

October 2019

Points of Interest...

- MDHHS Receipt, Stage, and Store (RSS) Full Scale Exercise occurred September 16-19, 2019. St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) participated by receiving alerts and implementing all-staff recall procedures. If this were an actual event, approximately 93% of all staff could report to the health department within 60 minutes for an emergency briefing and assignment according to the results of the exercise. Community Dispensing Sites and Distribution Nodes were also tested. Each location provided SCCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response division with an approximate number of staff available on site to work as volunteers if an actual emergency was occurring.
- The SCCHD responded to an outbreak of Varicella in Marysville High School beginning September 23, 2019. Two cases of varicella were diagnosed and linked epidemiologically. Immunity status was verified on over 800 students within 12 hours and exclusion of susceptible students took place. 42 students were excluded, 28 of those students provided immunity by either being vaccinated or proof of immunity, 14 students remained excluded for 21 days. Marysville school district officials worked cooperatively with the SCCHD during this process.
- The SCCHD and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) are investigating high levels of PFAS in surface waters/drainage ditches in Fort Gratiot Township. There is no evidence of any impact on residential or municipal drinking water. There are a number of private wells in the area and a review of available well data is ongoing. EGLE is working with SCCHD personnel to assess the likelihood of PFAS impact on these wells, and to determine a sampling strategy if deemed necessary. The focus of EGLE's surface water investigation is to determine the source(s) for the elevated levels. Planning to conduct sampling of potential source areas is underway, with a goal of completing this additional sampling within the next several weeks.
- Maternal Infant Health Program implemented SCRIPT (Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment) for all newly enrolled clients beginning October 1, 2019. During enrollment all clients Carbon Monoxide level is assessed and if elevated are referred to social worker for a home visit specific to smoking cessation. To date, 24 women have been screened and 10 have been referred into the program. Data will be continually collected on outcomes and program stats.
- The SCCHD Outreach program links people to medical, dental and mental health care services. Staff provides guidance and support for struggling families. Other activities include attending local health fairs; helping people in crisis find counseling or apply for Medicaid health benefits; calling a doctor's office; finding transportation; and connecting people to housing, food, and clothing resources. This month Outreach has been urging Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries to update their addresses via the MI Bridges web portal to ensure that they receive the important mailing outlining the new work requirements scheduled to start in January 2020. Informative webpage links and training schedules that provided details about these changes were shared with patrons, key Health Department staff and the community.