



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter Publication of Livingston County Health Department

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Michigan

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that as of 10/11/2019, there are 10 confirmed human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Michigan, including four deaths, along with several other confirmed EEE cases in horses and deer. Livingston County had an unvaccinated horse test positive for EEE last month in the Hamburg area, which resulted in local aerial spraying of mosquitoes in that area of Livingston County. Although still relatively rare, EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, with a 33% fatality rate in people who become ill, and a 90% fatality rate in horses that become ill. According to the Chief Medical Executive for the MDHHS, this is the worst EEE outbreak in Michigan in over a decade. Although there is an approved EEE vaccine for horses, there is no current EEE vaccine available for humans. Signs of EEE may include the sudden onset of fever, chills, as well as body and joint aches, which can progress to a severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Mosquito-borne illness will continue to be a concern in Michigan until the nighttime temperatures consistently fall below freezing. In the meantime, personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites include avoiding any outdoor activities from dusk until dawn, and using an EPA-registered insect repellent as recommended. Infections can occur even when mosquito bite numbers are low. For more information about EEE and other mosquito-borne diseases, please visit the state website at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

Did you know?

MDHHS maps zoonotic and vector borne diseases reported in humans and animals. The statewide map can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2oUBvuO>.

Find more information on our website: www.LCHD.org

THE IMMUNIZATION ADVISORY COALITION NEEDS YOU!

Please join staff from the local public health department, MDHHS, MCIR and provider offices as we come together to share and discuss immunization topics.

- Strategies to increase immunization rates
- MDHHS updates
- MCIR updates and much more

7:30-8:30 am

2nd Tuesday of the month quarterly:

November 12, 2019

February 11, 2020

May 12, 2020

August 11, 2020

Livingston County Health Department

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. To become a sentinel provider please contact:

Shelly Doeblner, MPH

MDHHS, Division of Immunization

Email: doeblerm@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-284-4874

Legionellosis

Recent increases of Legionellosis cases in Michigan correspond to national increases. The annual number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD) in Michigan has increased each year since 2015, from 243 in 2015 to 590 in 2018. Livingston County cases have also increased from 6 in 2015 to 11 cases reported to date in 2019.

Infection occurs via inhalation of the bacteria in aerosolized water and can result in Pontiac fever, a flu-like illness without pneumonia, or Legionnaires' disease (LD), which includes pneumonia. Of particular current concern are health-care-associated cases, as they serve vulnerable populations and have potable water systems that are large and complex with greater opportunity for bacterial growth.

Risk factors include recent travel with an overnight stay outside the home, in-or out-patient healthcare exposure in the 14 days before illness onset, exposure to whirlpool spas/hot tubs, recent repairs to domestic plumbing, renal or hepatic failure, diabetes, systemic malignancy, smoking, immune system disorder and/or age 50 years or older.

It is important to consider testing for LD when evaluating patients with pneumonia, including those with severe pneumonia or pneumonia that has failed outpatient antibiotic therapy, and those with the above risk factors.

The recommended tests for LD are culture of lower respiratory secretions (e.g., sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage) and the Legionella urinary antigen test. If possible, these tests should be done concurrently and before antibiotic administration. Culture for Legionella should be specifically requested so specimens can be placed on the correct growth media. Despite the convenience and specificity of the urinary antigen test, isolation of Legionella from respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or a normally sterile site is still an important method for diagnosis as outbreaks of LD rely on both clinical and environmental isolates, which can be compared. Because Legionella bacteria are commonly found in the environment, clinical isolates are needed to interpret the findings of an environmental investigation. Any clinical specimen remaining from the respiratory culture should be immediately frozen. The MDHHS Laboratory will test clinical respiratory specimens from urinary antigen positive patients without cost.

Recommended treatment is a fluoroquinolone or macrolide for a total of 10-14 days.

Legionellosis is a reportable disease in Michigan. Please report cases via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) or directly to LCHD at 517-546-9850.

RESOURCES FOR HIV PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP)

PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is an HIV prevention method in which people who don't have HIV, but are at high risk of infection, take medicine daily to reduce their risk of getting HIV. Currently, the only FDA-approved medication for PrEP is a combination of two anti-HIV drugs, sold in a single pill under the brand name Truvada. It can be prescribed for HIV negative adults and adolescents at high risk of getting HIV through sex or injection drug use. PrEP is highly effective when taken as indicated. The Oakland County Health Division recently began offering PrEP to high risk persons in SE MI at their S. Oakland Health Center in Southfield. Those interested can call 248-424-7000 to make an appointment, or 248-858-5416 for more information. Most health insurance plans cover PrEP, and a medication assistance program is available for those who need help paying for the medication. PrEP is also available at the Washtenaw County Health Department 734-544-6840 and Ingham County Health Department 517-887-4302.

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.