

January 2020

Points of Interest...

- The Environmental Health Division is preparing to submit for a State of Michigan Management Planning grant for the Pine River watershed. The Pine River is a mostly agricultural watershed centered in the heart of St. Clair County whose headwaters begin in Emmett and Riley Townships and flow east to the City of St. Clair. A crucial component of water protection are understanding the issues impacting our rivers, drains, drinking water, recreation, wetlands, shorelines and aquatic habitats. A completed watershed plan vastly increases awareness about these issues, empowers stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes, and enhances the ability to obtain future funding to improve water quality.
- St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) WIC program continues to partner with Oakland, Detroit and Macomb County Health Departments in the South East Michigan WIC Engagement Project, a cross-jurisdictional initiative aimed at addressing an overall decline in WIC caseloads. This year's priorities will focus on these key strategic issues: Vendor Experience, (improve client shopping experience); Marketing/Awareness (to capture WIC-eligible people not enrolled in program); and Technology (for client ease and autonomy when accessing program).
- On 01/23/2020, SCCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response and Nursing Divisions called to order a Public Health Protection Team briefing of the 2019-nCoV (coronavirus) effecting Wuhan City, China. This meeting provided attendees with the latest Michigan Health Alert Network (MiHAN) updates of the virus and a summary of the 01/21/2020 CDC media call. Action items were also set. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has contacted the Detroit Quarantine Station to assess border crossing.
- SCCHD Leadership Team participated in a leadership assessment and training facilitated by Shannon LaBruyere, a certified trainer from the John Maxwell method. The "Thrive in Change" training was felt to be very effective and helpful. The team will work with this facilitator to advance growth in this area throughout the Health Department.
- Steve Demick and Dr. Mercatante attended a public meeting hosted by the Senator Dan Lauwers in Clay Township concerning the high water conditions and ferry concerns. Dr. Mercatante was on the agenda to discuss septic system failures.