

JUNE 2018

Points of Interest...

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) was notified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) of elevated lead (Pb) levels in soil samples from a section of Port Huron between Water Street and Lapeer Avenue. Although the source of lead in this area remains unclear, preliminary reports provided enough information for the SCCHD to recommend blood lead testing for residents in this area. A letter from the Health Department was sent for them to receive blood lead testing (finger stick). Testing was offered June 26 at Harrison Center located at 55 15th Street, Port Huron. Over 500 people attended. Those with elevated levels will be contacted within five business days for follow-up testing. Next steps are being planned.
- June 27 was National HIV Testing Day. The first 25 participants who came in for testing at the SCCHD were offered a \$5.00 gift card. No appointments were needed to receive the service. Testing is important as the CDC estimates that 1 out of 7 people do not know their HIV status.
- With \$375,000 in funding from the Governor's Infrastructure Fund, the Huron-to-Erie Corridor Water Intake Monitoring project will equip water treatment plants along the corridor with new and updated real-time intake monitoring capabilities along the 80-mile Lake Huron to Lake Erie international corridor. Real-time monitoring will allow operators to counteract threats contained in the source water, such as contaminants from spills or algal blooms. These improvements along the corridor are anticipated to be complete by the end of 2018. Seven of the fourteen water plants in the project are located in St. Clair County.
- SCCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response Training for new staff is scheduled for late July. Department-wide refresher is scheduled for the last Wednesday of August on Staff Training Day.
- The SCCHD recently completed a very successful onsite and desk top audit conducted by Region 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP). Region 10 PIHP provides grant funding that supports Health Education and Outreach staffing and assistance for the St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup, St. Clair County Smoke-Free Community Team, and Safe Dates educational programming.