

From the Medical Directors Desk: Van Buren/Cass District Health Department *February 2017*

The Staff at the Health Department continues to work hard to cover the public health needs of our community. I encourage people to utilize our website www.vbcassdhd.org for updated information on public health concerns and what is happening within our communities. Here are a few recent updates on our activities and health recommendations.

Larry Wile, MD

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Lead

VBCDHD is offering Case Management for patients under the age of 6 that test high for blood lead levels. It is recommended that all children meeting criteria (venous blood lead level: ≥ 5 mcg/dL) should be referred to the health department. Go to michigan.gov/lead for more information on Michigan's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

HPV Vaccine -2 dose schedule approved

In October 2016, the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a routine 2-dose HPV vaccine schedule for adolescents who start the vaccination series before their 15th birthday. The two doses should be separated by 6-12 months (the minimum interval between doses is 5 months). A 3-dose schedule continues to be recommended for people who start the series on or after the 15th birthday and for people with certain immunocompromising conditions (such as cancer, HIV infection or taking immunosuppressive drugs). Go to cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules for guidance on Immunization Schedules.

MCIR is now assessing for the 2 dose schedule.

The Health Department Immunization staff is available to answer any questions you may have.

Influenza – A Clinical Diagnosis

Rapid tests have a fairly low sensitivity (which means a lot of false negative tests). If your patients are symptomatic and/or high risk, treat them with an Antiviral. Go to cdc.gov/flu/antivirals for guidance on the use of Antiviral Agents.

Chicken Pox

Providers, please seek laboratory confirmation on all clinically diagnosed cases of chicken pox. This will assist with the appropriate public health response as cases and outbreaks occur in SW Michigan. See the [Chicken Pox Letter to Providers](#) on our website www.vbcassdhd.org for additional information and guidance on PCR testing for Chicken pox.

Zika - Virus Testing

Healthcare workers no longer need pre-approval from the local health department to request Zika virus testing at MDHHS. See the [Zika Virus Testing Guidelines for Michigan Healthcare Providers](#) link on our website www.vbcassdhd.org for indications on who to test and how to submit specimens for testing to MDHHS labs. Additionally, local labs are now offering Zika virus testing.

Zika - Surveillance

YES, we are monitoring our local mosquitos for the Zika virus! The health department will be monitoring mosquito species across a minimum of 10 locations throughout our counties during peak mosquito season. Only two (2) mosquito species transmit the Zika virus (neither is native in Michigan). If either of these 2 species is found here in SW Michigan, further testing for the Zika virus will be done.

For Zika information including prevention measures please go to cdc.gov/zika or see the link on our website www.vbcassdhd.org.

Dental Problems and Preventative Services

Poor oral health can lead to many systemic health problems.

For your patients needing Dental services who may not have an established Dentist, the Health Department supports and encourages the [Community Dental Clinics](#), a division of VBCASSDHD.

We accept the following methods of payment: Medicaid for Children & Adults, Healthy Michigan Plans, Delta Dental & Delta Dental Healthy Kids, BCBS, & many other dental insurances. We are a Dentemax Network provider. We also have self-pay at discounted rates.

For more information or to make an appointment call the following clinic phone numbers:

269.621.6159 or 1.800.210.1921 **Hartford**

269.782.0064 or 1.888.782.0064 **Dowagiac**

269.668.6715 or 1.855.668.1200 **Mattawan**

www.vbcassdhd.org