August 2014

Points of Interest...

- The Environmental Health Division has inspected and licensed a total of 68 public swimming pools/spas/splash pads located at 49 facilities throughout St. Clair County (SCC). In addition to passing the inspection process, public bathing facilities are responsible for submitting water samples weekly for bacteriological analysis.

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) will soon be launching our new website. For more than a year, the Health Education team and SCC IT staff worked together in an effort to improve usability, function and content. Find us at www.scchealth.co.

- Quarterly county immunization report cards were received from the Michigan Department of Community Health. St. Clair County again ranked poorly: 79th out of 84 Michigan counties in fully immunized 19-36 month old children; 77th out of 84 in fully immunized 13-17 year olds; Flu coverage is also poor for children 6 months-17 years, 77th out of 84 Michigan counties.

- The Environmental Health Division is assisting the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) for the St. Clair River in planning a “St. Clair River: Bridging Environment and Economy” symposium, to be held in September, as part of the initiative to delist the St. Clair River Area of Concern. Participants will learn about the river restoration progress to date, construction and improvement projects underway, and the path forward after delisting. Invitations have been sent to both American and Canadian partner agencies, municipalities, industries, businesses, and volunteer organizations that continue to play a role in accomplishing the important goal of improving and protecting the St. Clair River.

- The St. Clair County Early Childhood HUB was recently activated to connect pregnant women and children ages 0-5 with home visiting services in our community. Interested users can call (810) 985-1970 and it will be determined which programs will best serve the consumer’s needs. Programs are available to help with childbirth and/or parenting education classes, nutritional programs, maternal support, child development, school readiness, positive parenting practices, family economic self-sufficiency, children with a chronic or disabling condition will receive health insurance coverage for necessary services, and linkages and referrals to other resources.

- Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Supervisor is working closely with St. John River District Hospital (SJRDH) partners to increase referrals made from SJRDH to MIHP and Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS). SJRDH received a mini grant that supports birthing hospital nurseries planning efforts to revise their newborn discharge procedures to identify MIHP and CSHCS eligible beneficiaries, and educate beneficiaries about these services.

- Full-Scale Mass Fatality Exercise: Scheduled for first week of November (tentatively). Participants to include hospitals, EMS, long-term care, ME’s Offices, and behavioral health agencies of the public health jurisdictions of St. Clair, Macomb, and Oakland counties. Objectives to include: Identifying triggers that define a “mass fatality” event, testing existing communication networks, and coordination of community and scare resources. The pathogen type used for this exercise will be SARs-like, burdening the health/medical responders with potential special handling precautions, and decontamination issues.