vaccines does LCHD give?			
	2020	2021	2022
Children Vaccines #vaccines/#clients	332/295	210/407	326/276
Adult Vaccines #vaccines/#clients	462/449	5802/2844	651/607
Children Flu (0-18 Years) (private purchase)	29	9	16
Adult Flu (19 and older) Private Purchase)	382	345	378
COVID-19 Children		395	21
COVID-19 Adult		5343	105

**COVID's Impact on Vaccination Rates in WI**  
*Immunization coverage declined across all assessed vaccine groups (DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hib, Hepatitis B, Varicella, PCV, and Hepatitis A) among Wisconsin children from 2019 to 2021. The percentage of two year-olds who were up-to-date for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series declined by 3.3% during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline in coverage is concerning since vaccine-preventable diseases can lead to serious outcomes, including death, especially among young children.*  
 Source: WI Epi Express 2022



# Emergency Preparedness

## Program Performance Objectives

Public health preparedness is the ability of the public health system, community, and individuals to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, and recover from health emergencies, particularly those in which scale, timing, or unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities. - *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

### Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

**Objective:** By June 30, 2022, LCHD will participate in the NWC-HERC Hazard Vulnerability Assessment process, develop a summary with regional results and share with Board of Health, emergency response partners and LCHD staff.

**Best Practice Source:** CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities

**Outcome:**

LCHD participated in the North Central WI Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (NCW-HERC) Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Process.

- LCHD completed NCW-HERC HVA Survey on 2/14/22.
- NCW HERC HVA Summary released on 4/13/22.
- Presented HVA results to Board of Health on 5/18/22.
- Developed LCHD HVA Summary Report and shared with Lincoln County Emergency Management, Emergency Response Partners (6/28/22) and LCHD staff 7/18/22).

### HVA Results 2022 versus 2020

HVA 2022 - Top 10 Hazards	HVA 2020 - Top 10 Hazards
1. Inclement Weather (Ice Storm, Blizzard, Extreme Cold, Tornado)	1. Cyber Attack
2. Cyber Attack	2. Epidemic
3. Supply Chain Shortage/ Failure	3. Ice Storm
4. Communication Failure	4. Supply Disruption
5. Patient Surge	5. Fuel Shortage
6. Infectious Disease Outbreak / Seasonal Influenza/ Epidemic / Pandemic	6. Civic/Sport Events
7. Critical Staffing Shortage	7. Computer Failure
8. Information Systems Failure	8. Drought
9. Trauma	9. Major Communications Disruption
10. Internal Infrastructure Issue	10. Power Outage

Top hazards from 2022 and 2020 were similar, but varied in ranking. It was noted in the 2022 HVA survey, that the COVID response had a clear impact on results. Infectious disease and supply shortages were a clear focus to responding agencies. Discussion occurred around varying scenarios, such as a tornado, blizzard, extreme cold, or a derecho storm. Although the events are different, they would require a similar response. It was also noted that certain scenarios might lead to multiple events occurring simultaneously. An example of this could be inclement weather, resulting in power outages and communication issues, while also responding to a pandemic and dealing with staffing shortages. These are important issues to be aware as we partner with local emergency agencies to plan, train, and exercise local response efforts.

## COVID-19 After Action Report & Improvement Plan

**Objective: By June 30, 2022, LCHD will complete 3 corrective actions identified in the COVID-19 Response After Action Report/ Improvement Plan.**

**Best Practice Source:** CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities

**Outcome:**

The following areas were identified by staff for improvement in the LCHD COVID-19 Response After Action Report that was completed on May 31, 2021. These areas of improvement were selected as priority performance measures for 2022. **Two corrective actions were completed by June 30, 2022.**

<p><b>1. Messaging was not tailored for diverse populations and those with health inequities. Traditional media was the primary messaging source. WI DHS did not tailored or targeted messaging for diverse populations.</b></p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>Corrective Action:</b> Incorporate health equity into crisis communication strategies and planning. Assure messages are tailored and distributed appropriately. Partner with organizations that serve diverse populations (Mennonite, Hispanic, low income, elderly, etc.).</p> <p><b>Result:</b> Maternal COVID Equity Grant Objective received in 2022. This objective assessed the needs of the maternal, child, health population and the organizations that serve them with concerns to COVID-19. Based on the assessment resources and education were provided.</p>	
<p><b>2. Challenges remain with the sustainability of free local testing as well as communication amongst testing partners as services and fees change.</b></p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>Corrective Action:</b> Continue to advocate for free testing availability among healthcare systems, pharmacies and other community partners. Encourage communication particularly when services and fees change.</p> <p><b>Result:</b> Besides providing a resource guide listing all testing opportunities available to Lincoln County Residents, LCHD was awarded Testing Grant from WI DHS. Providing PCR and Antigen testing weekly Monday – Friday 9-10:30 am.</p>	
<p><b>3. Update Volunteer Management Plan (within the Public Health Emergency Plan)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p>
<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4/20/22 - LCHD staff meet to review current volunteer management plan, resources and lessons learned.</li> <li>• 5/3/22 - Met with Emergency Management and Corporation Counsel to discuss county volunteer plans and liability.</li> <li>• Updated LCHD’s volunteer management response checklist, volunteer packet and training materials.</li> <li>• 8/11/22 - <i>Volunteer Management Checklist and Response Materials updated.</i></li> </ul>	

Progress has been made on closing gaps identified in the COVID-19 After Action Report and Improvement Plan. Assuring COVID-19 resources are accessible to community members and distributed through various methods has been a priority for LCHD. The availability of COVID-19 testing on weekdays and COVID-19 vaccine clinics twice a week have been strengths in our efforts to assure accessible and convenient COVID-19 services to the public. Although LCHD’s Volunteer Management Plan was not finalized by 6/30/22, significant progress was made to update the plan and materials based on lessons learned from COVID-19. The Volunteer Management Plan was finalized on 8/11/22.



# Program Evaluation

## Mass Clinic Exercises

In October and November, LCHD exercised our medical countermeasures and dispensing (mass clinic) plan and capabilities by completing four school based flu vaccine clinics for Lincoln County students (4K-12 grade). The flu vaccine was provided at no cost to students. Clinics were organized similar to how they would be during a real mass vaccine clinic. Staff were assigned to ICS roles, floor plans were developed, ICS forms were utilized, risk communication components were tested and volunteers were utilized.

**A total of 191 students were vaccinated:**

- Merrill High School 10/18/22 (58 students)
- Prairie River Middle School 10/25/22 (48 students)
- Tomahawk School District 10/27/22 (64 students)
- LCHD 11/3/22 (21 students). \*Students enrolled in parochial/private and elementary schools were invited to participate at this clinic.

**Overall school based clinic operations were efficient with minimal challenges.**

<b>Strengths</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clinic planning, coordination and operations</b> Roles were clearly defined and staff understood responsibilities. Staff communication was effective. Clinic flow and operations were efficient. Cold chain transport of vaccine to offsite clinics went smoothly as well as entry of vaccines into WIR offsite. Screening, registration and vaccine administration occurred without any challenges.</li> <li>• <b>Communication and coordination among LCHD and school staff</b> LCHD maintained regular communication with school staff. Planning resources were shared with schools as well as promotional materials for parents/guardians. Schools issued radios to LCHD staff to assure effective communication throughout the clinic. School staff and/or volunteers were available to support clinic operations.</li> <li>• <b>HIPAA compliant online registration and consent process</b> LCHD utilized Jot forms for clinic registration with a Spanish translation option, which assisted LCHD with pre-planning and coordination with the schools. The assigned lead nurse reviewed screening questions on consent forms prior to clinics. Staff also reviewed WIR records prior to and during clinics.</li> </ul>
<b>Areas of Improvement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consent form missing flu mist screening questions</b> Consent form did not have adequate screening questions for flu mist. Staff called parents/guardians of students who were registered for flu mist to complete additional screening and documented on the consent form. Registration opened on 10/11/22 and the online consent form was updated on 10/13/22.</li> </ul>

## AMI and Testing Customer Survey

In 2022, AMI provided COVID-19 Vaccination in partnership with LCHD at LCHD. A customer survey was provided to clinic participant to obtain additional information on their experience at this clinic. The following is a summary of the results.

**Results:**

- We received 81 surveys, out of the 317 of individuals vaccinated who had the chance to fill out the survey

between 11/1/2022 and 1/12/2023. 78% (n=63) of individuals reported they live in Merrill WI. Whereas .05% (n=4) live in Gleason and .05% (n=4) live in Wausau.

- 40% (n=33) of individuals reported it a challenge to find a COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- 29% (n=24) of the individuals reported the vaccine clinics met their needs by the staff being friendly, while 32% (n=26) reported the vaccine clinic had the type of vaccine they wanted. Only .01% (n=1) of the Individual's needs were not met due to AMI not having the type of vaccine they wanted.
- 42% (n=34) of the individuals reported the #1 reason they decided to come to this vaccine clinic was it was close to home, while 41% (n=33) of the individuals reported it was because that they were able to walk in.
- 30% (n=24) of the individuals reported that they heard about the vaccine clinic from the LCHD website, while 26% (n=21) heard about it from a family or friend.

#### Conclusion of Results:

- Out of the 81 individuals surveyed, all needs were met. A majority of the individuals lived in Merrill and reported that having a clinic close to home where they could walk in was most beneficial. Individuals reported that they heard about the clinic from the LCHD website and a family friend.

#### Action Plan based on Results:

Based on these results, Lincoln County Health Department will make sure to do the following for our own COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics we are holding.

- Promote our vaccine clinics on our website and ensure dates and times are kept up-to-date.
- Provide a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.
- Have the option of "walk-ins" for clinics.

## Thank you to our COVID-19 champions

We proudly recognize Lincoln County Health Department employees for their extraordinary dedication and service in responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We also want to acknowledge the following public health champions that provided that extra support to our department and staff when we needed it the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- Mike Loka, Lincoln County Board of Health Chair
- Tomahawk Pharmacy
- Greg Alberts - WJJQ
- Lonnie Strauss – WJMT
- City of Merrill

## Contacts:



Kandie Sippel-King  
COVID-19 Response Assistant  
[kandie.sippel-king@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:kandie.sippel-king@co.lincoln.wi.us)



Judy Sargent  
Public Health Nurse  
[Judy.Sargent@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:Judy.Sargent@co.lincoln.wi.us)



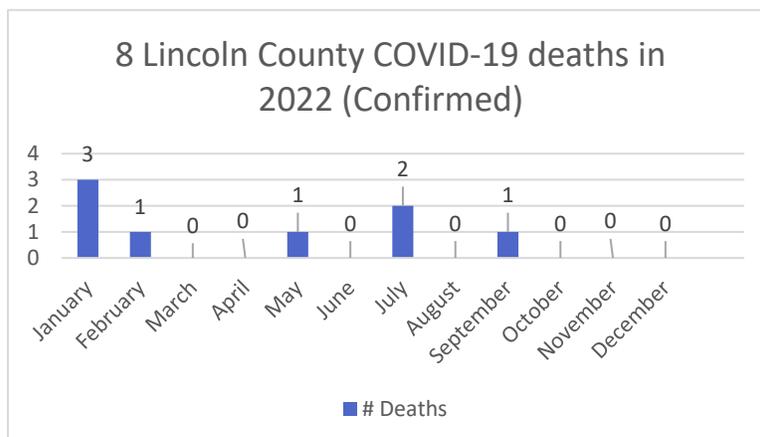
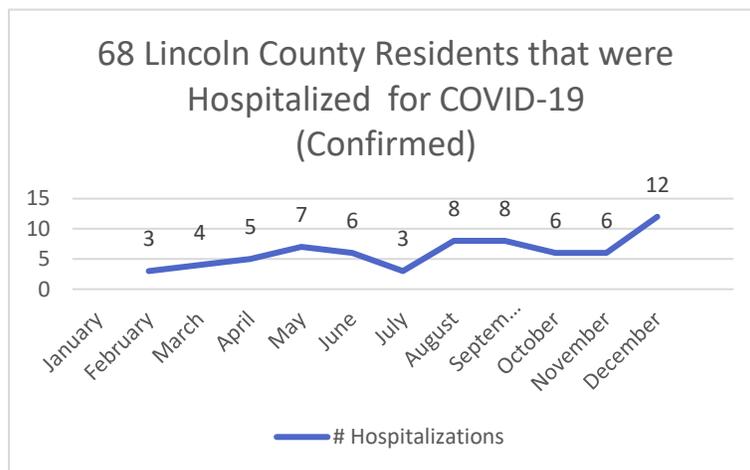
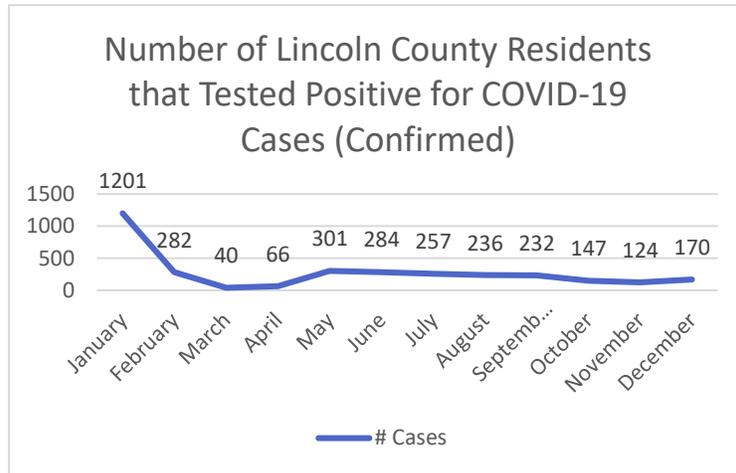
Kristin Bath, CHES  
Public Health Educator  
[kristin.bath@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:kristin.bath@co.lincoln.wi.us)



Lexi Buntrock, CHES  
Public Health Educator  
[lexi.buntrock@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:lexi.buntrock@co.lincoln.wi.us)

# Appendix A: COVID-19 Data Dashboard

COVID-19 was still at pandemic levels in 2022. The data below reflects the disease shift that occurred within our community due to mitigation changes such as; individuals no longer testing for COVID-19, increase in home test kits being used where data is not track; as well as less community members not being as severely ill due to widespread vaccination and natural community immunity. Challenges still occurred with changing variants of the disease being present in the United States resulting in a new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine being offered in fall of 2022.



# Appendix B: Snapshot of Educational Messages

## Lincoln County Health Department COVID-19 Update Wednesday, January 26, 2022

### Confirmed and Probable Cases

290 New Cases  
6,495 Total Cases  
4 New Hospitalizations  
258 Total Hospitalizations  
1 New Deaths  
128 Total Deaths

### Activity Level

As of 1/26/22 - based on burden & trajectory

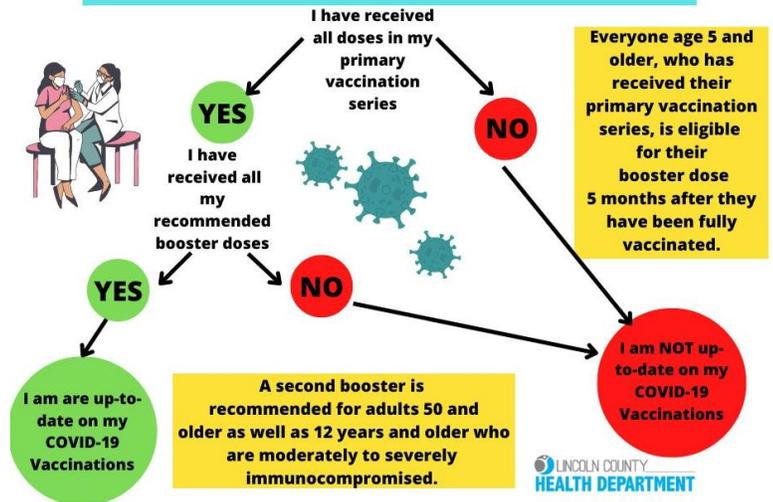


Burden: # of cases per 100,000 in the last 2 weeks  
Trajectory: % change in the last 2 weeks  
Updated weekly on Wednesdays by 5pm  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>



Updates provided weekly  
More information @ <https://co.lincoln.wi.us/covid19>  
Source: WI Department of Health Services

## Are you up-to-date with your COVID-19 Vaccinations?



## Monkeypox-Symptoms

Monkeypox is typically characterized by a new rash that develops circular skin lesions.



Other Symptoms May Include:

- Fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Muscle aches
- Chills

The monkeypox rash usually develops within 1 to 3 days after fever. This depends on person to person and how the virus effects them.



## Hepatitis A Outbreak linked to fresh organic strawberries

Do not eat FreshKampo or HEB brand organic strawberries purchased between March 5, 2022, and April 25, 2022



## FREE COVID-19 TESTING

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
607 N SALES ST MERRILL, WI 54452

REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.  
WALK-INS WELCOME



Scan the QR Code to Register or visit <https://hipaa.jotform.com/220174496335053>  
Call 715-539-2584 if you need assistance





## Tomahawk School District Student Flu Clinic

**Thursday, October 27  
8:30 - 11:00 am**

No walk-ins. Pre-registration is required.  
Pre-register at <https://bit.ly/3xLtCbc>

**Deadline to pre-register is  
Wednesday, October 26 at 12 pm.**

Please have your child dress appropriately so their upper arm is easily accessible.

For more information, contact the Lincoln County Health Department at 715-536-0307 or [LCHealth@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:LCHealth@co.lincoln.wi.us)



### LINCOLN COUNTY IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A MEDIUM COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL.

- Ensure you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Stay home when you are sick or test positive for COVID-19.



Stay Up to Date with Vaccinations



Get Tested



Sick? Stay Home

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Data as of June 9, 2022  WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

## COVID-19 Resources



### Masks

Free N95 masks are available at:  
T.B. Scott Free Library (Merrill)  
Lincoln County Health Department (Merrill)

### Testing

Getting tested for COVID-19 may help limit the spread of COVID-19 to your family and others in your community. Testing is free. Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.

**PCR & Rapid Antigen Testing**  
Lincoln County Health Department  
Monday through Friday 9 am - 10:30 am  
Register at <https://bit.ly/3VVA3a2> or call 715-539-2584

**Home COVID-19 Test Kits**  
Pick up at Lincoln County Health Department  
607 N. Sales Street (Merrill)  
Monday through Friday 9 am - 3:30 pm  
\*Limited Supplies\*

**Home COVID-19 Test Kits Ship to You**  
Every home in Wisconsin is eligible to order free at-home COVID-19 tests through the state. Order at [www.snoventest.com/hometest.org](http://www.snoventest.com/hometest.org)

### Vaccines

Being fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 is the best way to prevent severe illness and hospitalizations. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, no charge, and are widely available.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics**  
Lincoln County Health Department  
Tuesdays, 3 pm - 5 pm  
Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm

Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome  
Register at <https://vaccinate.wi.gov/en-US> or call 715-539-1375.

### Questions

For more information contact Lincoln County Health Department at 715-539-2584, email [covid@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto: covid@co.lincoln.wi.us) or visit [lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com](http://lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com)

Version: 5/2022

## Blastomycosis *Fast Facts*



**Blastomycosis** (or "Blasto") is an infection caused by the fungus *Blastomyces dermatitidis*

Illness can occur 2 – 15 weeks after breathing in the fungal spores

Symptoms can include cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, joint pain, and chest pain

Infection can spread to other parts of the body such as skin or bones

Blasto is not spread from person to person

The fungus lives in moist soil and decaying wood and leaves

Blasto is treatable with antifungal medications

People who smoke, have lung disease, or have weakened immune systems are more likely to become ill

Ill individuals concerned about Blasto should visit their doctor

Learn more at: <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/blastomycosis/>



## GET YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY VACCINATED!

A yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#FIGHT FLU



## Adult Walk-In Flu Shot Clinics

Wednesdays, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Lincoln County Health Department  
607 N. Sales Street, Suite 101, Merrill

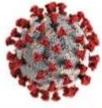
Quadrivalent Flu Shots Available  
No appointment needed



LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## FREE COVID-19 HOME TEST KITS

Stop by the Lincoln County Health Department to pick up a free kit on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Supplies are limited.



# Local COVID-19 Testing Sites

If you are, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms contact your healthcare provider. If you do not have a primary health care provider, contact one of the hotlines listed below.

### ASPIRUS

COVID-19 Call Center 1-844-568-0701 or 715-843-1454, Hotline:  
Monday – Friday, 7am–7pm  
Saturday – Sunday, 8am–5pm  
<https://www.aspirus.org/coronavirus-covid19>

Call the COVID-19 Call Center if you are experiencing symptoms and would like to be tested or require a test for travel. Medical staff will complete a pre-screening evaluation to determine if testing can be completed at a drive through or if you should be seen in person for further evaluation. There is a fee for testing. *Appointment Only*

#### Drive Through:

**Aspirus (Weston)** Appointment Needed  
**Aspirus (Medford)** Appointment Needed  
**Aspirus (Antigo)** Appointment Needed  
**Aspirus (Tomahawk)** Pre-screening is required via Tele-Health Appointment prior to scheduling.  
**Phone Number:** 715-453-7200.

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County Health Department  
**No Cost PCR** testing, intended for symptomatic and those in close contact who are 12 months old and older.  
**No Cost Antigen** testing for individuals who are at least 24 months old.  
**Non-Drive Through:**  
607 N. Sales St. Merrill  
Monday-Friday, 9am-10:30am  
Appointment encouraged, Walk-ins welcome  
**Phone Number:** 715-539-2584  
<https://hipaa.jotform.com/form/220174496335053>

### TOMAHAWK PHARMACY

Monday – Friday, 9am-11:30am/2pm-4:30pm  
**Pre-Registration Recommended**  
**Phone Number:** 715-453-6600  
<https://hipaa.jotform.com/213395521525151>  
**State Funded PCR** test. See the website for costs on other COVID-19 tests.

### MARSHFIELD CLINIC

**Nurse Line:** 844-342-6276  
Medical staff will complete a pre-screening evaluation and schedule an appointment for you. Patients can schedule themselves online. There is a fee for testing.  
**Drive Up:**  
**Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center**  
Monday – Friday, 8am-4:30pm.  
Appointment Needed.

Marshfield Clinic also offers COVID-19 testing required for travel through Care My Way. Please note that Marshfield Clinic does charge a fee for tests through Care My Way.  
[http://bit.ly/Marshfield\\_care](http://bit.ly/Marshfield_care)

### WALGREENS-(ALL)

Walgreens offers COVID-19 testing for those 3+ who are experiencing symptoms or those who require a test for travel. You must complete a pre-screening evaluation online, find a location with available tests and schedule a test. Hours vary. *Appointment Only.* There may be a fee for testing.  
**Phone Number:** 715-539-0218  
[http://bit.ly/Walgreens\\_testing](http://bit.ly/Walgreens_testing)

Last Updated: 8/2022

Lincoln County Health Department | COVIDtesting@co.lincoln.wi.us | 715-539-2584 Page 1



## FREE COVID-19 TESTING



TESTS ARE PROVIDED AT NO CHARGE. SUPPLIES LIMITED.

### RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING

Completed at the Lincoln County Health Department.  
Results within 4 hours. Must be at least 2 years old.

### PCR TESTING

Completed at the Lincoln County Health Department.  
Results within 2-5 days. Must be at least 12 months old.

### AT-HOME TEST KITS

Pick up at Lincoln County Health Department.  
Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30pm  
Results within 15 minutes. Limited supply.

### SCHEDULE A RAPID ANTIGEN OR PCR TEST TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit [www.lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com](http://www.lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com)

Monday through Friday  
9:00 am - 10:30 am  
607 N. Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452

Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



If you have questions or need assistance scheduling an appointment, contact the LCHD COVID-19 Testing Line at 715-539-2584 or email [covid@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:covid@co.lincoln.wi.us).

**LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Parents are busy.  
Kids are busy.  
We can help get you caught up.

Check out our monthly schedule for immunization clinics or call us for questions @ 715-539-1375.

## FREE LINCOLN COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

All doses of Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available for all ages (including updated boosters)

Tuesdays, 3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM  
(last clinic is Thursday, January 12)

Lincoln County Health Department  
607 N. Sales Street, Suite 101  
Merrill, WI 54452



Lincoln County Health Department partners with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare to provide COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

### PRE-REGISTER OR WALK INS WELCOME.

Pre-register at <https://vaccinate.wi.gov>.  
Call 211 for registration assistance.

Vaccine is provided at no charge for everyone 6 months and older. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



## FREE N95 MASKS AVAILABLE

T.B. Scott Free Library  
Lincoln County Health Department

\* Supplies Limited

Stop by anytime during business hours to pick up free masks.

# Appendix C: Dashboard Data Detail

Below are the abbreviated references for the data presented in the dashboard. Note that some measures have more years of data available.



## Communicable Disease and Conditions

**Enteric Diseases:** Number of food and or waterborne disease, Lincoln County, includes giardia, salmonella, cryptosporidium, campylobacter, shigella, shiga toxin e-coli and Listeria. Source: WEDSS Year of Data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**Vectorborne Illnesses:** Number of vectorborne illness, Lincoln County; includes Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, erlichiosis, babesiosis, powassan, Jamestown canyon virus. Source: WEDSS. Year of Data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**Disease Outbreaks:** Number of disease outbreaks, Lincoln County; includes outbreaks such as norovirus, COVID-19, Gastro-Intestinal, blastomycosis and acute respiratory outbreaks. Source: Lincoln County Records. Year of Data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**Hepatitis C:** Number of Hepatitis C disease (acute and chronic) Lincoln County. Source: WEDSS Year of Data: 2022 Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**Sexually Transmitted Disease:** Number of Sexually Transmitted Disease, Lincoln County; includes gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis. Source: WEDSS. Year of Data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**COVID-19:** Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Disease, Lincoln County. Source: WEDSS. Year of Data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022



## Vaccine Preventable Disease

**Two Year Old Immunization:** Percent of two year old receiving recommended vaccines. Source: WIR Year of Data: 2022 Lincoln County Average: 2020-2021 Wisconsin Average: 2020-2022

**Influenza:** Number of Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations for 2022. Source: WEDSS. Lincoln County Average: 2020-2022

**Student Immunization Compliance:** % of all students meeting school immunization requirements. Previous averages for Lincoln County may not have included all schools within the district due to changes in reporting immunization rates from school years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022

Source: WI Department of Health Lincoln County Average: 2019-2022 Wisconsin Average: 2019-2022

**School Vaccination Clinic:** Number of Lincoln County students (4K-12 grade) receiving the flu vaccine at a school based vaccine clinic. Source: Lincoln County Health Department. Year of data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2019-2022



## Emergency Preparedness

**Trainings:** Number of public health preparedness trainings, exercises and drills completed by staff. Source: Lincoln County Health Department. Year of data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2018-2022

**Emergencies:** Number of public health emergencies in Lincoln County where emergency plans were activated.

Source: Lincoln County Health Department. Year of data: 2022. Lincoln County Average: 2018-2022