

MAY 2015

## *Points of Interest...*

- St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) participated in the annual *Community Resource Fair* on May 13, 2015 at SC4. A total of 40 immunizations were administered to 27 clients. Also, for the first time SCCHD nurses provided sexually transmitted disease education and offered on site screening. This activity was very well received by the community with over 150 people seen at the booth and 21 individuals tested!
- The SCCHD Environmental Health Division has begun its beach monitoring season. Utilizing grant funding eight beaches (Chrysler, Conger-Lighthouse, Fort Gratiot County Park, Holland, Keewahdin, Lakeport State Park, Lakeside and Marine City) will be analyzed for water quality over a 16 week period. In addition to the standard method that yields results in over 18-hours, these beaches will also be monitored using a rapid testing technology that allows for results in less than four hours. This summer, with St. Clair County's assistance, Michigan will be the first state in the nation to monitor beaches statewide with the rapid testing method.
- The SCCHD recently submitted a grant proposal to Region 10 PIHP (Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan) to provide SUD (Substance Use Disorder) services specifically for prevention work in prescription drug abuse, tobacco, and underage drinking. If funded, the focus areas will be specifically targeted through coalition work and through evidence based education. Notification expected in late summer and funding would begin October 1, 2015.
- The Environmental Health Division processed a total of 553 annual food service licenses applications for 2015. This includes fixed location food service establishments, mobile units, vending machine locations and special transitory food units. In addition, over 200 temporary food service licenses are issued annually.
- Strategic National Stockpile/Cities Readiness Initiative (SNS/CRI) Annual Exercise- June 1- 2, 2015: Test RC3 (Risk Communications, Command and Control) Guideline. SCCHD is the lead this year. Scenario is revealed with pre-event alert messaging from the exercise controllers. Playing jurisdictions include, City of Detroit, Macomb, Oakland, Lapeer, Monroe, Livingston, and Wayne Counties. Focus also includes practice the ability to rapidly assimilate and communicate information, reach consensus and act on decisions- keeping in mind incubation time of the pathogen and dispensing of preventive medications (prophylaxis). Public Health Public Information Officers (PIOs) will also be testing multi-jurisdictional coordination of communication as well.
- SCCHD was recently awarded \$20,000.00 in grant dollars from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to enhance its billing processes. The objectives of the grant are to increase the number of contracts with private insurance companies by 10%, decrease the number of rejected claims by 5%, and enhance existing infrastructure.
- Other items of public health concern currently being monitored at national, state and local levels is the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5 viruses (HPAI H5) or ("bird flu") and the H3N2 strain of canine influenza ("dog flu"). No reported cases of either in St. Clair County. The SCCHD will update the public as necessary and share information if the situation changes.