



Livingston County Health Department Communicable Disease Update

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LYME DISEASE - CHANGES TO LAB TESTING AND TREATMENT

Lyme disease remains the most common vector-borne disease in the United States, but only the blacklegged tick transmits this pathogen in Michigan. LCHD can assist with tick identification that have been attached to a human.

Michigan is considered a low incidence state, but recent ecologic studies have documented the expansion of Lyme disease risk in suitable habitats in our area. Exposures that are in high incidence states currently include: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Lab testing for Lyme disease has also changed and is summarized on the Lyme Disease Tip Sheet (included). Additional information about treatment can be found at www.michigan.gov/lymeinfo.

SPRING AND BABY POULTRY

Spring is the time we often see baby poultry on display at stores where children may be able to touch them. These birds are so soft and cute, and many people do not realize the potential danger of handling baby poultry especially for children. Salmonella outbreaks have been linked to live poultry resulting in illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. There are many other enteric diseases that can also be transmitted from handling poultry.

Healthcare providers have an opportunity to educate families on the risks of handling poultry:

- Children younger than 5 years of age, older adults, or people with weakened immune systems should not handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry.
- Don't give live baby poultry as gifts to young children.
- The baby poultry does not have to appear ill to be a carrier.
- Don't eat or drink in the area where birds live or roam.
- Excellent handwashing after any contact with any poultry.

For more information you can visit CDC'S Salmonella website: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella>.

MENINGOCOCCAL B VACCINATION

CDC recommends meningococcal vaccination with a meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra® or Menveo®) for all preteens and teens at 11 to 12 years old, with a booster dose at 16 years old.

Teens and young adults (16 through 23 year olds) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine. These vaccines provide protection against most but not all serogroup B strains circulating in the United States.

According to the CDC, it is estimated that approximately 15 to 29 cases and two to five deaths could be prevented annually with a routine adolescent MenB vaccination program. Based on the available antibody persistence data, ACIP concluded that there was a preference to administer the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine series in later adolescence to maximize the likelihood that adolescents would have protection during the ages (16 through 23 years) when they are at highest risk of meningococcal disease. The preferred age for vaccination with MenB vaccine is 16-18 years old. Serogroup B vaccination is not currently routinely recommended for incoming college students unless there is a meningococcal disease outbreak at the institution. However, given the seriousness of meningococcal disease and the availability of licensed vaccines, current CDC guidelines allow for individual clinical decision making in regards to serogroup B vaccination of those 16-23 years of age. For more information visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>

ZIKA VIRUS TESTING

Prior approval for Zika testing from your local health department is no longer required. There is a new Michigan Zika Supplemental questionnaire which must be completed and sent with the specimen to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories. Only pregnant patients or symptomatic non-pregnant patients visiting affected areas traveling within the timeline identified by the CDC will be tested. For information on areas with Zika virus go to www.cdc.gov/zika and for the Michigan forms go to www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

BECOME A MICHIGAN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER

Medical providers of any specialty in nearly any setting who are likely to see patients with influenza-like illness can be sentinel providers. Some advantages are: free respiratory virus cultures; weekly feedback on submitted data; and regional, state, and national influenza data. For information about becoming a sentinel provider please contact MDHHS at (517) 335-3385.

Call LCHD 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.