Androscoggin Valley Covid-19 Workgroup

11-18-2022
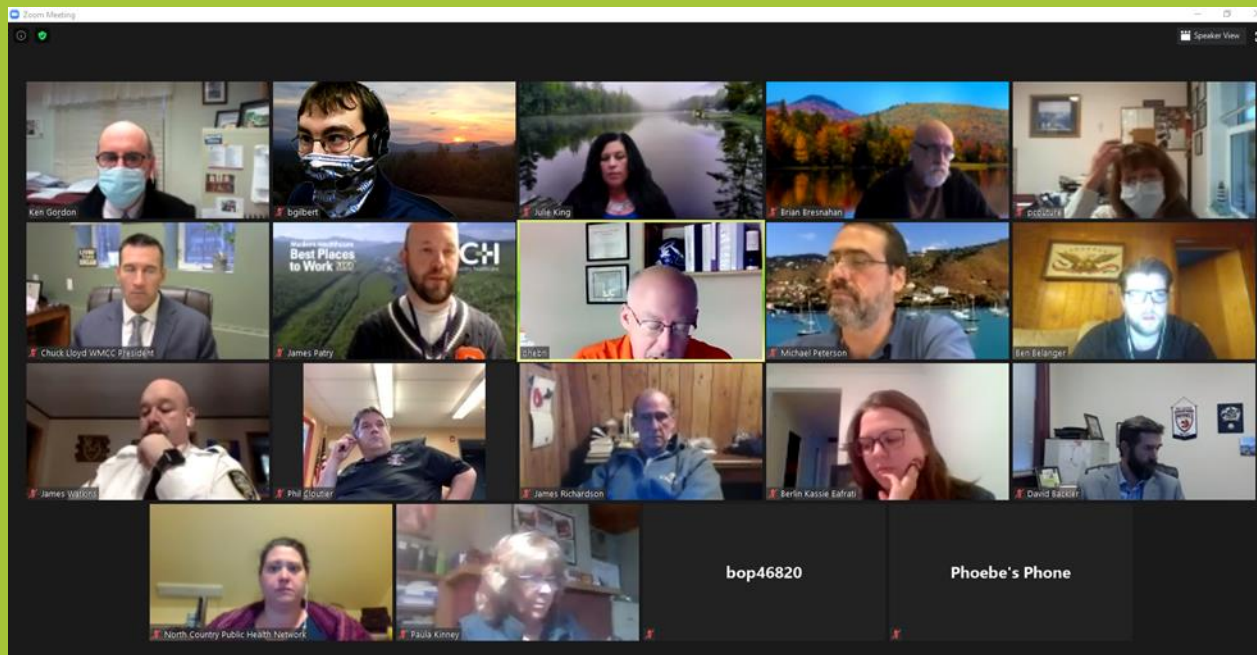

Michael Peterson, FACHE
President & CEO

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Where the Heck Are They?

Community Characteristics

- Mix of Small City, Village, Rural
- Socio-Economic Distress
- Pop. = @15,000
- "Tight" Social Structure
- "Anchor" Public Schools
- 2 Prisons
- Community College
- CAH / FQHC
- 2 Nursing Homes

An Eric Kamins

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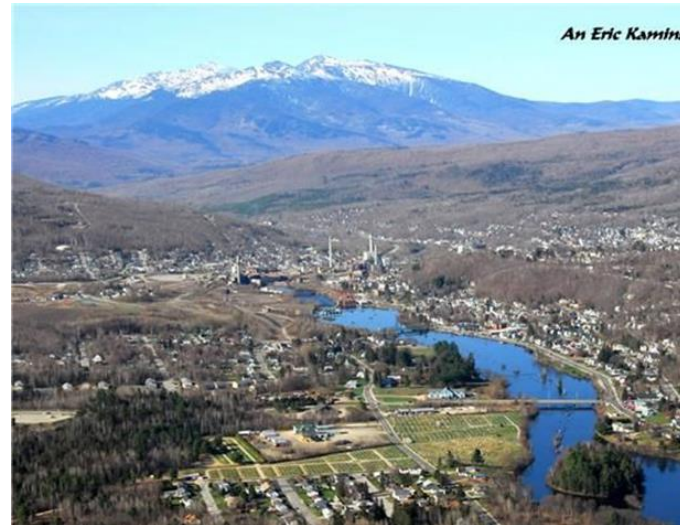
And then . . . Along Comes COVID-19

- China – Late 2019
- Washington State
- Middle East
- Europe
- New Hampshire!!

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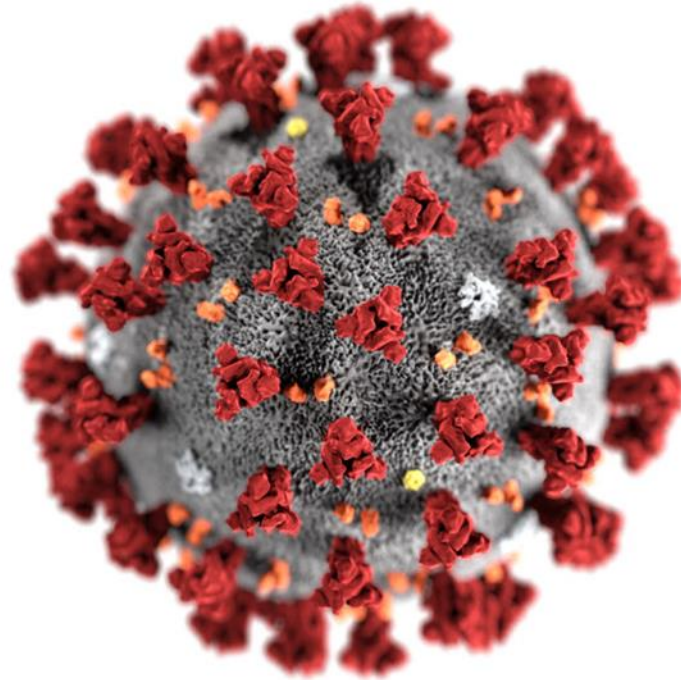
Unique Community Vulnerability = Emerging Anxiety

- Aging Population
- 2 SNFs / 2 Prisons
- Tightly Knit Community
- Tourism Dependent Economy
- Modest Health System Capacity

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Formulating a Response

Concerns
- Patient / Staff Safety
- Organizational
- Health / Education / Social Service Systems
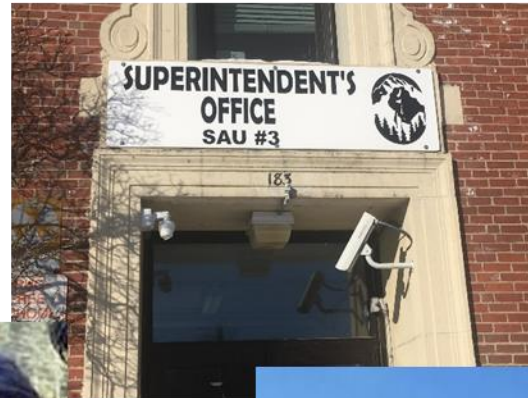- Public Health

What is Happening?

- Federal Information – Varied
  - CDC / White House / FDA

- State Sources
  - DHHS / Gov's Office

- Local - Limited
  - Incident Command Structur
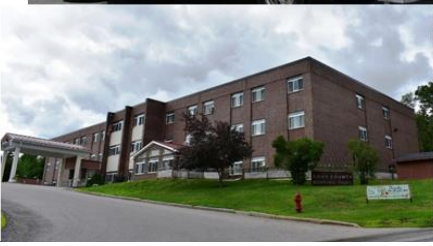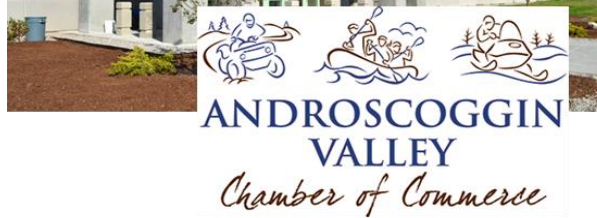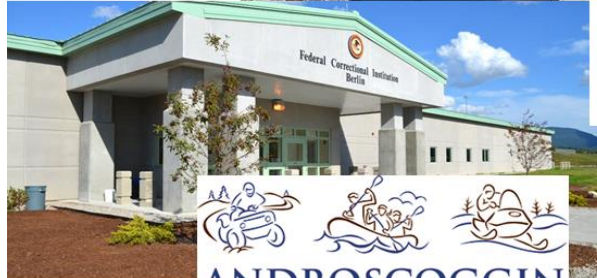 - Informal Communications
 - Disinformation

A Meeting With School Leaders

We Ought to Get A Larger Group Together . . .

The Basics . . .

- Meeting 2-3x Week / 1 hour via Zoom initially
  - At peak (April-June 2020, and again during Delta) 7 days/week

- Consistent Facilitation & Format
  - Meeting Dedication
  - Situation Updates
  - Current Issues
  - Matching Needs with Resources
  - Anticipatory Planning

- Email Updates

- Other Factors to Success
  - Honesty
  - Acceptance
  - Vulnerability
  - Sharing both "losses" and "wins"

COVID-19 WORKGROUP

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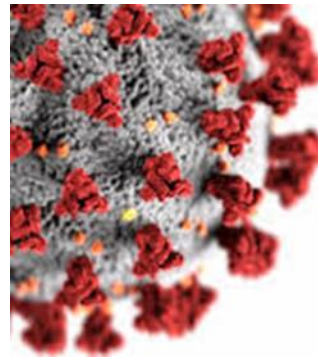
Resulting Benefits . . .

- Resource Sharing
  - Efficient Allocation of Limited Resources
  - Shared Best-Practice Approaches
- Situational Awareness
  - Better Informed Decisions
- Decision-Making
  - Learning from the Experience of Others
  - Debunking Myths/Rumors
- Emotional Support
  - Leaders need a safe place to share too

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Resulting Benefits . . .

- Consistent Messaging
- Community-wide Involvement
  - Increased resources
  - Reduced "time to act"
- Advocacy with a "Single Voice"
- Education/Resource Distribution

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Resulting Benefits . . .

- Understanding of Inter-Relationships
  - What Happens One Place Affects Others
- Forging Community Ties
  - Establishing Relationships
  - New Appreciation for the Work of other Community Organizations.
  - Attracting Attention to Needs
- Framework for Tackling Other Issues
  - Monkey Pox, Hunger, Diabetes, Elder Abuse, etc.

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