

#### 2024 BIENNIAL TB & NEWCOMER HEALTH NURSE MEETING

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# TB PROGRAM UPDATE

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### TODAY'S AGENDA

- Looking backward (Stern)
- Looking around (Port/Starboard)
- Looking forward (Bow)



## LOOKING BACK





### SINCE WE LAST MET

- Continued re-norming to a post-COVID world
  - Move to a "new normal" across society
  - Acceptance that COVID is here to stay
  - Changes in behavior (going to crowded spaces, less reliance on masks) created changes in disease circulation
- Active TB cases across the United States (including in Virginia) approaching pre-pandemic levels
  - Increase in case acuity?
- Multiple changes to humanitarian parolee programs impacting eligibility for benefits
  - Considerable confusion as guidance changed quickly
  - Additional burden on health departments (IGRAs, vaccines)



### SINCE WE LAST MET

- Staffing challenges across the healthcare continuum
  - Public health not immune!
  - Causes: retirement, burnout, career changes
  - Result: fewer hands on deck, loss of continuity and impacts to knowledge transfer, training, and continuity
- Federal funding provided via continual resolution
  - Created instability in program funding, but manageable overall

## LOOKING AROUND



### LOOKING AROUND

- Top priority remains identification and management of active TB cases
  - TB Program continues to provide support to districts to ensure case management including financial support, technical assistance, connection to resources, and training
  - We can't forget about LTBI!
    - Prioritized testing partnerships continue with the Mason and Partners (MAP) Clinic at George Mason and Health Brigade in Richmond
      - Goal: Think/Assess, Test, Treat
    - What does LTBI surveillance look like in Virginia?
      - Project LIFT
      - Answer: It's complicated



### LOOKING AROUND

- Application submitted for the first year of next five-year cooperative agreement cycle
  - Expect feedback in next month
  - Quick turnaround for budget revisions
- Continuing normal program activities
  - Provision of technical support
  - Epidemiology activities including collecting case data, cluster review, data QA, IJNs
  - Training/education (routine and ad hoc)

## LOOKING FOWARD



#### LOOKING FORWARD

- We might not know what is around the corner, but we must be prepared to address:
  - Continued increase in active TB cases
  - Growing complexity of cases
  - Staffing/training needs
  - Funding
- How do we operate in an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment (VUCA)?
  - We do what we do best!
  - Renewed focus on patient-centered care that makes a community impact



#### MORE THAN ANYTHING...

- ...THANK YOU!
- Don't forget the impact you have and the difference you make in so many lives!

#### KEEP IN TOUCH!

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