

September 2019

## *Points of Interest...*

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) in conjunction with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and leadership from Regional Perinatal Quality Collaborative hosted the first in a series of Town Hall meetings Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to gather community input and support for the Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan. This model gives participants the opportunity to share their voice to help achieve health outcomes for all moms and babies in St. Clair County.
- The Environmental Health Division successfully completed the summer of water quality monitoring at eight public beaches on Lake Huron and the St. Clair River with a grant from EGLE. Fourteen weeks of continuous sampling resulted in just three days of closures at two beaches, making it one of our healthiest beach seasons on record. Improved water quality has been made possible by reducing pathogen sources through sewer separation projects, elimination of illicit discharges, and installation of green infrastructure. All sampling data was entered daily into Michigan Beach Guard, a website provided by EGLE, showing real-time information on sampling results and beach closures. St. Clair County samples submitted during the summer will be analyzed over the winter to track the bacteria to human or animal sources.
- St. Clair County Health Department Emergency Preparedness and Response Division participated in a state-wide distribution node exercise for Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets. This exercise included notification from the state triggering a 100% staff recall exercise and a notification drill to our closed Point of Dispensing (POD) locations.
- The Environmental Health Division received a grant from MDHHS to support surveillance for mosquito and tick populations capable of transmitting disease, like the Aedes species mosquitoes and blacklegged ticks. The goal of the program was to use surveillance data to notify the public of risks related to endemic or emerging vector-borne diseases. Staff and interns conducted mosquito and tick surveillance activities around the county for 16 weeks. Weekly results were reported into MosquitoNET, a real-time surveillance system via the Michigan Disease Mapper. The population surveillance resulted in not finding either of the targeted species of the Aedes species mosquitoes and the blacklegged ticks.
- Health Department staff participated in a condensed One Nation Training with national presenter Anthony Jones during their monthly all staff meeting. Members of the leadership team then attended a more intense day long training with other community leaders at Lake Huron Medical Center. The goal was to provide knowledge and skill development in inter-cultural competency to help community leaders make better real time impact when attempting to bridge people groups. The Health Department, along with Operation Transformation, MDHHS, Community Mental Health, Blue Water Community Action Agency and other organizations all provided funding to bring this training to St. Clair County.