

MAY 2018

Points of Interest...

- The Environmental Health Division has begun beach monitoring. Utilizing grant funding eight beaches (Chrysler, Conger-Lighthouse, Fort Gratiot County Park, Holland, Keewahdin, Lakeport State Park, Lakeside and Marine City) will be analyzed for water quality over a 15 week period. In addition to the standard method, two beaches (Chrysler, Holland) will also be monitored using the experimental rapid testing technology that allows for results within four hours. New this year is that the results from these two beaches will be further analyzed to determine if the bacteria present is from a human or animal source.
- The St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) Adult Immunization Coalition (co-chaired by SCCHD and MPRO) was honored to be chosen to present its successes at the 2018 National Adult Immunization and Influenza Summit. The coalition was established in 2015. The poster and presentation was able to describe creative accomplishments of the coalition such as, a pharmacy pilot, partnering with SEMHA, Champion training and a new patient vaccination information card in the poster presentation as well as vaccination rate increases. Most predominate vaccine increases (9-30-15 compared to 12-31-17) included Influenza vaccine (age 65+) from 29.5% of the population in SCC to 40.7% and Pneumococcal vaccine (Pevnar, age 65+) from 4.0% to 32%.
- SCCHD's application to present at the 2018 Michigan Public Health Premiere Conference on the positive outcomes of its Hepatitis A ambassador program was accepted. The presentation will outline how changing Community Based Intervention models to one that utilizes the "community as a resource and agent" allowed for a high degree of community ownership in which participation is essential for sustained success in achieving health outcomes (increasing Hepatitis A vaccine uptake within the substance use community). This model strengthens relationships between individuals and the organizations that serve them, and basically necessitates "starting where the people are".
- The St. Clair County Health Department and other partners hosted an open house on Wednesday, May 30 from 3:00pm – 7:00pm at The Center of Port Huron. Blood lead testing for pregnant women & children under 6 years old was available with no out-of-pocket cost. Children's toys and household items (like plates & dishes, etc.) could be brought in for lead testing. Other prevention strategies and healthy snacks were also provided.