

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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