



Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Current RSV activity in Maryland

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Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

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Mission and Vision

MISSION

The mission of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

VISION

The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration envisions a future in which all Marylanders and their families enjoy optimal health and well-being.

Outline

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus overview
- Palivizumab overview
- RSV hospitalization data for children <24 months
- Recent RSV-related communications

Respiratory Syncytial Virus Overview

- RSV causes acute respiratory tract infections in all ages
- Common infection in early childhood; can cause bronchiolitis or pneumonia
- Infants, young children, and older adults: increased risk for severe infection
- Age-related differences in clinical presentation
- Typical season: October/November – March/April

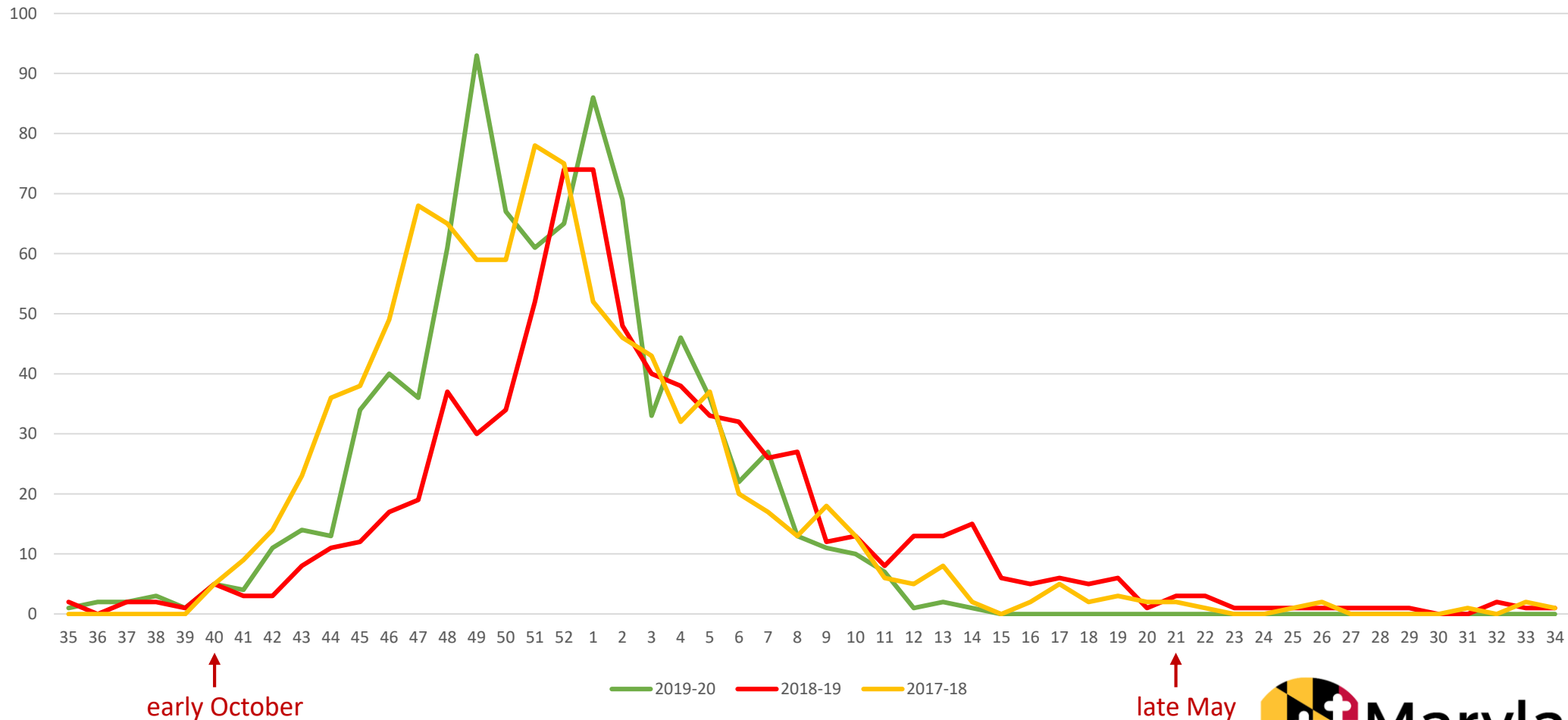
Palivizumab (Synagis®) Overview

- Monoclonal antibody that prevents fusion of virus to respiratory epithelium
- Used as prophylaxis to reduce lower respiratory tract in infants and young children at increased risk of severe disease
- 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines define eligible population
- Typical schedule: 5 monthly doses during RSV season

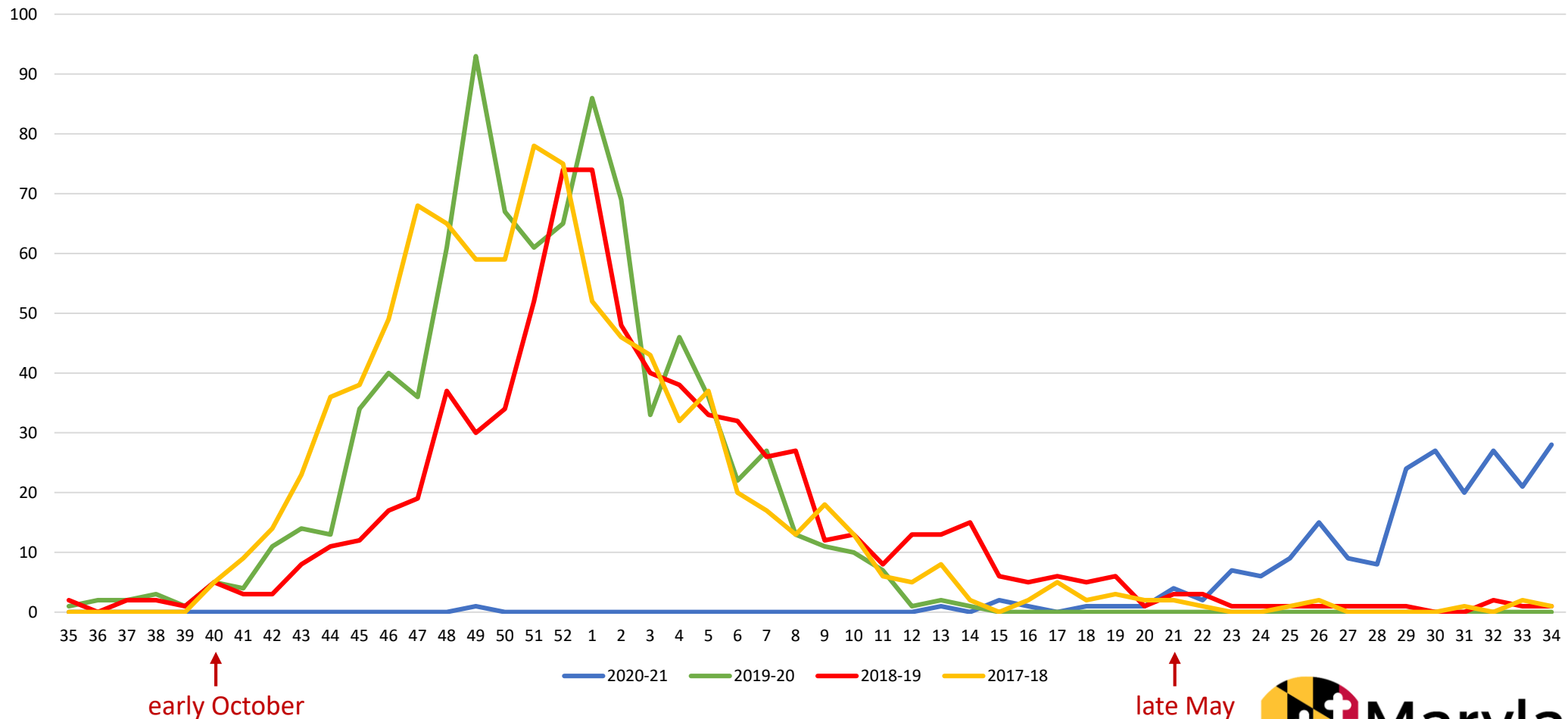
June 2021 RSV-related communications

- June 10, 2021: CDC Health Advisory – [*Increased Interseasonal Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Activity in Parts of the Southern United States*](#)
- June 15, 2021: Maryland Department of Health clinician letter

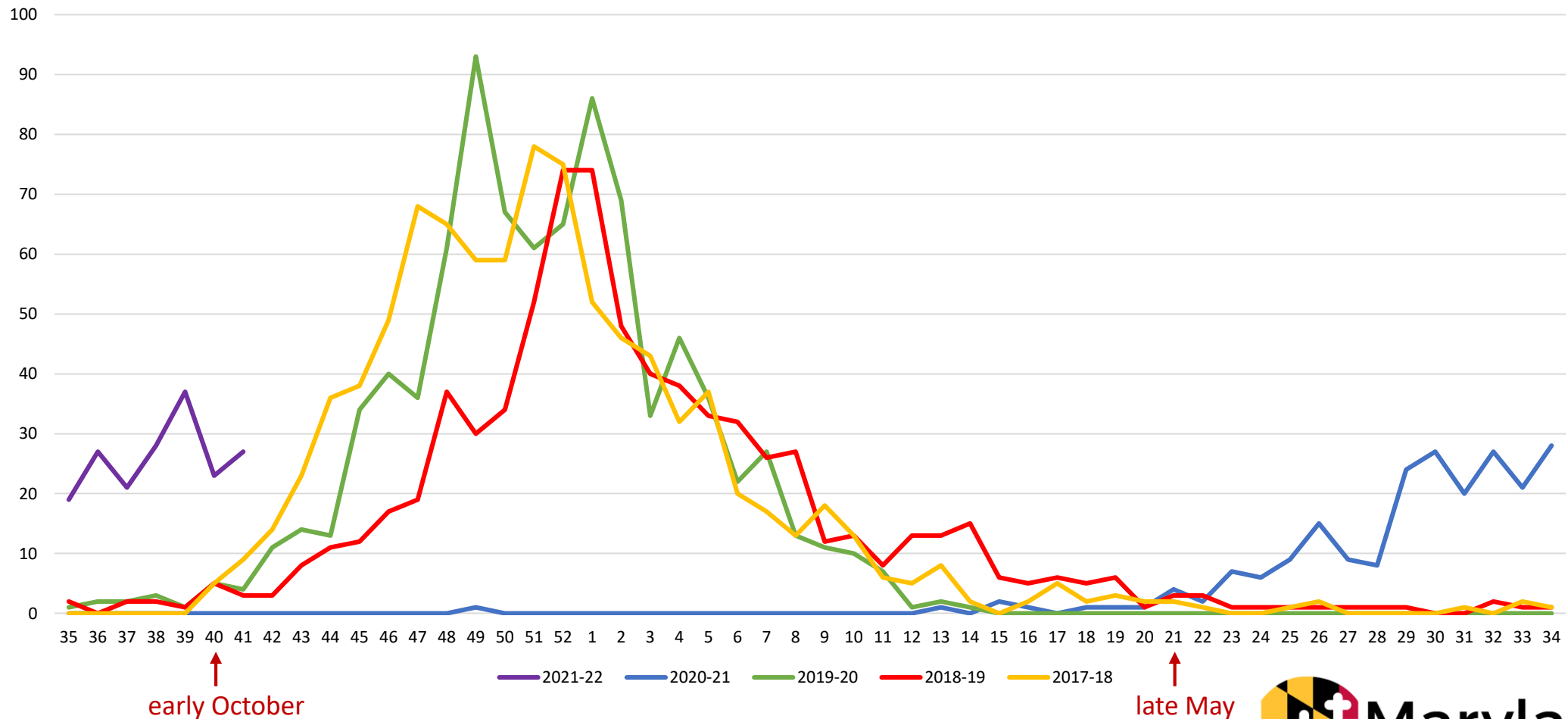
RSV hospitalizations for children < 24 months by MMWR week, Maryland, 2017-2020



RSV hospitalizations for children < 24 months by MMWR week, Maryland, 2017-2021



RSV hospitalizations for children < 24 months by MMWR week, Maryland, 2017-2021



Recent RSV-related communications

- August 8, 2021: [American Academy of Pediatrics interim guidance](#)
- September 13, 2021: [Maryland Medicaid Office of Pharmacy Services memorandum](#)
 - September 13th start date for accepting and reviewing pre-authorization requests for palivizumab (in contrast to November 1st start date)
- September 29, 2021: MDH clinician letter
 - Alerted providers to atypical RSV activity and above two items
 - Encouraged providers to consider palivizumab prophylaxis for eligible patients and to test for RSV when clinically indicated



Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

<https://phpa.health.Maryland.gov>