

**MARCH 2019**

## ***Points of Interest...***

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) recently hired a consultant to facilitate the process of our next five year Strategic Planning process. This strategic plan will help us to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes and results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing public health environment.
- The Environmental Health Division will participate with other select local health departments in a vector-borne disease surveillance and prevention program. Funding will be provided by the MDHHS to support a low-cost surveillance system geared towards identifying populations of potentially invasive *Aedes* species mosquitoes that can transmit emerging arboviruses. In addition, Environmental Health will be conducting surveillance for ticks capable of transmitting Lyme disease and other pathogens in Michigan. St. Clair County is unique in that it is on the threshold of potential emerging vector borne diseases with the recently confirmed presence of the blacklegged tick and the Asian tiger mosquito in neighboring counties.
- Recent St. Clair County youth risk behavior data identifies the need for a new community prevention coalition. Substance use is at the root of many societal concerns, such as not graduating, behavioral issues, truancy, violence, or family problems. Other communities around Michigan and the nation have adopted similar models leading to positive outcomes. We need representation from all sectors of the community to attend three planning sessions to help map out strategies that improve the health of our youth. Dates are May 3, June 7 and July 11. RSVP at [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/W2GWXR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W2GWXR)
- During March the Health Department Nursing Division has been investigating mumps, Hib (Haemophilus influenzae disease), flu, norovirus and more. It is the role of public health to share pertinent information when communicable diseases affect multiple people. As we see certain vaccine preventable diseases affect our residents, it is an important to reiterate vaccinations help protect people from getting sick. When many people in an area are vaccinated, fewer people get sick. Then fewer germs are around to spread from person to person. This also protects those who can't get vaccinated (i.e., babies, people with vaccine allergies, and anyone with an immune-suppressing disease like HIV or cancer).
- April 1-7 is Teen Health Week. This week encourages teens to take charge of their physical and mental health to facilitate healthy habits they will carry with them throughout their lives. To celebrate the St. Clair County Health Department's Teen Health Center will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, April 2 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The public is welcome to attend. Meet staff, tour the building, and learn about the services we provide. Teen Health Center is located at 2215 Court Street, on the campus of Port Huron High School, in Port Huron. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call (810) 987-1311.