

March 2016

Points of Interest...

- The *Special Pathogen Workshop* scheduled on 2/25/16 was cancelled due to the weather. Approximately 40 people were registered. The workshop will be rescheduled at a later date.
- The Nursing division partnered with the *St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative* at both "*Parent University*" and "*The Community Baby Shower*" this month. Staff networked with other professionals and most importantly St. Clair County families by distributing pamphlets, information and undertaking educational presentations.
- Statewide **SharePoint Exercise** occurred on 3/23/16. All Michigan Local Health Departments (LHDs) received a message that a health department had forwarded an (initial) request for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in response to a public health emergency. As a result, all other LHDs submitted their respective requests for SNS assets. This exercise tested the *MiRequest System* with two objectives; (1) to handle the heavy communication load and (2) to test procedures using the specialized system.
- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) Immunization leadership met with MDHHS and CDC stakeholders to discuss the decreasing and flat immunization rates in St. Clair County. Presentations of data, brainstorming causes of the decline and its relation to specific demographics (both patient and provider) and interventions to improve were reviewed. All are committed to improvement in St. Clair County!
- The Environmental Health division recently provided *ServSafe* Food Manager Certification training and testing for 38 individuals representing 27 food service facilities. *ServSafe* is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the *National Restaurant Association*. The emphasis of the course is the prevention of foodborne illnesses. This certification is recognized nationwide and is valid for five years. The law requires that at least one person per licensed food establishment be certified.
- Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer and Jennifer Michaluk, Director of Health Education and Planning attended the *2016 Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Day at the Capitol* in Lansing. Health Department representatives from around the state met with their respective House and Senate legislators to discuss the value of public health, the importance of LHDs, and addressed specific county topics such as lead, prescription drug abuse, naloxone, immunization rates, and tobacco prevention.
- The 14th annual *Earth Fair* is set for April 29th and 30th at Goodells County Park. The *Earth Fair* event, organized by the Environmental Health Division, is a collaborative effort with multiple county departments and local non-profit organizations. The event centers around Earth Day and is expected to draw 8,000 people (including 1,200 students) by blending together demonstrations, workshops & exhibits to raise the level of environmental stewards. Thanks to the efforts of the St. Clair County Smoke Free Team, Earth Fair will be a smoke-free, tobacco-free event this year. Visit www.EarthDayFair.com for a complete listing of activities.