

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Immunization Waivers Work!

The Michigan Waiver Plan has been very successful. Those seeking a non-medical exemption for public and private school attendance must be certified at the Health Department that they have learned: the benefits to them and the community; and risks of not immunizing their child and other children.

The percentage of children receiving waivers in Van Buren and Cass County compared to state levels:

2015 — VB 1.8% Cass 1.7%
State (2.8%)

2014 — VB 2.1% Cass 2.4%
State (4.6%)

Opioid Overprescribing and Overdose Deaths

Both nationally and locally there continues to be overprescribing in number and strength of opiate prescriptions. For example, prescribing Norco for an ankle sprain in a teen! Really? Studies have shown that Ibuprofen provides better relief without the risk of becoming Opioid dependent. Please evaluate carefully before prescribing and if so be cognizant of the duration and strength of the prescription. Remember: Opioid prescribing rates are directly proportional to community drug overdoses!

Reportable Disease Update

2016 Reportable Diseases in Michigan can be found at : www.michigan.gov/cdinfo

This year the list has been published in two formats:

- Organized by pathogen
- Organized by condition

Amebiasis has been removed from the list.

For several illnesses, pregnancy status is now required: Chlamydia; Gonorrhea; Hepatitis B and C; HIV; Listeria; Novel Influenza; Rubella; Syphilis; Varicella.

ZIKA!

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus, and to date has been identified in 20 countries or territories in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico. Zika virus infections have been reported in travelers returning to the U.S.

Clinical disease is usually mild and includes sudden onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis that lasts for a few days to a week. However, during the current outbreak, Zika virus infections have been confirmed in several infants with microcephaly and in fetal losses in women infected during pregnancy. Healthcare providers should ask all pregnant women about recent travel.

Zika virus infection should be considered in Michigan patients, particularly pregnant women, with acute onset of symptoms and who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to illness onset (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>).

Patients with suspected Zika virus infection should also be evaluated and managed for possible dengue or chikungunya infection. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected Zika virus disease cases to their local health department or to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate diagnosis and testing.

Flint Water Crisis

For patients with concerns about their drinking water:

- 98 – 99% of all lead poisoning is a result of lead paint.
- Municipal water systems are regulated and under the authority of the DEQ (Dept. of Environmental Quality).

- We have not had any evidence of a problem with lead poisoning from our municipal systems.
- If you have concerns about your water supply, contact the health department in Van Buren County at 269-621-3143 and Cass County at 269-782-0064
- Children identified as having elevated Blood Lead Level (BLL) are referred to local health department by the MDHHS, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP).
- Public Health nurses work with identified families to do education on lead prevention and nutrition as well as assisting in obtaining any needed remediation/abatement of home, or medical follow up as needed.
- To access the Quick Reference for Primary Providers on Blood Lead Levels go to <http://www.michigan.gov/lead>

How to Reach Us:

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HEALTH ADVISORY

Deliver to: The person responsible for distributing time-sensitive health information

Distribution: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

From: Disease Surveillance 269-621-3143

Re: INFLUENZA

This week, the CDC report increasing cases of severe influenza illness across the county.

Clinicians are reminded to provide antiviral treatment for all severely ill and high-risk patients as soon as possible if influenza is suspected or confirmed. This includes those with progressive disease and all hospitalized patients regardless of negative rapid testing. Early antiviral treatment is optimal. However, treatment may also offer benefit when started up to 4-5 days after symptom onset in hospitalized patients. Please do not wait for laboratory confirmation if empiric antiviral therapy is warranted.

Most patients with severe viral respiratory illness are unvaccinated. Michigan lags behind US estimates for flu vaccine coverage in every age group. Thus, clinicians are urged to continue vaccinating patients.

CDC high-risk designation and antiviral use guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>

Official CDC Health Advisory:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00387.asp>