

Connecting Point

A MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



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Visit www.mmdhd.org for more information on agency programs, services and health issues.



Creating a Culture of Immunization

Michigan’s children are falling behind on their scheduled immunizations. According to the State of Michigan, just over half (55%) of 7 month olds are up-to-date on their vaccinations across the State, and at 24 months of age, that number drops to 49%. This leaves a large number of children unprotected from vaccine preventable diseases. The Healthy People 2020 goal is to be at 80%, so we have some work to do! If you are a medical provider, you and your office staff play an important part in helping to raise immunization rates.

Health care providers can help increase these numbers by assessing patients’ immunization status at each visit, give vaccines when they are due, talk to parents about the immunization schedule and why it is important to keep them on schedule. As a trusted source of information, providers can create a “culture of immunization” by making sure all staff provide consistent messages to parents, and by following these suggested guidelines:

1. Make parents aware of your practice’s immunization philosophy and policy.
2. Keep up-to-date on current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine recommendations.
3. Make clinical resources readily available to staff.
4. Assess a child’s immunization status at every visit.
5. Give strong recommendations for immunizations.
6. Help parents feel supported by welcoming questions and knowing how to answer them.
7. Give Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and handouts to answer specific questions.
8. Make immunization resources easy for parents to find.
9. Schedule follow-up immunization appointments before the child leaves the office.
10. Remind parents about upcoming immunization appointments and contact those who miss appointments.

If you would like more information, or to schedule an immunization education session for your office, please contact Sarah Doak, RN, at (989)227-3109 or sdoak@mmdhd.org

Community Health Worker Success

The Pathways to Better Health Program connects Community Health Workers (CHW) with residents who are having difficulty navigating the human services system. To qualify, individuals must be 18 or older, have two or more chronic health issues, and be eligible for Medicaid, Medicare or the Healthy Michigan Plan. Here is a recent example of how CHW’s assist residents.

A client in his 40’s was referred due to high blood pressure and a recent heart attack. He was uninsured, lacked food, and had outstanding bills. The CHW was able to assist the client with: completing an online application for Medicaid and food stamps, applying for medical hardship payment assistance through the hospital, referring to the Consumer Care Program through Consumers Energy, connecting with local charitable organizations for vehicle care assistance and obtaining furniture, and education on taking medication and checking blood pressure properly.

As a result of these interventions, the client now has Medicaid, which was backdated to cover his hospitalization and outstanding medical bills. He has all his needed medications, a blood pressure cuff to monitor his condition daily, and food stamp assistance. A portion of his outstanding utility bill has been forgiven. His vehicle was repaired for free by a licensed mechanic. He has a bed and chairs for his home. His health conditions are now stable and he is back to work. Due to his improved health, he now has more time to devote to his family.

For more information on the Pathways to Better Health program, visit www.ihpmi.org/carehub or contact Wendy Currie, RN at (989)875-1028 or wcurrie@mmdhd.org.

Body Art Licensing

The increase in body art popularity led to the establishment of the Michigan Body Art Facility Licensing Act of 2010. In Michigan, owners and operators of facilities that conduct body art must be licensed by the State and inspected by the Health Department. Licensed facilities display their State license in a customer area. The annual inspection conducted by health inspectors ensures that facilities are using correct sanitation procedures and proper record keeping. During the inspection the facility will demonstrate that they provide awareness training to all body artist employees on sharps disposal, bloodborne pathogen and Hepatitis B vaccine. The facility is also required to show that they provide copies to their clients on skin aftercare instructions, the signs and symptoms of infection and details on how to file a complaint against a facility.

Body Art is defined by law as the practice of tattooing, branding or body piercing. It does not include ear piercing, but tattooing does include permanent make up such as lip liner or eye liner or semi-permanent make up such as microblading. Any of the body modification procedures listed above that takes place outside of a licensed shop or salon is illegal. Body Artists that advertise on social media and offer services in a basement or a friend's house are conducting unsafe practices that may lead to infection, allergic reaction or exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Illegal operators are inexperienced and are unaware of the importance of proper procedures.

A list of licensed body art facilities is available on the State website at www.michigan.gov/bodyart. Licensing information is also available by contacting the Environmental Health Division at each Mid Michigan District Health Department county office.

Food Service Emergency Planning

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has developed guidelines for grocery and food service facilities to plan and respond to emergency situations that can create the potential for an imminent health hazard. The guide is available online at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_EmergencyActionPlan_109428_7.pdf

The guide contains emergency procedures for dealing with interruptions of electric or water supplies, contamination of water supply, fire, flood and sewage backup. Copies are distributed to food service establishments by Mid Michigan District Health Department Environmental Health Sanitarians during routine inspections. This tool can assist food service managers in making informed decisions regarding food safety during an emergency.

For more information on food service emergency planning, contact your county Environmental Health Division office.

WIC Guidelines

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal health and nutrition program that has proven to show a positive impact on pregnancy outcomes and child growth and development. For pregnant women and children under the age of five, WIC provides:

- Nutritious foods valued at \$30-\$112 per month
- Nutrition education
- Healthcare referrals
- Breastfeeding promotion and support

In order to qualify for WIC benefits, pregnant women and children under the age of five must be Medicaid eligible or meet these income requirements:

2017-2018 WIC Annual Income Guidelines

Family Size*	Hourly	Monthly	Annual
1	\$10.72	\$1,860	\$22,311
2	\$14.44	\$2,504	\$30,044
3	\$18.16	\$3,149	\$37,777
4	\$21.87	\$3,793	\$45,510
5	\$25.59	\$4,437	\$53,243
6	\$29.31	\$5,082	\$60,976

*Pregnant women are counted as one + the number of infants expected when determining income eligibility for the total economic unit effective through 6/30/18.

MMDHD holds WIC clinics at the Stanton, Ithaca and St. Johns offices, as well as in out clinics in Greenville, Howard City, Alma and North Lansing.

For more information about the WIC program, contact Jennifer Stratton, RN, at (989) 831-3609 or by email at jstratton@mmdhd.org.



For more information about these and other Health Department programs, contact:

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