

December 2016

Points of Interest...

- World Aids Day awareness and promotion took place on December 1, 2016. Messages were posted on social media. A commercial played throughout the day via Radio First stations. Clinic Services and Teen Health Center both offer Rapid HIV testing using a finger stick blood sample with results available in 20 minutes! An increased number of clients are choosing the rapid test vs. conventional testing and positive feedback has been received.
- A second quarter drill was performed on the web-based Inventory Management and Tracking System (IMATS). This system is used nationwide by state and local health departments to coordinate management and distribution of emergency medical countermeasures (SNS) released from the Center for Disease Control's national stockpile in response to a local public health emergency. The drill consisted of testing the exchange of real time data within the system.
- St. Clair County has been identified as eligible for a new funding opportunity through the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS). This will be available through the MDHHS Comprehensive Agreement with Michigan Local Health Departments for a program titled "Zika Virus Mosquito Surveillance and Community Support". The intent of this program is to support development of a low-cost surveillance system geared at identifying populations of Aedes species mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting the Zika virus, and to support community engagement projects aimed at education, mosquito breeding site elimination, and supporting the development of mosquito control.
- As part of its new promotional campaign, WIC staff (Women Infants and Children program) is now at McLaren Port Huron Hospital's Birthing Center three times a week to facilitate appointments for new moms and infants. By putting a personal face on WIC in the community, the goal is to build enrollment numbers and encourage retention through age 5. Sibling appointments are also coordinated to meet all eligible family member needs at the same time. An added bonus has been the opportunity to support breastfeeding before new mom's leave the hospital, and encourage pertussis vaccine for family and friends handling the new baby. WIC intends to extend its promotion to St. John's River District hospital in the near future.
- The Environmental Health Division is one of five statewide to be chosen by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to participate in a work group to develop an implementation plan for the transfer of responsibility of temporary food inspections at County fairs from the state to local health departments. Currently, the Food Code only authorizes MDARD to conduct such inspections. It is anticipated the work group will formalize a plan that will allow interested local health departments to be certified to conduct those inspections.