

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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We Need Your Help!!

Food Illness Investigations

As part of active surveillance of possible food borne illness, Health Department nurses periodically call physicians offices for information as part of the investigation. This activity is covered under the Public Health Code of Michigan, and is **NOT** a violation of HIPAA. Your cooperation will help ensure everyone's health. We also at times contact your patients with reportable disease information, perform surveillance and when needed prescribe treatment. Of course we also do prevention education with these activities.

U.S. Cancer Death Rates

Continuing to Decrease

Overall cancer death rates have shown a continuing decline from 1975—2009. This trend has continued during the most recent time period of 2000—2009, with cancer death rates decreasing by 1.8% per year in men, 1.4% per year in women and 1.8% per year in children. Decreased smoking is a significant factor in the decline. There were also decreases in lung, breast, prostate, colon, and rectum. Increases occurred in melanoma and cancers of the pancreas, liver, and uterus.

An Increasingly Preventable

Cancer?

The incidence rates for HPV-associated cancers of the oropharynx, anus, and vulva increased during 2000—2009. The HPV vaccine is effective in preventing most of these, but the payoff will be greater if vaccination rates for girls and boys improve markedly!

New Vaccines Update

Continued progress is being made in developing vaccines against: Dengue Fever, Malaria, and H7N9 Avian Flu.

The Big Three

Worldwide infectious diseases and annual number of deaths:

1. HIV/AIDS 1.6 million

This is a 33% drop in the past decade. But there were 2.3 million new cases worldwide in 2012. There are 35 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Africa (10 million are now being treated).

2. Tuberculosis 1.3 million

A decrease of 45% since 1990, **BUT** growing drug resistance.

3. Malaria 630,000

A decrease of 45% since 2000 (and a 50% decrease in Africa). Hurray for nets and drugs; awaiting a vaccine.

Measles Alert

Please be on the lookout for measles, especially in unvaccinated children and those who recently traveled. A measles IgM is a wonderful test!

Norovirus Now #1

Norovirus has displaced Rotavirus as the leading cause of childhood diarrhea.

Norwegian Flu Vaccine Study

Pregnant women who received the 2009 H1N1 vaccine showed no increase in fetal loss **AND** in contrast influenza infection increased the risk of fetal loss by two fold. No harmful effects on the fetus were associated with the vaccination. Conclusion in the Jan 17 NEJM: "If Pregnant Women Are Worried About Their Fetus, Then Getting A Flu Shot Is A Good Thing To Do".

New on VBCASSDHD's Website

On our website you will find current information about clinics and other programs, important health information, links to community resources and more. Please visit the website at www.vbcassdhd.org for the following new additions:

- 2013 Annual Report
- Links to information regarding Lyme Disease and tick control
- Information regarding the Healthy Michigan (Medicaid) Plan.
- Expanded our dental clinic

How to Reach Us:

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The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is in the process of updating their website (www.vbcassdhd.org). Our goal is to make it more user friendly. If there is something you would like to see changed or added, please email us at: tinac@vbcassdhd.org or mollyh@vbcassdhd.org. Your input is important to us. Drop us a line or visit us on Facebook.