

October 2017

Points of Interest...

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) continues to investigate a hepatitis A case in a food worker at the Flaming Grill Restaurant in Algonac. The SCCHD provided free vaccination clinics on 10/23 and 10/26 at the Algonac Lions Club to vaccinate patrons of the restaurant who may have been exposed during the specific timeframe. The restaurant owner and employees cooperated with SCCHD recommendations for disease control measures including vaccination and proper cleaning procedures. At this time, no other cases have been reported. Statewide, there has been a hepatitis A outbreak in Southeast Michigan since August 2016, and numbers continue to rise. Hepatitis A is a vaccine preventable disease. To learn more about hepatitis A visit www.mi.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak or our website www.scchealth.co or follow us on social media @scchdmi.
- Dr. Mercatante attended the Port Huron city council meeting on 10/9/17 and spoke on behalf of the new ordinance for recovery houses in the city. Although there is some opposition to residency quotas and restrictions for convicted criminals, the ordinance is a positive step forward in our fight against the opioid epidemics. The Health Department has been requested to collect data from these facilities and participate in the advisory committee that city Manager James Freed is convening.
- Sheri Faust, Environmental Health Educator, lead local college students in a stream monitoring project to teach them about local water quality issues. The 3-day unit began with a classroom presentation, followed by a field day at Bunce Creek in Marysville, and concluded with a lab analyzing the collected bugs under microscopes. This monitoring program helps understand the health of our streams and creeks that feed the St. Clair River. A waterbody is scored based on its biological diversity and that information is used to track its health over time and give indications as to which areas need improvement or protection.
- On 10/23/17 Region 2 North, St. Clair County Health Department and St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management offered a workshop to select local healthcare providers impacted by the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule. Diane Forsys, Emergency Preparedness Response Coordinator attended two presentations regarding the topic. Primary role for emergency management and public health is to provide technical expertise, resources and support as needed. End goals include better collaboration, communication and best use of limited resources during an emergency event. Agencies need to be robust in order to meet the challenges of a community-wide event. Similar training will occur in Macomb and Oakland Counties.
- There will be an Ebola (Special Pathogens) Exercise at Lake Huron Medical Center on 10/27/17. They are required to test specific procedures and protocols (all Michigan hospitals); and is assigned based on "tier-based" or status (ability to handle up to a specific level of response). The St. Clair County Health Department will have limited participation and observing operations due to our activities and involvement surrounding the hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan.