

July 2017

Points of Interest...

- St. Clair County has been officially included in the Southeastern Michigan Hepatitis A outbreak associated with illegal drug use. Response to the outbreak includes post exposure prophylaxis (with vaccine and immune globulin) to those exposed to cases, and aggressive outreach to vaccinate vulnerable communities. Planning with local jail officials is underway to vaccinate those incarcerated as well as other at-risk populations.
- Dr. Mercatante attended training in Washington DC called ECHO - Project ECHO is a lifelong learning and guided practice model that revolutionizes medical education and exponentially increases workforce capacity to provide best-practice specialty care and reduce health disparities. The heart of the ECHO model is its hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing networks, led by expert teams who use multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual clinics with community providers. In this way, primary care doctors, nurses, and other clinicians learn to provide excellent specialty care to patients in their own communities.
- The Environmental Health Division has seen a dramatic increase in new and remodeled food facility establishments. In the first half of the year there have been 36 changes of ownership, remodels or new establishments. Last year there were a total of 30 of such changes for the entire year. All licensed food establishments are required to contact the health department and obtain approval for construction plans and ownership changes.
- Dr. Mercatante has been facilitating conversations between the City of Port Huron Administration, Port Huron City Council members, and state and local substance abuse experts as it relates to improving the recovery system in our community.
- The Environmental Health Division has adopted the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's facility risk rating inspection schedule. Under this plan, the frequency of required inspections is determined by the scope of menu, the food preparation processes and past inspection results. This will result in a more efficient use of time for food inspectors and help increase food safety in our establishments.
- August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Michigan. Rebecca Campau, RN, International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and Andrea McCabe, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, provide professional, skilled care by encouraging community continuity of care for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program breastfeeding mothers and babies. Breastfeeding support and education within the community are critical to breastfeeding success. The WIC program offers both support and education helping to raise breastfeeding initiation and duration among participants. Please join WIC in promoting breastfeeding success and support at the 3rd annual Breastfeeding Stroll on August 1 at the Blue Water River Walk, Desmond Landing in Port Huron from 10:00am to 12:00noon.