



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Memorandum for: Louisville Metro Board of Health

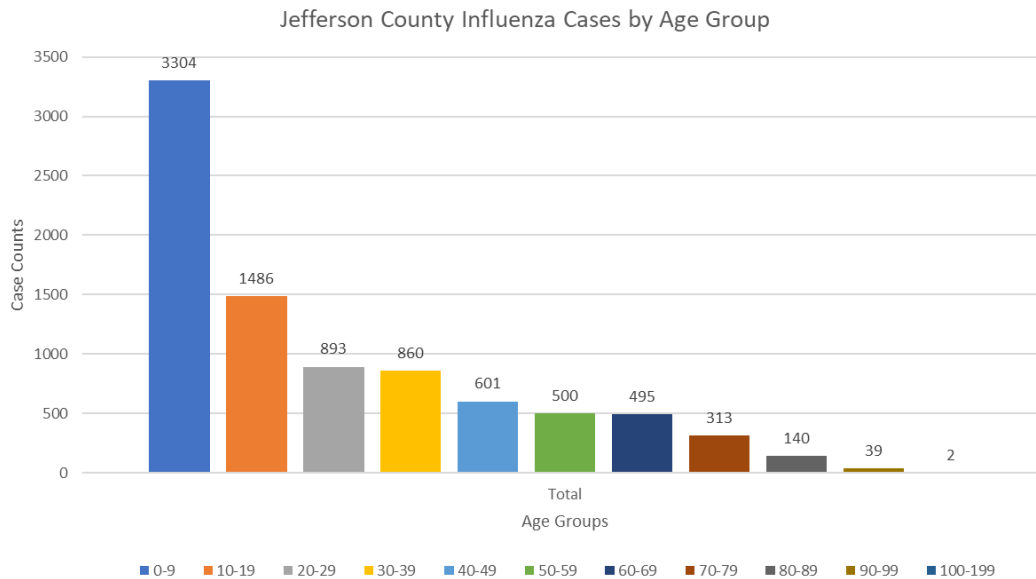
From: Jeffery Howard, Interim Director & Chief Health Strategist and Medical Director

Subject: January Director's Report - Trends and Insights from 12/3/22 – 12/29/22

- **Grant award for lead poisoning prevention.** LMPHW's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was awarded a \$150,000.00 grant for the Lead-Free Communities Initiative. The funding, sponsored by the Public Health Institute and the CDC, will create a lead poisoning dashboard in collaboration with the UofL Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute, a community education and outreach campaign on lead exposure prevention, as well as environmental lead testing and mapping in partnership with the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences.
- **CityHealth award.** Louisville earned a 2022 bronze medal rating from [CityHealth](#) for our use of policy to improve the health of our residents. There are additional [evidence-based policies](#) Louisville could adopt to raise its standing and help improve our residents' quality of life as it relates to affordable housing trusts, greenspace, healthy rental housing, healthy food purchasing, and legal support for renters.
- **Adaptive response to infectious illnesses.** In response to the spread of several respiratory illnesses and increased travel around the holidays, LMPHW promoted [messages about case trends and actions](#) to help prevent people from getting sick. To preempt a [measles](#) outbreak, like in Ohio, we connected with healthcare providers and organizations serving communities at higher risk to promote early identification and the effectiveness of preventive vaccination. Finally, based on [decreasing cases](#), we ended our mpox incident management team. Contact tracing continues through regular internal processes.
- **Recruitment and retention.** Vacancies persist across the department, with the most openings and oldest job postings being in the Health Services division. In December we reached a high of 113 open positions, up from 91 vacancies in July. The starting salaries for positions with the highest number of turnovers in 2022 are \$2.1K-\$13K less than similar positions in the private sector. Vacancies continue to impact services provided to the

community as well as increase LMPHW's reliance on agency contractors which contributes to pay inequities issues between staff and contractors and costs the department more.

- **Flu surveillance.** Reported influenza cases and influenza levels in the wastewater continue to rise. To date this season, there are a total of 8,633 confirmed cases in Jefferson County. The highest number of individuals testing positive for flu continues to be children 0-9 years old. There have been 15 flu-related deaths and 4 were children.



Adapted from LMPHW's [weekly flu activity report](#). The numbers reflect preliminary counts, are subject to change, and represent Jefferson County only.