

The Huron County Update



As spring approaches The Thumb area, so do our risks for severe weather, including thunderstorms, lightning, and even damaging winds.

No matter where you live, you'll encounter storms. Most of the time these are routine storms, however there are times that a storm can cause serious and dangerous problems. Being prepared is key. Ask yourself, "Am I prepared for an emergency? Is my family prepared if we lose power? Do we have supplies on hand to stay safe?" In most cases, the answer to that question is no, we aren't prepared.

Here are some tips for preparing for storms and weathering them safely with your loved ones.

1. Always keep a battery powered radio in your home so you can tune into radio stations if you lose electricity. Ensure you check the life of your batteries often.
2. Keep a flashlight accessible on every floor of your home, check the batteries at least monthly and replace as needed.
3. Keep a supply of candles on hand for power outages, ensure you have matches or a lighter as well.
4. Have a Go-Kit ready including nonperishables, activities for kids, blankets, water, etc.
5. Stay inside during a storm!
6. If you lose power, avoid opening the refrigerator as much as possible to keep the food lasting longer.
7. Do not use gas appliances to keep warm as they can cause deadly carbon monoxide buildup.
8. Keep generators in a well vented area, such as outside. Do not put them in your home or living quarters.
9. If you are outside, stay away from downed power lines; it may be energized and can cause severe injuries or even death.
10. Develop a plan with your family for seeking shelter as well as an evacuation route and practice it.
11. Ensure children know how to call 911 if needed.

For more safety tips, go to www.ready.gov or call the Huron County Health Department (989) 269-3310.

A quarterly newsletter providing local health department reports and information about communicable diseases and community health issues. Our resources include publications by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR); the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and other sources. If you would like more information, or have questions about the above topics or other public health issues, please contact Juliann Koehn at 989-269-9721, extension 141.

Huron County Health Department

1142 S. Van Dyke
Bad Axe, MI 48413
989-269-9721
Website: www.hchd.us

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Our Mission Statement

The Huron County Health Department works to enhance our community's total well-being by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and preventing disease.



Influenza



I haven't gotten my flu shot yet. It's already April. It's not worth it to get one now. WRONG! Flu season is still here and is currently in a widespread status according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the first part of the flu season Influenza A is predominant and then it generally switches to influenza B virus. Influenza has already taken the lives of 40 of our little ones in the U.S. so please pay a visit to the Huron County Health Department and get your flu shot. Those 6 months and older are eligible, and some children 6 months through 8 years old may need two. You may reach us at 989-269-9721 ext. 136 to make an appointment. Our hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm.

MI Flu Focus March 6th, 2017 Vol.14; No.21

11 Year Olds Need HPV Protection?



Some of you may think to yourself when you bring your 11 or 12 year old to a provider's office that recommends the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine, "My son/daughter isn't even interested in the opposite sex like that! They don't need that right now." But, in fact they do. As with most things in life whether it be our health or taking care of our vehicles, using preventative practices helps to avoid negative impacts later. We don't know exactly when our children will have their first sexual contact, but we do know that HPV can be spread without sexual intercourse. There are over 100 different types of HPV; some that lead to embarrassing effects on the genital area including warts and abnormal or cancerous cells. The same effects can happen to the mouth and throat.

How do we treat an HPV infection? There aren't any treatments for HPV infection specifically, only to the health problems caused by it, such as genital warts and cancer. Sometimes the body fights this infection off naturally, but not all cases. SO, getting our children vaccinated against this infection before they become "involved" is very important. In the U.S., nearly 75% of invasive HPV-related cancers are caused by the HPV types found in the vaccine. If your child receives this vaccine before they turn 15 they only need to receive 2 doses 6 months apart. If they wait until after age 15 then they will receive 3 doses over 6 months. According to a study published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, cases of HPV decreased 56% among female teens who received the vaccine. That's a huge reduction! Please prevent the guilt you could feel years down the road by ignoring or not trusting this vaccine by calling with any questions or scheduling an appointment at the Huron County Health Department at 989-269-9721, ext. 136.

http://www.aimtoolkit.org/docs/Parent'sGuideHPV_poster.pdf

SALMONELLA RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH LIVE POULTRY



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services would like to bring attention to the risk of human *Salmonella* infections from contact with live poultry including chicks, chickens, ducklings, ducks, geese, and turkeys.

All poultry have the potential to carry a germ called *Salmonella*, appear healthy and clean, and still cause illness in humans. These germs are shed in their droppings and can contaminate a bird's body and anything in the area where they are housed. People can become infected when they come in contact with birds, litter, cages, feed, and water dishes, and other items or equipment in their environment. Human *Salmonella* infection may cause fever, diarrhea and stomach cramps, and some people may develop more severe complications. In recent years, many outbreaks of human illness have been linked to handling live poultry purchased from feed stores and mail-order hatcheries.

In 2016, the U.S. experienced the largest ever number of reported human *Salmonella* illnesses linked to contact with live poultry in backyard flocks. These included eight separate outbreaks of *Salmonella*, resulting in 895 illnesses, 209 hospitalizations, and 3 deaths in 48 states. Michigan has the third highest number of cases nationally. Most cases occurred in the spring and summer months. Twenty-five percent of these illnesses were in children 5 years and younger.

Simple things to protect yourself and your family from *Salmonella* Germs:

- ◆ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam.
- ◆ Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- ◆ Clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry outside the house, such as cages or feed or water containers.

Don't let children younger than 5 years or age, elderly persons, or people with weak immune systems handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry.

Don't let live poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios. Also remember not to snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live poultry.



For more information regarding *Salmonella* and live poultry, visit www.cdc.gov. You can also call the Huron County Health Department at (989) 269-9721 for further questions or concerns.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, WHY WE NEED IT

What is Environmental Health and what does Environmental Health do?

Environmental Health is the improvement of health through the management of the environment. Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions can affect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to a given environment.

The Environmental Health Division has the task of protecting the environment in Huron County through administering and regulating approximately 30 programs. The four main programs include On-Site Sewage Disposal, Private Groundwater Supplies, Type 3/ Type 2 Public Water Supplies (Restaurants, Schools, Churches, Day Care...etc.) and the Food Service Program.

The Private Groundwater program's main objective is to protect groundwater. Safe drinking water is the most important element to sustain life. Groundwater is extracted from aquifers beneath the ground surface using water wells. Michigan has more wells in service than any other state and 5.8 million residents rely on groundwater for their drinking supply. The location, construction, testing, and abandonment of water wells are regulated through the state well construction code (Part 127, 1978 PA 368, as amended). These services help ensure that water wells remain a safe and reliable source of drinking water for future generations.

On-site sewage systems (commonly called septic systems) are a significant component of the State's wastewater infrastructure. On-site sewage systems can be an effective option for protecting public health and the environment if properly designed, installed, and managed. They can be a significant threat to public health and the environment if they are not. The Environmental Health Division provides the regulatory oversight for the design, construction, performance, and the operation of on-site sewage systems. The estimated annual volume of on-site sewage in Michigan is 96 billion gallons (264 million gallons per day). The enacted standards all seek to protect the safe treatment of domestic and other non-industrial wastewater in Huron County that is not served by municipal sewage treatment.

The Food Service Program's main objective is to enforce the Food Law of 2000 as amended and the 2009 Food Code. Enforcement of the Food Law and Food Code includes inspecting licensed food establishments and completing plan reviews. Foodborne illness in the United States is a major cause of personal distress, preventable death and avoidable economic burden. It is estimated that 6.5 to 33 million people become ill from microorganisms in food, resulting in as many as 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 needless deaths every year.

From the brief summaries of services provided by the Environmental Health Division it is very easy to see that Environmental Health affects everyone everyday. It starts with the water used in your coffee, the toilet you use during break and the burger you eat at lunch. Environmental Health is a major part of public health and that is why it is a mandated program which will always need to be funded.

Environmental Health Director - Huron and Tuscola Counties

Tip MacGuire

Phone: 989-269-3329

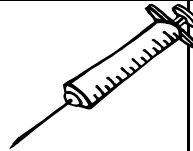
Email: tmacguire@tchd.us

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING	January, February, March 2017
Rabies Investigations Received and Investigated	7
Rabies Number Receiving Rabies Prophylactic Treatment	0
Communicable Disease Reports Received and Investigated	44
TB Tests Given	44
TB Tests Reactors/Converters	0
TB Active Cases (newly diagnosed)	0
TB Receiving Treatment	0



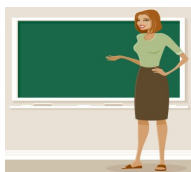
Source: Agency Logs

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE	January, February, March 2017
Children ages Birth to 18 years	276 People Received
How many vaccines were administered	548 Vaccines
How many flu vaccines were administered	111 Flu Vaccines
Adults 19 years and older	105 People Received
How many vaccines were administered	146 Vaccines
How many flu vaccines were administered?	32 Flu Vaccines



Source: MCIR & Agency

School Reports */**/+



Disease	January, February, March 2017
Head Lice	12
Strep Throat	7
Flu Like Disease (Respiratory)	894
Gastrointestinal Illness	21



*All schools may not have reported

**Diagnosis is not always made by a health care professional

+ Influenza reports will now be found on the quarterly summary reports because MDCH also enters influenza reports that may not be from school-aged children

Source: Huron County Schools Weekly Communicable Disease Reports/MDSS



**Quarterly Summary of Reportable Communicable Diseases in
Huron County for January, February and March 2016 and January,
February, and March 2017**

DISEASE GROUP	DISEASE	Jan. Feb. March 2016	Jan. Feb. March 2017
FOODBORNE	Campylobacter	3	2
	Giardiasis	0	1
	Shigellosis	0	1
MENINGITIS	Meningitis– Aseptic	1	1
	Meningitis– Bacterial	0	1
OTHER	Streptococcus Pneu- moniae, Inv.	1	0
	Coccidioidomycosis	1	0
	Mycobacterium– other	1	0
RABIES	Animal Bites	14	7
STD	Chlamydia	13	16
	Gonorrhea	0	1
	Syphilis, Secondary	1	0
VIRAL HEPATITIS	Hepatitis C, chronic	6	3
VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE	H. influenza Disease Inv.	0	1

*NOTE: The discrepancy in number of reported diseases may be due to changes in reporting procedures or the addition or reporting