

# AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

September 2008



## Rabies

Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Guidelines in Response to Current Vaccine Shortage

ALERT—Supplies of RabAvert® are limited. To ensure that thorough risk assessments are conducted, Novartis is now requiring that health care providers confer with public health officials and obtain a confirmation code before ordering vaccine doses for PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis).

### STEP BY STEP GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDERS:

1. Consult the rabies PEP Protocol for People Exposed to Mammals or the MMWR/ACIP Human Rabies Prevention guidelines to determine whether there has been a potential rabies exposure.
2. Since PEP is an urgent medical issue but not an emergency, it can be delayed until animal rabies testing or clinical observation is completed: Determine whether an animal is available for testing or observation.

3. Call your local public health department to discuss individual exposure, risk assessment, and to coordinate animal testing or observation if possible. If the health department is not available please call MDCH Communicable Disease staff at (517) 335-8165 regular hours; (517) 335-9030 after hours.
4. If risk assessment indicates the need for PEP, MDCH staff will provide the Health Care Provider with the Novartis access code for vaccine ordering.

The Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Protocol for People Exposed to Mammals can be viewed on our web site at [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org). When at the web site, click on Clinical Services, then click on Animal Bite Report Form.



## FLU & PNEUMONIA VACCINE CLINIC

This year's flu & pneumonia clinic schedule can be viewed on our web site at [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org).

The cost for these vaccines remains the same as last year at \$25 for flu and \$36 for pneumonia. Medicare recipients with Part B are accepted for billing. All others must plan to pay at time of service.

Please inform your **home bound clients** that the District Health Department can provide flu shots to them in their home if needed. Please instruct them to contact us at (269) 621-3143 or (269) 445-5280 for more information.

### How to Reach Us:

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