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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Teen Covid-19 Cluster Has Evolved into an Outbreak Investigation

The Covid-19 community cluster has evolved into an outbreak investigation due to the number of reported cases and links to teen nights in Beach Haven going back to July 11th. We are reporting an additional 10 cases since yesterday, with teen night attendance going back to Sunday 7/25 and as recent as Thursday 7/27. To date the total reported Covid-19 cases associated with this outbreak stands at 20 individuals.

The State Health Department has been notified of this youth outbreak. It will be challenging to identify the full scope of this outbreak likely due to under reporting, cases have been dispersed over the state and region during the height of the summer season. However, we are actively associating any reported cases throughout the state that share a sufficient epidemiologic link.

The Long Beach Island Health Department (LBIHD) received the first report of a positive Covid-19 case on July 19th that cited attending teen nights in Beach Haven on Sunday July 11th and Tuesday July 13th. LBIHD was then notified on July 26th of an additional positive who attended a teen night on Sunday, 7/18. LBIHD was again notified on August 2nd of (2) laboratory confirmed positives cases that attended teen night on Sunday, 7/25 and (1) positive case that attended a teen night on Tuesday, 7/27.

We would advise testing if you have attended teen nights within the last 14 days and particularly if you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, regardless of immunization status. The recommended time to seek testing is 3-5 days after an exposure.

We would advise both parents and youth that events that bring individuals together in large numbers, in doors and social atmospheres, pose significant risk of Covid-19 transmission. Unlike more structured and regulated organizations that host youth, teen nights often do not require health screening, immunization status, negative tests or have any social distance and masking. Higher risk is with adolescent and young adults who currently have low immunization rates, for those 12-15 yrs of age is 27% and for those 16-24 yrs. of age is 41%. In addition, the latest New Jersey surveillance data shows the Delta Variant is the predominant strain circulating and has been shown to be much more contagious.

Immunizations continue to be effective and are available for 12 and older and we strongly encourage receiving the vaccine. Please feel free to contact our local health Department at 609-492-1212 or the local health department in the respective jurisdiction you reside.