

APRIL 2022

Points of Interest...

- The Southside Spring Fest on April 23 was a big success. Approximately 1500-2000 people attended. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) was instrumental in event planning and participation. Nursing staff administered 22 vaccines, provided 12 lead tests, as well as distributing numerous COVID-19 at-home test kits and masks. Outreach staff offered Medicaid application and referral assistance, and sharing program information.
- The Environmental Health division has processed a total of 500 food service licenses applications for 2022. Of these, 480 were for fixed food establishments (306 annual, 29 seasonal, 85 charitable and 60 schools). All non-retail food service facilities are required to obtain a license and meet inspection requirements from the St. Clair County Health Department. License applications must be returned by the end of April. The number of licenses is within 5% of pre-pandemic levels.
- Michigan is on “high alert” at this time for (HPAI) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Many states around MI have already identified positive cases on poultry farms and/or backyard flocks which may lead to mass “depopulation” to help stop the spread. Poultry farms and backyard bird owners who observe (potentially) ill birds, should not handle the birds and immediately contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours). Wild birds, waterfowl or migratory birds – should also not be handled and contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) immediately at 517-336-5030. Quick response lessens opportunity for the viruses to spread not only amongst other birds, but also helps lessen the threat against other animal species and humans.
- SCCHD submitted local photos and clips to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) MiVolunteer Registry team for a project recognizing public health volunteers across the state. In St. Clair County, approximately 190 unpaid volunteers worked multiple shifts for weeks, even months providing essential support for SCCHD’s COVID-19 vaccination and testing clinics. The health department recognized its volunteers in various ways over the course of the last year and will be forever grateful for their selfless commitment to community health.
- National Infant Immunizations Week (NIIW) is recognized April 24-30. This year, NIIW serves as an important reminder to get back to routines, including well-child checkups and routine vaccines, which many families missed as a result of COVID-19 disruptions. According to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) as of March 2022, only 68.1% of Michigan children, 19 months through 35 months of age, were up-to-date on recommended vaccines. St. Clair County is at 66.3% (not including Hep. A vaccine) for 19-35 months. Parents/caregivers can get back on track by talking with their child’s physician or the SCCHD.