

November 2017

Points of Interest...

- EPC (Emergency Preparedness Coordinator) Statewide Conference Call was held on November 8 to receive situational updates from the State, initiate weekly situation reports from the local health departments, and create an open forum to share resources and needs related to the statewide hepatitis A outbreak. The outbreak was initially handled within the scope of state and local health department routine operations, as data was collected it became evident that the situation was complex. The strain is unique, morbidity and mortality is higher than expected, and a common source has not yet been identified. In response, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has activated the CHECC (Community Health Emergency Coordination Center) to establish and assist in the coordination and communication of this outbreak. The CHECC provides updates to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Local health departments provide and receive updates from the CHECC. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) holds weekly internal meetings and weekly situational reports are due to the State.

- The Environmental Health Division's on-site wastewater and water supply permit numbers have dramatically increased to nearly 500 issued over the past 12 months. This represents a rise of 150% over the same time period from just a couple of years ago. This corresponds to a significant increase in the local real estate market activity. In addition, over 70 mortgage evaluations were conducted and over 800 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for well and septic information were processed over the past year.

- The SCCHD, along with other Health Departments affected by the Southeastern Michigan hepatitis A outbreak, received an opportunity for special funding through the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services titled "Surge Capacity for Targeted Intervention of Hepatitis A". Funding is designated to departments affected by the outbreak to help with community vaccination needs, supplies, outreach and/or staffing to help during this outbreak.

- The St. Clair County Smoke-Free Community Team, led by the SCCHD, is in the process of developing a strategic plan, following the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMSHA) Strategic Prevention Framework. The team has identified youth tobacco use and access as a focus area. Plans include educating and engaging youth, advocating for policies and regulations that reduce youth tobacco access and secondhand smoke exposure; and ultimately decreasing youth tobacco use (specifically use of new and emerging products like e-cigarettes and vapes).