



PROVIDER UPDATE

News from your Local Health Department

IN THIS ISSUE

Air Quality & Health Recommendations

Immunization News

Foodborne Illness Surveillance Summary

Healthy Futures

Bathing Beach Monitoring

Syringe Services Program (SSP)

Expedited Partner Therapy

Public Health's Integrated Services Approach

Reportable Disease Totals

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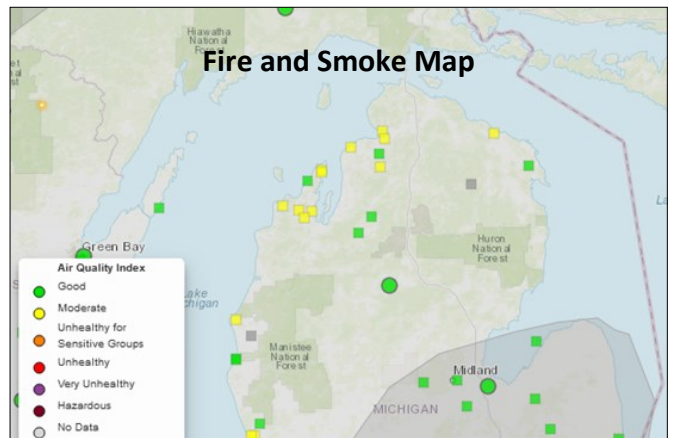
Air Quality & Health Recommendations

Widespread wildfires in Ontario and Quebec created smoke plumes that adversely impacted our region's air quality over several days. Unfortunately, wildfire smoke may continue to pose a health concern, especially to sensitive individuals, throughout the summer and into fall.

The fine particle pollution (PM2.5) present in wildfire smoke can travel large distances through the air and can come and go, as well as be worse in certain parts of the state, based on wind and weather patterns. Visible haze and/or the smell of smoke are signs that air quality may be particularly affected for a given time and place. Individuals can check the fire and smoke map <https://>

fire.airnow.gov/ for current available measurements.

Recommendations for general population and sensitive groups based on



air quality readings can be found on EPA's [Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution](#). Sensitive groups including those with asthma, underlying heart and lung disease, elderly, and young children should monitor their symptoms and may need to reduce or curtail outdoor activities at even moderate levels.



Immunization News

PCV20 (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine) for Children –The ACIP recommended that PCV20 may be used in children for the routine series and catch-up doses. Children 2 months and older should get either PCV15 or PCV20 according to the recommended schedules. Children ages 2-18 years with any risk condition who have received all recommended doses before age 6 years do not need additional doses if they have received at least one dose of PCV20. If they received PCV13 or PCV15 but not PCV20, they should receive a dose of PCV20 or pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) using the previously recommended doses and schedule.

RSV Vaccine for Adults –The CDC has endorsed the ACIP rec-

ommendations for use of the new Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines (Pfizer *Abrysvo* and GSK *Arexvy*) for persons 60 years of age and older using [shared clinical decision-making](#). Individuals may receive a single dose when the vaccine is available if the vaccine is appropriate for them. Adults at highest risk for severe RSV illness include adults over 75, adults with chronic heart or lung disease, adults with weakened immune systems, and adults living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities. CDC estimates that every year, RSV causes approximately 60,000 to 160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000 to 10,000 deaths among older adults. The vaccines should be available this Fall.

An RSV Vaccine for pregnant women (RSVpreF) as well as a



new monoclonal antibody for infants (nirsevimab) is being considered, but at this time no formal recommendations by the ACIP have been made.

Provider Quote

*“Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity.”
~ Hippocrates*

Foodborne Illness Surveillance Summary

A recent MMWR regarding [Foodborne Illness Outbreaks at Retail Food Establishments](#) reviewed reported outbreaks from 2017-2019. Norovirus was the most commonly identified cause of outbreaks reported, and contamination of food by ill or infectious food workers contributed to about 40% of outbreaks with identified contributing factors. The report highlights the role of ill workers in foodborne illness outbreaks. Strict adherence to proper hand hygiene and fol-

lowing appropriate work exclusion policies for food workers are important steps in reducing outbreaks. In general, a food worker with infectious diarrhea should be excluded from work until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved. If due to Norovirus they should be symptom free for 2-3 days, and if due to Shigella, Shiga-toxin producing E Coli, Salmonella, or Hepatitis A consultation with the Health Department should be made to determine return to work.



Healthy Futures

[Healthy Futures](#) is a collaboration between Munson Healthcare, other regional hospitals, health departments and healthcare providers. The program provides information and local resources for pregnant women and parents of young children, including breastfeeding support, child nutrition and development, parent support, playgroups, and mental health and wellness.

Optional and free home visits by registered nurses are also available in the newborn period to weigh and assess infants.

Visit <https://healthyfuturesonline.org/> for more information.

Bathing Beach Monitoring

During the summer months, water sampling is done at area beaches to ensure safe recreation for beachgoers throughout our counties. The water is tested for the indicator organism *E. coli* each week.

The monitoring program has been successful in protecting public health and has also supported the economic benefits of having clean, safe swimming areas.

If a sample comes back with bacteria higher than is safe for full body contact, a beach advisory is issued and posted at the beach. The water is then re-tested. Updates are provided when a sample shows the bacteria level has lowered to a safe level.



Results and more information are available at:
~ Health Dept. of NW Michigan: <https://www.nwhealth.org/beach.html>
~ Benzie Leelanau DHD: <https://bldhd.org/beach-monitoring/>
~ DHD#4: <https://www.dhd4.org/bathing-beaches>

Statewide information about beach testing and current closures and advisories can be found at <https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach>.

BLDHD expands their Syringe Services Program (SSP)

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, through funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and partnership with Harm Reduction-Michigan, offers a Syringe Services Program (SSP).

The goal of the SSP is to provide clean needles and safe disposal of used needles to participants, offering testing and access of treatment for sexually transmitted and bloodborne diseases such as hepatitis B and C, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and HIV.

Our staff help link SSP participants to treatment programs, assisting SSP participants to community resources to meet basic needs, and providing Narcan to reduce the risk of overdose deaths. We have free Narcan kits, fentanyl testing strips, safe injection supplies, sharps disposal available in our Benzie office for residents. Local providers can referral their patients to SSP by filling out this quick survey or calling Jamie at 231-882-6366.

Right now, we have Narcan distribution boxes in Frankfort (15 4th street) and both our Benzonia and Lake Leelanau (inside) locations. We are planning on expanding our Narcan distribution boxes around the counties.



Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

MDHHS [Guidance for Health Care Providers](#) provides information for using EPT for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Trichomoniasis, which was authorized in Michigan by Public Act in 2014.

With cases of STI's increasing, clinicians can use EPT to reduce further transmission. **Through EPT, a clinician may provide patients with medication or a prescription to deliver to their sex partners without a medical evaluation or clinical assessments of those partners.** Furthermore, providers are not subject to liability except in cases of gross negligence.

EPT can be considered for the partners of patients with a clinical

or laboratory diagnosis of chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomoniasis infection. Partners should still be encouraged to seek follow

up and can be referred to the health department or their primary care provider. Free testing and treatment for STI's is also available at all LHD clinics.

Dispensing medication is most likely to result in partner treat-



ment, but prescriptions can also be given to each partner. If the partner's name is unknown, a prescription can be made out to "Expedited Partner Therapy" with January 1 of the current year as birthdate.

Current Recommended Drug Regimens for EPT

- Chlamydia: Doxycycline 100mg po BID for 7 days
- Gonorrhea: Cefixime 800mg po single dose, PLUS Doxycycline 100mg BID x 7d if coinfecting or Chlamydia result not available
- Trichomoniasis: Female partners Metronidazole 500mg po BID 7d
- Male partners Metronidazole 2 grams po single dose

Public Health's Integrated Services Approach

When you refer a patient to Public Health, you provide a referral into an integrated services plan. The model ensures patients receive as many services as possible at one visit. This "one stop shop" model is used by a variety of health departments in the State of Michigan. Those specifically trained staff answering the phone are integral to the success of this model, as we often route people through one central telephone number.

For example, when a child comes to the Health Department for a Women, Infants & Children (WIC) appointment, he/she leaves with the following:

- WIC Enrollment completed or updated, and food benefits issued,
- Immunizations provided (if requested) to give

the child protection from serious communicable diseases,

- Fluoride applied to teeth (under age 3; if requested),
- Lead Screening provided, as needed,

Breastfeeding education support provided, if applicable, and

- Referrals to community resources such as Head Start, Insurance Assistance, Behavioral Health Services or a Physician, as needed.



Reportable Disease by Local Health Departments

January 1 to June 30, 2023

| | BLDHD | DHD#4 | HDNW | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| COVID-19 | 330 | 794 | 897 | 2021 |
| Campylobacter | 4 | 1 | 9 | 14 |
| Cryptosporidiosis | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Giardiasis | | | 2 | 2 |
| Norovirus | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| Salmonellosis | 3 | 2 | 8 | 13 |
| Shiga toxin-producing E Coli | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Influenza | 54 | 99 | 163 | 316 |
| Meningitis - Aseptic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Meningitis - Bacterial | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Meningococcal Disease | | | 1 | 1 |
| Strep pneumoniae, Invasive | 3 | 7 | 4 | 14 |
| Blastomycosis | | 1 | | 1 |
| CP-CRE | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Candida auris | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Coccidioidomycosis | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| Histoplasmosis | | 3 | | 3 |
| Legionellosis | | | 1 | 1 |
| Streptococcal Dis, Inv, Grp A | 2 | 6 | 6 | 14 |
| Trachoma | | | 1 | 1 |
| Rabies: Potential Exposure | 7 | 33 | 25 | 65 |
| Chlamydia | 30 | 32 | 95 | 157 |
| Gonorrhea | 7 | | 5 | 12 |
| Syphilis - Early Latent | | | 5 | 5 |
| Latent Tuberculosis Infection | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| Nontuberculous Mycobacterium | 1 | 4 | | 5 |
| Chickenpox | | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| H. influenzae Disease - Inv. | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| VZ Infection, Unspecified | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Dengue Fever | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasma | 2 | | | 2 |
| Lyme Disease | 7 | | 7 | 14 |
| Hepatitis B | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Hepatitis C | 3 | 14 | 32 | 48 |