

Telephone: 508-764-5412
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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
January 19, 2023 BOH Meeting 6:00pm
Veteran's Room

Public Hearings: 6:10 pm Holy Trinity Church: Request for Food Service Fee Waiver
6:15pm 41 Stony Brook Drive: Request for Trash Toter Fee Waiver
6:20 pm Hospital Spa: Request for Food Service Fee Waiver

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:10pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

N. Duffey

A. Postale-excused

D. Grabowski

P. Szugda

J. Quinones

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MASSACHUSETTS
2023 FEB 17 AM 8:16

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

a. December 8, 2022- Motion to accept minutes made by member Grabowski; 2nd by J. Quinones-

Roll Call

N. Duffey-yes

P. Szugda-abstain

J. Quinones-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion passes 3-2 (Szugda abstain; Postale excused). Meeting minutes accepted.

Chair opens the 6:10 pm Public Hearing for Holy Trinity Church: Request for Food Service Fee Waiver- Susan Howland with Lynn Garland appear at the mercy of the Board for a fee waiver. Inspector Portalatin explains a recent inspection conducted revealed no violations at this time.

Motion to waive the \$200.00 Food Service fee is made by Chair Duffey; 2nd by D. Grabowski-

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

P. Szugda-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale). Holy Trinity Church Food Service fee is waived in its entirety.

Public hearing is closed at 6:13pm

Chair opens the 6:15pm Public Hearing for 41 Stony Brook Drive: Request for Trash Toter Fee Waiver- Director Wasiuk explains Mr. Arnone submitted a request in writing for a waiver of \$50.00 for a

trash container. After some further research, records at the Health Department indicate there were two trash totes delivered to the 41 Stony Brook Drive address. Mr. Dennis Arnone, property owner of 41 Stony Brook Drive explains he does not generate a whole lot of trash because he resides alone. For years he has been utilizing his neighbor's container placing only on bag inside and now since he has some time off from work he pleads before the board requesting the waiver. He continues explaining he has never seen or used a town issued trash tote; only the recycling tote.

Member Grabowski questions whether or not the serial number on the trash tote designated to the address can be traced or possibly walk the neighborhood in search of the tote.

Discussion:

Motion to table the Public Hearing until next BOH meeting is made by Chair Duffey; 2nd by D. Grabowski-

Roll Call

D. Grabowski-yes

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

P. Szugda-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion to table Public Hearing tote fee waiver request passes 4-1 excused (Postale).
Department staff will notify Mr. Arnone the continuation date of the public hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 6:27pm

6:20pm Public Hearing for Hospital Spa Request for Food Service fee waiver OPENS at 6:27pm: Mr. Arthur Martin, owner of Hospital Spa 151 South St explains his request could either be in its entirety or partially. Mr. Martin states he is attempting to reduce expenses as much as possible and only provides coffee/chocolate at this time. No food service available only pre-packaged products.

Food Inspector, Portalatin announces a recent inspection conducted revealed the kitchen is not up to standards for any food prep or food service however, coffee and chocolate allowable.

Motion made to reduce the Food Service fee to \$50.00 made by D. Grabowski; 2nd by J. Quinones-

Roll Call

P. Szugda-yes

J. Quinones-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

N. Duffey-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion to reduce to \$50.00 passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Public Hearing closed at 6:30pm

Agenda #4-Citizen's Forum- Councilor Marketti informs the Board he has been hearing and seeing a lot of mattresses/box springs all over and maybe, together with DPW we can come up with a solution to clean this up.

Director Wasiuk states he believes staff has made great effort providing citizens with direction of the newly banned items and questions where exactly are all of these located?

Chair Duffey questions if the people who have complained to him about the trash, have contacted us directly, letting us know of the issue and the specific location? That it's only when we know of the issue and the exact location are we able to follow up. Chair Duffey advises going forward to please direct them to us. Once we are informed, then it's on us and will be addressed.

Councilor Daou expresses concerns on the cost and process of disposal may cause hardship for some residents as some do not have credit cards to pay for the cost, let alone a computer.

Director Wasiuk to work with the hauler and staff for assistance with bulk items out on curb.

Agenda #5- COVID Update

a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- Director Wasiuk provides the most recent reports from the Epidemiologist indicating a spike during the Christmas. A report for the month of January unavailable at this time however, mention of fewer COVID cases were noted as well as flu date dramatically greater than COVID.

Director Wasiuk informs the Board clinics continue to be scheduled for vaccines and booster shots.

Agenda #6-Old Business

a. Blight Update- Director Wasiuk states the department continues to receive complaints regarding exterior conditions of property. The Department continues to follow up on these complaints. In addition, the office does receive multiple calls from tenants regarding faulty equipment, structural issues, Chair Duffey commends the owners of 314 Hamilton St drastically improving the appearance in bringing it back to life.

b. On-going discussion on community Mental Health needs- Member Quinones states she is the Executive Director for the Kiva Center in Southbridge and provides free mental health as well as providing food; phones and other assistance.

States she has received a couple of calls from individuals looking for resources and or assistance explaining the housing voucher program is only available for those who have been displaced with specific criteria.

c. Health Department website update- At the request of the Board, Inspector Quinn presents the new link "Health and Wellness" added to the Health Department webpage. These include contact information for programs and resources available to the public. In addition to COVID information/stats, influenza and EEE Information.

Board members praise Inspector Quinn on her thoroughness and willingness in working on the website. Stating if anyone has any resources, please forward the information to Inspector Quinn and she will include it on the Health and Wellness page.

Agenda #7- Discussion on Housing Resources & Guidance Presentation- Chair Duffey touched on some of the topics that would be discussed during the presentation, such as guidance on avoiding common pitfalls, giving the example of the "CHAPM" application for housing. How this connects to many

resources and stressed the importance of needing to fill this out correctly while keeping it updated, otherwise if the individual does not update the application it will bounce you to the bottom.

Chair Duffey explains she has reached out to Lyndsey from RCap and Margaret Morrissey Library Director to schedule a date/time that will work. The date is February 9th at 6:00pm on the Main level of the library.

Agenda #8- Health Director's Announcement- Director Wasiuk states the Department is making progress with the public outreach regarding the curbside trash topic. Stating the survey included in the census is going to be beneficial in determining where we are headed in making the much-needed decisions.

In addition, Mr. Wasiuk announces the Office of Emergency Preparedness Management, Jamie Terry has reached out to schedule an upcoming drill at the EDS site. This drill has to be completed by the end of March. Also, Director Wasiuk inquires on who would like to be part of the drill. Inspector Portalatin states member Szugda is completing the ICS and NIMS training. Chair Duffey suggests waiting until Vice Chair is available for possible interest.

Lastly, Director Wasiuk adds FY 2024 budget season begins. The Health Department will be meeting next week on Tuesday to construct a level funded budget as requested by Town Manager. Chair Duffey expresses an interest to meet to discuss the budget for a potential line item used for emergency assistance.

Director Wasiuk suggests utilizing the ARPA funds for any emergency needs as there are specific guidelines dedicated to public health.

Chair Duffey explains during an emergency housing placement, she was informed by the Town Manager there wasn't anything available, reiterating dedicating a line item for "emergencies".

Member Grabowski questions if the Town received a lump sum and the town distributes it as needed or is there a list that ARPA created?

Director Wasiuk explains he understands the Town has allocated a certain amount to use however, monies can be allocated for a specific purpose that is associated with public health such as building a homeless shelter. Should the board be inclined to move forward it can be further discussed.

Chair Duffey reiterates an interest to meet for a discussion on FY 2024 budget. Questions Wasiuk if he has had any luck looking into grant options?

Director states there isn't much out there right now only emergency preparedness grants.

Agenda #9- Chairman Announcement- None

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements-

- D. Grabowski- Kudos on the website
- P. Szugda- Ditto on website
- J. Quinones- None

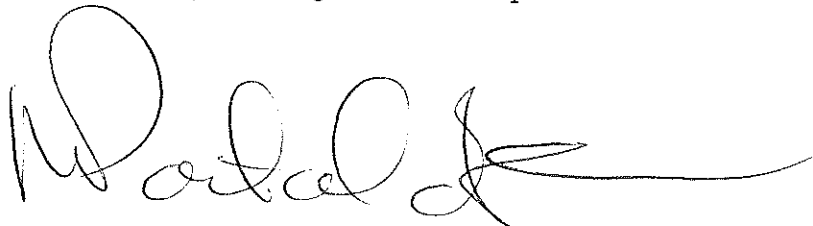
Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting-- February 16th at 6:00pm

Agenda #12- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by D. Grabowski; 2nd by J. Quinones-
Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes
P. Szugda-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
N. Duffey-yes
A. Postale-excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale). Meeting closed at 7:47pm

Recording Clerk,
Portalatin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Portalatin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Town of
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Massachusetts

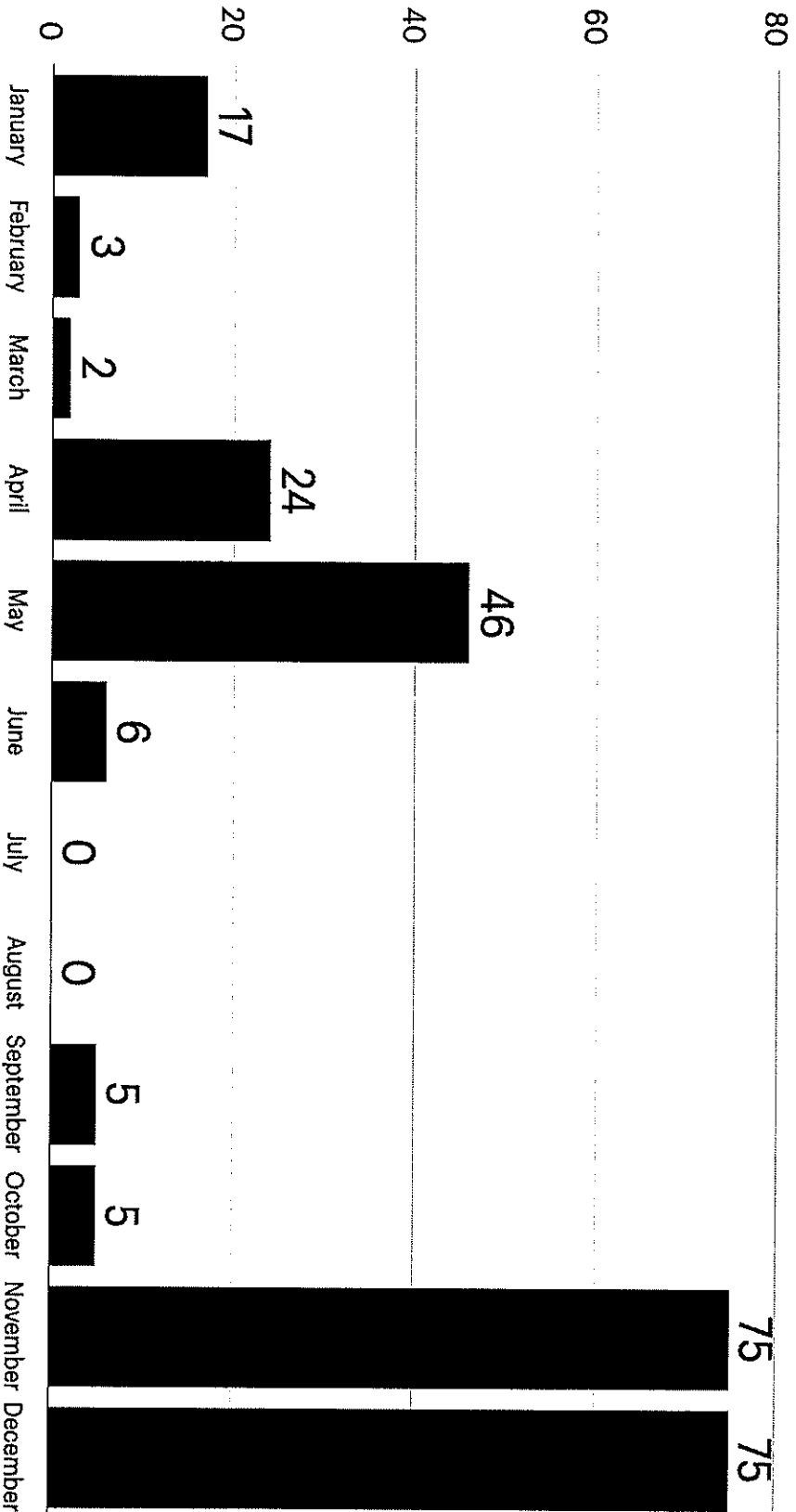
Public Health Department

Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Southbridge Number of Influenza Cases Per Month 2022





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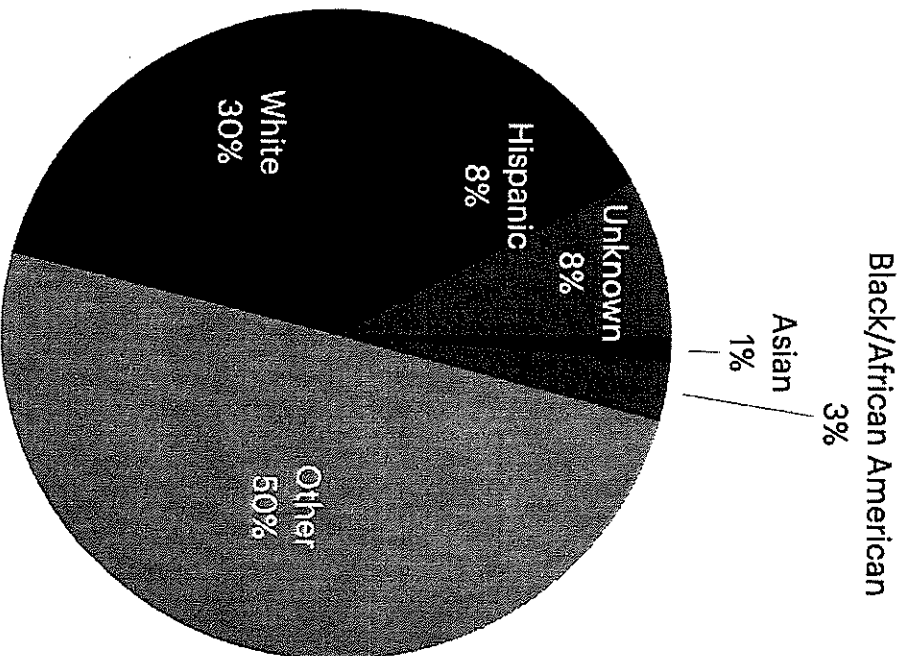
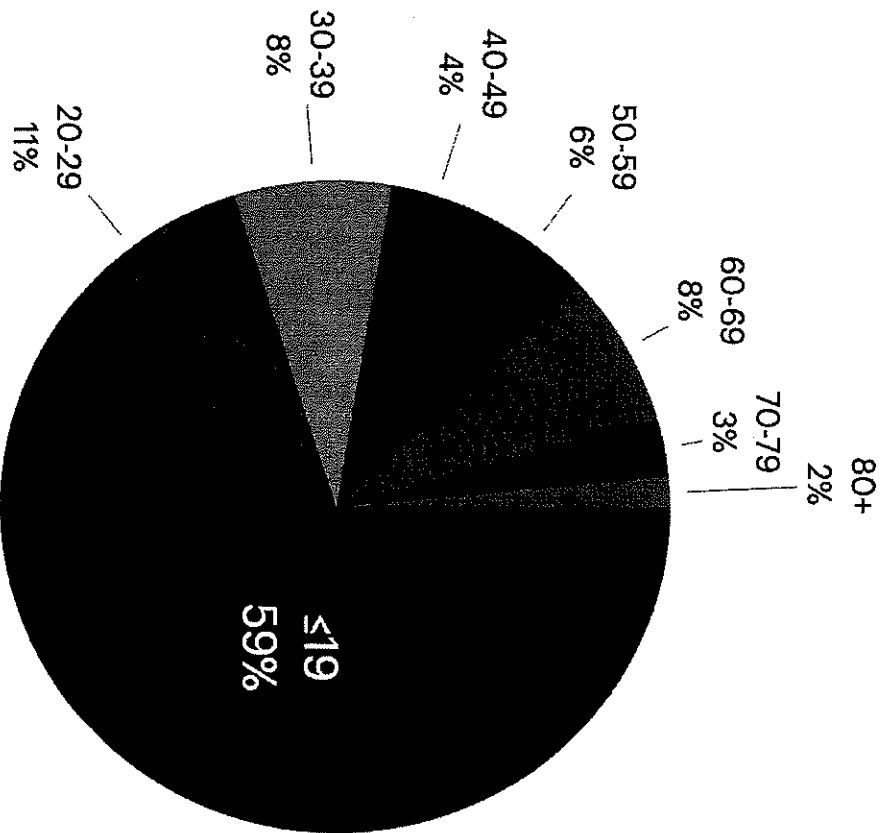
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Breakdown of Cases by Age & Race/Ethnicity





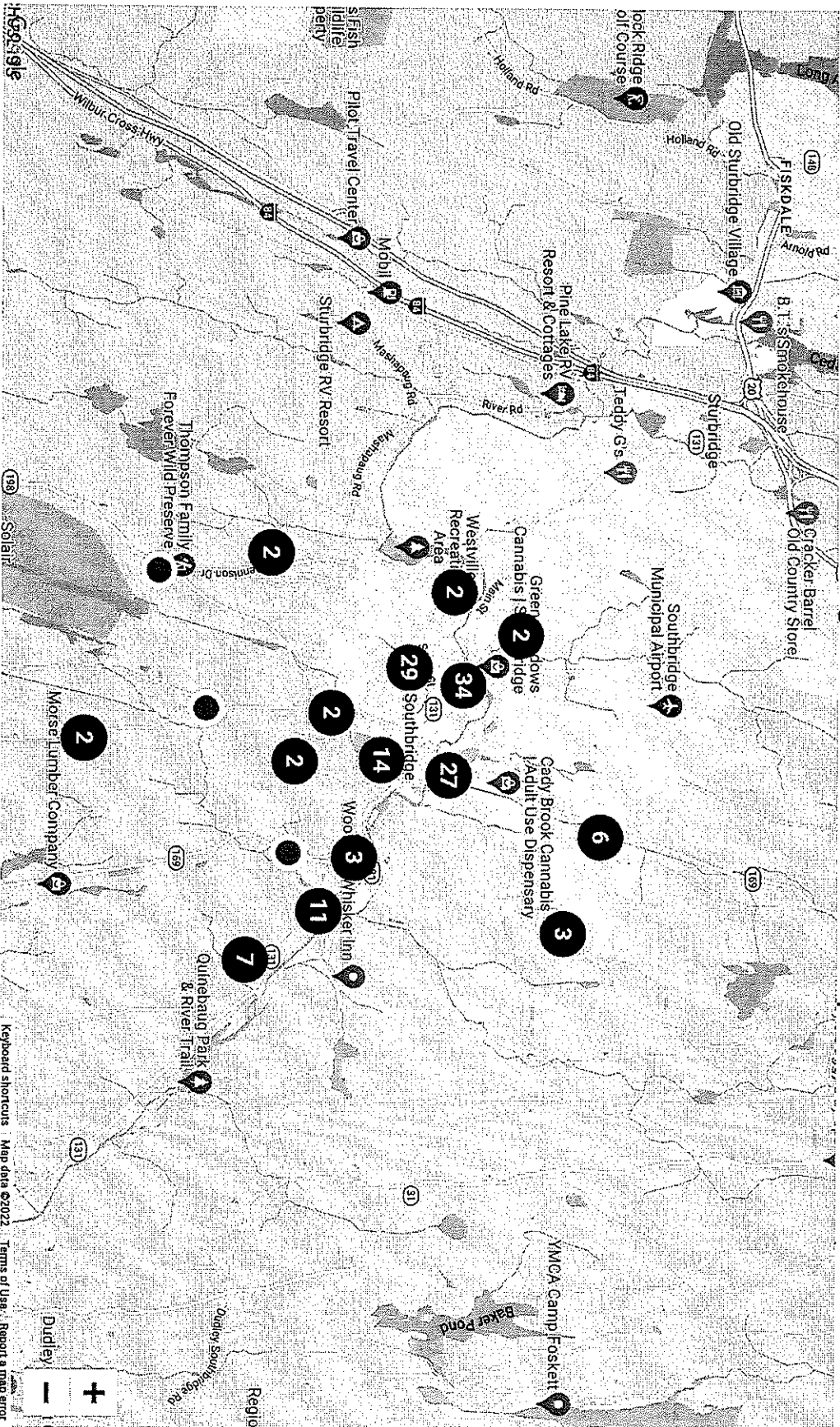
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Southbridge Influenza Case Map



41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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Southbridge Influenza Case Map 2

