



Livingston County Health Department Communicable Disease Update

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PERTUSSIS

Six cases of probable or confirmed pertussis were reported to the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) in December 2016, twice as many as were reported in any other month in 2016. As of January 18th, five cases have been reported so far. This probably represents only a small percentage of the individuals who are actually infected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every case reported, there are at least ten others not diagnosed/reported.

Over the course of 2016, there were 23 cases of confirmed or probable cases of pertussis that ranged in age from 2 months to 41 years, none required hospitalization. Most of these individuals were vaccinated against pertussis; only four were known to be unvaccinated. While the pertussis component of the DTaP/Tdap appears to be helpful in attenuating the disease, vaccine efficacy for DTaP ranges from 80-85%.

The takeaway message is “Think Pertussis” in a patient who has an otherwise unexplained cough, even if they are appropriately vaccinated and not severely ill. We recommend nasopharyngeal swabs when testing is indicated. Also, don’t forget to vaccinate your pregnant patients, ideally between weeks 27-36 of pregnancy, and encourage those who will be around the newborn to also be vaccinated before baby’s birth.

Pertussis should be reported to LCHD as soon as possible. Reports can be made via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS), by calling the Communicable Disease nurse line (517) 552-6882 or by faxing to secure fax (517) 545-9685.

LIVINGSTON DENTAL CENTER

My Community Dental Center (MCDC) is opening a new dental center this month in Livingston County at 1335 Byron Road, Howell, in partnership with the Livingston County Health Department. This center will serve children and adults enrolled in Medicaid, including Healthy Kids Dental, MI-Child, Healthy Michigan Plan and uninsured persons. The center will also serve persons with private insurance.

MCDC provides a full range of general dentistry services, including oral exams/cleanings, fillings, tooth removal, partials and dentures, as well as other dental procedures. For more information or to register as a patient, call (877) 313-6232 or register online at www.mydental.org.

FLU ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

CDC reports that flu activity is on the rise with influenza A (H3N2) viruses predominating. Michigan's flu activity level is regional. It's not too late to protect your patients from the flu; getting vaccinated at this time still offers substantial public health benefits. Vaccination is especially important for people who are at high risk of serious flu-related complications, like young children and people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes and heart disease. As long as flu viruses are circulating in the community, health care workers should continue to vaccinate patients who have not yet received influenza vaccine this season. According to the CDC, so far this year's flu shot seems to be well matched against prevalent strains that we are seeing. A health care provider's recommendation plays a critical role in a patient's decision to get a seasonal flu vaccine.

UPDATED MDHHS ZIKA VIRUS TESTING GUIDANCE FOR HCPs

- Health care providers no longer need pre-approval from the local Health Department to submit specimens for Zika testing at MDHHS.
- To find the countries and territories that have reported mosquito-borne Zika Virus transmission and countries with current travel notices issued for Zika Virus – indicate country patient is traveling to <https://www.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-info>
- Patients must meet the MDHHS testing criteria and samples must be accompanied by the required MDHHS forms; http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5103-215861--,00.html
- FDA Zika Safety Communication reminds HCP'S to wait until confirmatory testing (available at MDHHS BOL) on presumptive positive Zika IgM results before advising patients on medical decisions.

NEW HPV 2 DOSE SCHEDULE

In October, the ACIP and CDC approved a new 2-dose HPV vaccination schedule for persons initiating vaccination with HPV before their 15th birthday. The recommended immunization schedule for girls and boys 9–14 years is 2 doses of HPV vaccine with the 2nd dose administered 6–12 months after the first dose (0, 6–12 month schedule). Individuals who initiated the series on or after their 15th birthday must still follow the 3 dose schedule previously used. Persons who initiated vaccination before their 15th birthday, and received 2 doses of any HPV vaccine at the recommended dosing schedule (0, 6–12 months), or 3 doses of any HPV vaccine at the recommended dosing schedule (0, 1–2, 6 months), are considered adequately vaccinated. Three doses remain recommended for persons who initiate the vaccination series at ages 15 through 26 years and for immunocompromised persons.

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.