

JANUARY 2015

Points of Interest...

- In December, 2014, the *Joint Committee on Administrative Rules* approved a new educational requirement for Michigan parents opting their children out of getting vaccinated before entering school. Any parent/guardian who wants to claim a nonmedical waiver will need to receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver form through a local Health Department. The new rule requires the use of the State of Michigan nonmedical waiver form dated January 1, 2015. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) implemented the new policy and is now making appointments for those seeking nonmedical waivers. Michigan has one of the highest waiver rates in the country; St. Clair County's overall waiver rate is 9% representing the 67th highest waiver rate (out of 84 jurisdictions in Michigan; 83 counties + Detroit) in Michigan.
- Ebola: State/Local Public Health (Emergency Preparedness) Conference Calls are suspended barring any other unexpected or rapidly emerging situations. (*final summary of activity attached*)
- The Environmental Health Division received Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approval of recently conducted self-evaluations for the private/type III water supply programs. The quality assurance guidelines in the evaluations included extensive record reviews of numerous components. According to the findings, all minimum program requirements are being met. This self-assessment option is only offered to local health departments that have historically displayed compliance status and have established ongoing internal quality assurance procedures.
- Local Inventories of Antivirals (Influenza): Delays of product delivery, and inventory shortages and clinical patients waiting up to three days in some cases to get a prescription filled were reported to the (SCCHD). The SCCHD Emergency Preparedness (EP) Office followed up with an urgent survey of local retail and hospitals pharmacies and informed Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP). Disruption of deliveries was temporary.
- The Environmental Health Division offered residents free radon test kits during *National Radon Action Month*. Radon is a naturally-occurring, invisible, odorless gas that is usually harmless outdoors. When the gas is trapped in a building or home, however, it can be a health hazard. Last year over 100 test kits were distributed during the month of January.
- Key SCCHD operational staff recently completed the required FEMA course- *Incident Command System ICS 300*. Training was received through St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management. SCCHD maintains a detailed roster of training for all employees as required per cooperative agreement through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The next level *ICS-400* course will take place in February. Upon completion of *ICS-400*, SCCHD will be 100% compliant to training requirements.
- Southeastern Michigan (CRI) Cities Readiness Initiative "*Command, Control and Communication Guide*" is nearing final draft, and will be re-tested in the spring for the next annual functional/full-scale *Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)* exercise. This guide was developed for the SE MI health department Emergency Preparedness Coordinators (EPCs) as an agreement to response efforts in the public health jurisdictions of: City of Detroit, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Wayne; Monroe and Washtenaw Counties. The basis of this collaboration is to promote and coordinate discussion, share jurisdictional information, and assist decision makers with determining appropriate public health interventions, particularly events that are time sensitive, complex and/or without immediate benefit of necessary intel and laboratory sciences.