

October 2014

Points of Interest...

- St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) "Public Health Protection Team" (PHPT) and department leadership has been intensely involved in Ebola preparedness since 7/31/2014. Staff continues to be engaged in numerous meetings, webcasts and conference calls in order to remain current to the issues, State and Federal guidance, and Ebola's impact on West Africa, Canada, and the United States. SCCHD has redundant secure communication systems in place to assure timely 24/7 receipt and delivery of critical information.



Internal preparedness and response activities include:

- ✓ Assure distribution of the latest guidance to Healthcare Providers (*offices, urgent care facilities, walk-in clinics, pharmacies*); Hospitals (*Infection Control, Emergency Departments, Labs, Emergency Planners*) Pre-hospital Entities: EMS and Fire/Rescue and the general public.
 - ✓ Provide coordination and advocacy for our local healthcare community as we negotiate multi-jurisdictional (international, federal, state, local) issues.
 - ✓ Maintain ongoing direct communications with our (CDC) Detroit Quarantine Station, Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) partners. Review and discuss current procedures and implications of international border with travelers, detainment, evaluation, and transport.
 - ✓ Ready SCCHD teams for (suspect case) contact tracing, assessment of home or community-based isolation and/or quarantine facilities, as well as needs assessment for individuals who may be in these settings.
 - ✓ SCCHD team review of donning and doffing procedures, and critical infection control procedures.
 - ✓ Assist with identification and/or triage of suspect patients from "worried well".
- St. Clair County's first and emergency responders, emergency management, health department and hospital and pre-hospital groups recently met and discussed their planning and exercise activities, and continues to work together to assure health, safety and security of this community.
- In September, SCCHD responded to a mercury spill involving students attending a local middle school. The incident involved students playing with a jar of mercury on a school bus. The Environmental Health division was the onsite lead in investigation of the incident and determining the extent of the contamination. The SCCHD established contact with SCC Hazmat Team and Port Huron Twp. Fire Department.

Unsafe levels of mercury were found at the school in classrooms and hallways, on numerous backpacks and shoes, on the bus and at a student's home. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversaw the cleanup. Eventually the school and home were abated and the bus was decommissioned. Since the mercury exposure in late September, the Nursing division has been monitoring exposed family members and ensuring compliance with medical recommendations from Poison Control.

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The Outreach Program quickly ensured family needs were met by utilization of the *Red Cross* for temporary housing; food bank; *Kids in Distress* clothing referral; Salvation Army furniture referral; and provided gas card to guarantee travel to appointments and referral sources could be accomplished financially.

Three of the five family members have elevated mercury results but are not considered at a level for treatment; follow up plans include being retested to ensure clearance of mercury. One of five family members is receiving oral chelation due to continued high mercury levels and will be retested two weeks after completion.

- Total Influenza vaccines administered at SCCHD (including Teen Health Center) are 938 doses as of 10/22/14. Walk-in flu clinics will continue every Monday and Wednesday through December. Three select county employee clinics were completed by PHI staff in cooperation with Wellness Committee to Sheriff Department, Library and Courts. Currently influenza disease/rates in Michigan have been classified as "sporadic".
- SCC Community Mental Health (CMH) is contracting services with the SCCHD in FY 15 to provide prevention services. The SCCHD Health Education team will provide all required materials for these activities and will ensure the provided materials meet the requirements of the Substance Abuse Rules that apply to Substance Use Disorder providers, including specific policy that addresses Communicable Disease Issues in the Substance Abuse Network.