



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter Publication of Livingston County Health Department

Dianne McCormick, RS, MSA
Director/Health Officer

Donald W. Lawrenchuk, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Influenza Update

Influenza activity in Michigan is now considered widespread – the highest level of activity. The majority of the positive influenza specimens confirmed by MDHHS this flu season have been Influenza B virus. As of January 24, 2020, the 2019/2020 flu season has resulted in 54 influenza-associated pediatric deaths nationally, including two influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported in Michigan. Providers should continue to vaccinate patients against influenza throughout the season. Up-to-date influenza information can be found within the "Michigan Flu Focus" at <https://bit.ly/2Rn9F5B>.

Novel Coronavirus Outbreak in China

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology in Wuhan City, China. A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been identified as the cause of the outbreak. Chinese health officials have reported more than a thousand cases of 2019-nCoV in China. Infections with 2019-nCoV are also being reported in a growing number of countries, including the United States, where five (5) cases in those who had travelled to Wuhan have been confirmed in four (4) states (AZ, CA, IL, WA) as of January 26, 2020. There is evidence of person-to-person spread, but it is unclear how easily this occurs. Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. Patients who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a patient under investigation (PUI): 1. fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) AND in the last 14 days before symptoms onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China OR close contact with a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV while they were ill OR 2. Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness AND in the last 14 days, close contact with an ill lab-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient. Please contact LCHD and your facility infection control personnel immediately in the event a PUI is identified.

NOROVIRUS OUTBREAKS

While individual cases of norovirus are not reportable, outbreaks must be promptly reported to local health departments in Michigan. Already this season, two norovirus-like outbreaks have been reported in Livingston County. Norovirus infections can often be prevented by routine handwashing, properly disinfecting contaminated surfaces with household-chlorine bleach, and excluding any infected persons who work in direct patient care or day care, as well as any food handlers, for at least 48-72 hours after symptoms end. Additional information is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

The updated 2020 Reportable Diseases in Michigan list is now available. This is Michigan's official list of mandatory reportable communicable disease conditions as described by the Michigan Communicable Disease Rules (Public Act 368 of 1978, 333.5111). The rules require MDHSS to annually review, update, and publish the list on the Department's website. These documents along with a summary of the 2020 changes can be found under the "Communicable Disease Reporting in Michigan" heading at www.michigan.gov/cdinfo.

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

Gonorrhea

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are at historically high levels across the U.S., including in Livingston County, where reported cases of gonorrhea (GC) increased by 88% from 2014 to 2018.

GC control relies on our ability to detect and treat each case quickly and effectively with the correct antibiotic. There is a growing threat of antibiotic-resistant GC. In 2006, CDC recommended five (5) treatment options for GC. However, due to the ability of GC to develop resistance to multiple antibiotics, we now have only one (1) recommended treatment for uncomplicated GC: ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose PLUS azithromycin 1 gram orally in a single dose, given at the same time or no more than 24 hours apart. When treating a patient, consider whether Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is appropriate. EPT is not recommended for men who have sex with men (MSM). CDC STD Treatment Guidelines are available at www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/gonorrhea.htm. Updated STD Treatment Recommendations from CDC are expected in 2020.

All patients with GC should be re-tested in 90 days and in the third trimester, if pregnant, given the likelihood of re-exposure. MSM should be tested at least annually for GC (as well as chlamydia, syphilis and HIV); as non-genital infections are common in this population, testing at the site of sexual exposure (e.g., rectal and/or pharyngeal) with nucleic acid amplification tests is recommended. If your lab is unable to test rectal or pharyngeal samples, providers can forward specimens to the MDHHS Lab for testing using test requisition DCH-1248 found at <https://bit.ly/2RKe41n>. HIV screening is recommended for all persons seeking evaluation or treatment for STDs.

While CDC has not received any reports of verified GC clinical treatment failures to any cephalosporin in the U.S., this is being monitored by CDC through the Gonorrhea Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP). Please contact LCHD if you suspect a patient has not responded to CDC recommended treatment. Symptoms persisting after treatment should be evaluated by culture before re-treatment and any gonococci isolated should be sent to MDHHS. LCHD can facilitate this testing.

Please continue to report cases of GC to LCHD. An STD Reporting Form is available at www.lchd.org under Quick Links. Our hope is that use of this form will make STD reporting quicker and easier for your staff.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY LAUNCHES WEAR ONE

The Wear One campaign was developed to increase free condom availability, create awareness, and promote acceptance of condom use in individuals 18 - 24 years of age. The goal of the campaign is to decrease STDs and unplanned pregnancies by removing barriers such as cost, embarrassment, and lack of access. Wear One makes condoms available in the community, free of charge, through community partnerships with bars, restaurants, tattoo parlors, coffee shops, etc. The Campaign was originally developed by Ottawa County Health Dept. in 2014 in response to the rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The campaign has since been adopted by 44 Michigan Counties. In Livingston County, the rate of chlamydia has increased 44% and the rate of gonorrhea has increased 88% from 2014 to 2018. Currently, Livingston County is recruiting community partners to adopt this program in their business/organization.

More information about the Wear One Program can be found at www.miOttawa.org/WearOne and by contacting Courtney Rynkiewicz at Crynkiewicz@livgov.com.

*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.*