

Communicable Disease Updates 2019

At the beginning of the lecture, I describe recent outbreaks. In 2018, a varicella outbreak was underway in Buncombe County (Asheville). This year, we have a couple of significant cases/outbreaks underway in mid-October:

- Mumps: university students in Guilford County.
- Measles: since last year we have seen the largest number of cases in the US since 1992, mostly among unvaccinated populations. On October 15, Guilford County reported a confirmed measles case and notified the public that if they went through the Piedmont Triad airport or a particular hotel on certain dates they may have been exposed.

Slide 20 addresses isolation and quarantine law in North Carolina. In my remarks I stated that NC law allows public health officials to issue quarantine orders to unvaccinated people during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, even if the person does not have a known exposure. This authority was tested in court during last year's varicella outbreak in a private school in Asheville. The Buncombe County Superior Court upheld quarantine orders that required unvaccinated children to refrain from attending school until the outbreak subsided.