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MEDIA RELEASE

Information Advisory Warning Update

DATE: JULY 11, 2018

TIME: 4:05pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Annette Mercatante, MD, MPH, Medical Health Officer

(810) 987-5300

amercatante@stclaircounty.org

St. Clair County Health Department Update Additional Data from June 26 Lead Screening

The St. Clair County Health Department has completed further analysis on the blood lead screening results collected on June 26, 2018 at Harrison Center in Port Huron. Additional data analyzed showed (*these numbers are subject to change as confirmatory venous testing results come in*):

- 701 individuals screened, of those:
 - Up to 24 (3.4%) out of 701 were elevated
 - 35 (5%) out of 701 lived outside the 48060 zip code
 - 646 were over the age of 6 years old (up to 19 out of 646 or 2.9% were elevated)
 - 55 were 6 years old and under (up to 5 out of 55 or 9% were elevated)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reviewing all pediatric and adult blood lead levels so we can appropriately compare these rates with other communities. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) data from 2016 for 48060 was about 8% for children 6 years old and under.
- Everyone screened with elevated blood lead levels has been notified. They have been referred to receive a venous blood draw in order to confirm an elevated blood lead level.
- Due to high interest, we will now be contacting everyone with their screening results.

Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer stated, "An elevated screening result does not necessarily mean that you have a high blood lead level. With an elevated screening result, the next step is to promptly get a confirmatory venous blood test. Without this, accurate lead levels are not

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known and case management cannot be provided. Furthermore, we encourage that all parents/caregivers follow the current lead testing recommendations and make sure any child under the age of 6 get their blood lead levels tested.”

Dr. Mercatante also stated, “It is important for people to realize that knowledge is power, and learning about environmental hazards like lead gives us information that we need to improve our health. Prevention works and everyone can do it regardless of their circumstances, such as following these steps:

- Washing hands regularly especially before eating and sleeping
- Eating nutritious foods with high iron, calcium and vitamin C
- Not wearing shoes inside the home
- Mopping floors regularly
- Cleaning children’s toys “

We will continue to provide updates when we have further information. We appreciate the community’s patience as we continue to analyze the data.

For more information about lead call our Lead Informational Line (810) 966-4160, available 24/7, or visit our website at www.scchealth.co. Follow us on social media @scchdmi.

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