

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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No Nasal Flu

Nasal Flu Mist should NOT be used this Influenza season! Recently the live, attenuated flu mist (there is only one manufacturer) has been shown to be dramatically less effective against H1N1, than the Influenza shots. This has occurred each of the last three Influenza seasons recent studies have shown. The reason for the poor immune protection is unclear at this time.

H1N1 has been the predominant circulating strain. Flu mist accounts for about 8% of the totally projected vaccine supply, and of course will not be available through the VFC (Vaccines for Children) program. The CDC and VFC are working to make up the short-fall.

Based on manufacturer projections, health officials expect that the supply of flu vaccine for the 2016-2017 season should be sufficient. Providers may need to check more than one supplier or purchase some flu vaccine from a brand other than the one they normally select.

Flu vaccines are still the best way to prevent influenza. Last year flu shots had a vaccine effectiveness estimate of 63 percent against any flu virus among children 2 years through 17 years old. For all ages and all flu viruses, the inactivated flu shot was 50% effective last season.

Summer is a good time to get ready for "Back to School" entry requirements.

All Preschool and Daycare children and Kindergarteners need to have proof of immunizations and a hearing and vision screening by the either the Health Department or a medical provider.

All 7th graders will need to show that they are up-to-date with their immunizations which includes the 1 Tdap and 1 Meningitis (MenACWY), in addition to the immunizations they received as a

young child.

Encourage parents to not wait until the last weeks in August to complete the immunization requirements for school entry, so they will not have any delay starting school due to missing requirements.

Parents, who choose not to vaccinate their child for philosophical or religious reasons, will need to schedule an appt. for a waiver education session by calling Van Buren at 269 621-3143 ext 1332 and Cass at 269-782-0064, ext 2010.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department offers free Hearing and Vision screening at various locations around the county this summer. Check the Health Department website (www.vbcassdhd.org) for locations and times.

Opioid Summit

An Opioid Summit is scheduled to be held August 19, 2016 at Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac. This summit is for Human Service Professionals. Registration is free, open link provided:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opioid-summit-for-human-service-professionals-understanding-addiction-prevention-treatment-tickets-24999772994>

If unable to attend this summit you may want to consider the Prescribers' Breakfast, information below:

Prescribers' Breakfast

Pain Management Techniques for Prescribers, August 19, 2016. Event for Medical & Dental Professionals. Registration is free, open link provided:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/prescribers-breakfast-pain-management-techniques-for-prescribers-tickets-24817914049>

Our Medical Director, Dr. Larry Wile says " I have attended a previous session of this presentation and found it to be extremely valuable. I have found ways to change my prescribing practices".

MUMPS

The Branch-Hillsdale-St Joseph community health Agency is asking local health departments and health care providers to be on alert for potential exposures to mumps, particularly in Hillsdale County. The suspect case occurred in an out of state camper who was attending a local camp. Possible exposure to other campers and staff at the camp occurred between June 21 and June 23 when the out of state camper returned home. A list of potentially exposed individuals is being compiled; this list includes many locations in Michigan as well as neighboring states. While Michigan has recently reported cases of mumps, Hillsdale County has not experienced a case of since 2008. See press release:

<http://www.bhsj.org/Publications/pressreleases/2016/06-June/Mumps.pdf>

Frequently asked questions about Mumps, click link provided:

http://www.bhsj.org/Publications/faqs/FAQ-Mumps_FAQ-and_vaccination_rec.pdf

For information about mumps for health care providers and the public, go to www.cdc.gov/mumps.

Fair Season is Here Proper Hygiene When Around Animals

Contact with animals has many positive effects for people. However, appropriate hygiene should be practiced at all times after handling animals. To decrease the possibility of contracting a zoonotic disease (a disease transmitted between animals and humans), it is essential to wash hands with soap and water after petting, feeding, handling, or having other contact with animals, their living quarters, or their waste. Germs that may be spread from contact with animals include:

Ecoli O157:H7 <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/ecoli.html>

Salmonella <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/salmonella.html>

Cryptosporidium <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>

Coxiella burnetii (Q Fever) <http://www.cdc.gov/qfever/>

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Proper Hygiene Around Animals Cont.

Campylobacter <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/diseases/campylobacter/index.html>

Yersinia enterocolitica <http://www.cdc.gov/yersinia/index.html>

Ringworm <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/ringworm.html>

Parents and teachers should supervise children to ensure they are using appropriate handwashing techniques, especially after playing with pets at home or visiting fairs, pet stores, nature parks, circuses, educational farms, petting zoos, and exhibits.

When visiting animal areas, parents should discourage:

- Eating or drinking
- The use of strollers, toys, pacifiers, baby bottles, or spill-proof cups
- Hand-to-mouth behaviors, such as thumb-sucking and nail-biting
- Sitting or playing on the ground
- Feeding the animals, unless the contact is controlled with barriers
- Any contact with animals if an individual has open wounds
- Contact with any animal waste

Contact with some animals, such as turtles and chicks, has been shown to increase the risk of disease in small children and other special populations, such as the immunocompromised.

Related links

Outbreak of Human Salmonella Typhimurium infections associated with African Dwarf Frogs
<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/water-frogs-0411/072011/map.html>

The Trouble with Turtles
<http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=7946>

Wash Your Hands If You Pet That Bunny
<http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=5989>

Healthy Pets Healthy People
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/index.html>

How to Reach Us:

Van Buren County main office

Hartford: Phone: (269) 621-3143

Fax: (269) 621-2725

Cass County main office

Dowagiac: Phone: (269) 782-0064

Fax: (269) 782-0121

Medical Director:

Larry Wile Jr, MD

(269) 621-3143 ext 1318

Health Officer:

Jeffery L Elliott, BBA

(269) 621-3143, ext 1337

Public Health Nursing:

Suzanne Bailey, RN BSN

(269) 621-3143, ext 1319

Substance Abuse:

Nikki VanSandt, MA LPC

CAADC NCC CCS

(269) 621-3143, ext 1306

Environmental Health:

Mike Laufer, RS

(269) 621-3143 ext 1312

Bioterrorism Coordination:

Jennifer Zordan, BS

(269) 621-3143 ext 1382