



Livingston County Health Department Communicable Disease Update

Dianne McCormick, RS, MSA
Director/Health Officer

Donald W. Lawrenchuk, MD, MPH
Medical Director

NEW GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR HEPATITIS A EXPOSURES

On February 21 and 22, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) met to discuss vaccine recommendations. Hepatitis A post-exposure and travel vaccine recommendations were discussed and voted on. Given the current Hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan, we have received guidance through our communication with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to follow the recommendation as voted on for Hepatitis A post-exposure. The following recommendation was voted on and passed:

- Hepatitis A vaccines should be administered for post-exposure prophylaxis for all persons \geq 12 months.
- In addition to Hepatitis A vaccine, IG may be administered to persons age $>$ 40 years depending on the providers risk assessment.

Provider Risk Assessment Guidance

Factors to consider in the decision to use Immune Globulin (IG) in addition to vaccine include:

- Age
- Immune status and underlying conditions
- Exposure type (risk of transmission)
- Availability of IG

In the above recommendation, ACIP did not elaborate on the provider risk assessment factors such as age, immune status, etc. when considering IG. We expect that there will be additional guidance within the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review (MMWR) pertaining to the provider risk assessment and the factors included. Normally we advise to wait for the MMWR to be published before following vaccine recommendations that are voted on and passed at the ACIP meetings, however, we are encouraging you to follow the above recommendations NOW due to our current Hepatitis A outbreak and this communication and guidance from CDC.

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; regional, state, national influenza data; and free registration at an MDHHS Regional Immunization Conference. For information about becoming a sentinel provider please contact MDHHS at (517) 335-3385.

RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS REPORTING

The Livingston County Health Department is planning to participate in a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) pilot project designed to track all rabies post-exposure prophylaxis administered in the county. This project begins in May and will continue through September of 2018. Throughout this pilot period, we are requesting that all local healthcare providers who administer rabies post-exposure prophylaxis in Livingston County report these doses to LCHD (report form available on LCHD website under Quick Links).

In Michigan, animal bites and bat exposures where rabies infection is suspected are already reportable to the local health department. MDHHS is exploring the idea of also making rabies post-exposure prophylaxis a reportable condition statewide.

ZIKA VIRUS TESTING

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories recently announced that as of March 20, 2018, the State will no longer be able to offer any screening tests for Zika virus. Several commercial labs now routinely offer Zika serology and PCR testing, and the State will continue to serve as the Zika virus confirmatory testing center for Michigan residents who have had positive screening testing performed at another laboratory.

SHINGRIX® - NEW VACCINE FOR PREVENTION OF SHINGLES

Shingrix® (recombinant zoster vaccine) is the new vaccine recommended for prevention of shingles. CDC recommends that healthy adults 50 years and older get two doses of Shingrix®, separated by 2 to 6 months, to prevent shingles and the complications from the disease. Studies have shown that two doses of Shingrix provides strong protection against shingles and postherpetic neuralgia. In adults 50 to 69 years old who received two doses, Shingrix was 97% effective in preventing shingles; among adults 70 years and older, 2 doses of Shingrix was 91% effective. Shingrix® is preferred over [Zostavax®](#) (zoster vaccine live) for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) and related complications.

TICK SEASON IS HERE: LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is expanding across the state of Michigan. It is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted by the blacklegged deer tick. Lyme disease infected ticks have currently been identified in 34 of Michigan's 83 counties, including Livingston County.

People can protect themselves against Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases by following these tips:

- Apply repellent containing DEET (20-30 percent) on clothing.
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass and brush.
- Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors.
- To remove a tick, grasp the tick firmly and as close to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors, preferable within two hours.
- Washing clothing in hot water and drying on high heat kills ticks on clothing.

Michigan residents can submit ticks to MDHHS www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases or LCHD for identification and possible Lyme disease testing (if the tick is alive). Testing is recommended if the tick has been attached to a person or animal, and is determined to be the blacklegged deer tick.

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.