



Livingston County Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Update

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ZIKA VIRUS TESTING

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their guidelines on March 31, 2016 for Zika virus testing. Call the local Health Department where the client resides for guidance and approval for Zika virus testing. Testing is currently indicated for asymptomatic pregnant women with a history of travel to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission and are within 2-12 weeks after their return from travel. In addition to pregnant women, others with a history of travel to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission and have a clinical illness - one or more of the following symptoms: fever, rash, joint pain, red irritated eyes) within two weeks of travel should also be tested. Additional information related to Zika virus testing can be found at www.cdc.gov/zika.

HUMAN PAPILOMA VIRUS VACCINE

HPV vaccine can prevent related cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal and some oropharyngeal cancers associated with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). In general, HPV is thought to be responsible for more than 90% of anal and cervical cancers, about 70% of vaginal and vulvar cancers, and more than 60% of penile cancers. About 70% of cancers of the oropharynx may also be linked to HPV. A recent study by the CDC showed that the HPV vaccine is very effective and helped to cut HPV infection rates in teen girls in half. HPV vaccine safety monitoring studies continue to show that HPV vaccines are safe but HPV coverage rates are low. Provider recommendation of vaccines can improve low vaccination rates. Providers that communicate messages focusing on the vaccine safety and benefits in cancer prevention and on the importance of its delivery prior to sexual onset, may improve HPV vaccine coverage. It is important to recommend HPV vaccine to 11- or 12-year-olds in the same way and on the same day as Tdap and meningococcal conjugate vaccines. Using the reminder/recall function in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) may help to remind those clients to come back to your office to complete the vaccination series. Several tools and resources to assist you to increase HPV vaccination rates are available through CDC and MDHHS.

STI ACTION TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Reduction in the incidence of sexually transmitted infections has been identified as a strategic health issue in Livingston County and we are looking for team members to join us as we plan and implement actions toward that goal. Becoming a team member may involve a limited number of meetings (2-4/year) to share your ideas and expertise. If interested, please contact Kris Moyer at LCDPH at (517) 552-6828 or kmoyer@livgov.com.

LYME DISEASE IN MICHIGAN: A TOOLKIT FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Lyme disease is becoming an increasingly important health issue in Michigan. Due to its recently emerging status in some parts of the state, many healthcare providers may have limited experience when dealing with the disease. The MDHHS has created a toolkit regarding Lyme disease in our state specifically targeted for healthcare providers. The toolkit includes a website with healthcare provider specific information, a Michigan-specific webinar with free CME credits, and more materials to promote tick bite prevention and prompt recognition of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease associated illness. Go to www.michigan.gov/lymeinfo for the toolkit and to register for the free webinar.

RABIES EXPOSURE

Spring is finally here and summer isn't far behind. While enjoying these beautiful seasons in Michigan, remember that during this time of year, animal bites and rabies exposures are more frequent. Every year in the U.S, an estimated 40,000 people receive a series of shots known as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to potential exposure to rabies, at a cost as high as \$500 million annually. Around the world, rabies results in more than 59,000 deaths each year, with most deaths reported from Africa and Asia and almost 50% are children under 15 years of age. Rabies is present on every inhabited continent. In Michigan in 2015, 35 animals tested positive for rabies: 33 bats, 1 skunk and 1 fox. So far in Michigan in 2016, 2 skunks have tested positive for rabies. Rabies is preventable. Keeping pets up-to-date on their rabies vaccine series is important. If a pet cat or dog is exposed to possible rabies and not vaccinated against rabies, and the animal is not available for testing, it may be recommended that the pet be euthanized or strictly quarantined for 4 months. LCDPH can facilitate testing of animals that have exposed people or pets, which will often eliminate the need for rabies PEP. Awakening to a bat in a room or a bat in a room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled, or intoxicated individual are considered exposures. When a person or pet has been exposed to a bat, a safe way to capture the bat is, wear heavy gloves, wait for it to land, place a box or coffee can over it, slide a piece of cardboard under the container and tape the cardboard to the container securely and call LCDPH at (517) 546-9850. Animal bites are reportable to LCDPH and the Animal Bite Report can be accessed on our website www.lchd.org. Consultation and reports can also be taken by calling the Communicable Disease line at (517) 552-6882 Monday-Friday. Recently updated flowcharts on Rabies Decision Making are available at www.michigan.gov/rabies. More information on rabies can be found at www.cdc.gov/rabies.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TRENDS

The Tuberculosis Case Table (2011-2015) and the Communicable Disease Trends for 2011- 2015 will be available Wednesday, April 20th, on the LCDPH website, www.lchd.org. Click on Personal & Preventive Health on the left-hand navigation bar then click on Communicable Disease Control. You'll see links to both of the tables.

Call LCDPH at (517) 546-9850 to report or consult about a communicable disease. We are available 24/7. If it is after business hours, call 911 and they will contact the appropriate staff.