

July 2016

Points of Interest...

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) sponsored another successful *Sturgeon Festival* on June 4th. The family-friendly event centered on providing close encounters with the “*Giants of the Great Lakes*”. Sturgeon cruises allowed over 800 participants the opportunity to view sturgeon on the bottom of the river. It is estimated that as many as 42,000 sturgeons spawn in the St. Clair River system, by far, the largest concentration in the entire Great Lakes.
- *Emergency Preparedness Response Orientation and Training* was completed for 16 designated SCCHD staff and several student interns. Training included required FEMA Courses as well as department specific protocols and procedures.
- SCCHD will be hosting the Community Foundation of St. Clair County (with support from the MI Health Endowment Fund) “*Pop Up*” Farmers Market every Monday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. until October. The Market satisfies the need for fresh produce in high risk food deserts in Port Huron. The Market accepts cash and checks, including Senior Project Fresh and WIC Project Fresh coupons.
- A draft of SCCHD’s *Administrative Preparedness Plans* was recently submitted to MDHHS. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) issued a report regarding existing authorities that provide local health departments with the capability to expedite administrative preparedness processes during an emergency. The report acknowledged factors impeding administrative preparedness that are beyond the control of health departments, but must be accounted for when planning for emergencies. Health departments must identify and understand what administrative barriers exist in their jurisdictions that may impact their ability to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies. Considerations must include what authorities already exist, or that they would like to implement, that may be used to accelerate, modify, streamline, and accountably manage fiscal and administrative practices and procedures.
- Food allergies are a serious medical condition affecting 15 million people in the United States, including 1 in 13 children. Recent Michigan legislation (*Public Act 516*) requires the certified food safety manager at foodservice establishments complete allergen training and display an allergen poster by January 2017. SCCHD is currently assisting all of our food service establishments in complying with these new requirements by providing the required allergens awareness poster and information on approved allergens awareness training programs.
- SCCHD WIC clinic and staff completed a week long state review on Friday, July 22, 2016. Positive comments included excellent teamwork and client centered communication as well as great atmosphere and breast feeding initiatives. Thoughtful recommendations were discussed and will be implemented in the upcoming months. Congratulations to our WIC team!