

AUGUST 2022

Points of Interest...

- During the Great Lakes Water Authority water line/pipe break, the role of the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) has been to assist the lead agency, Emergency Management (following the Incident Command Structure). The main focus of the SCCHD is disease/outbreak prevention (safe water) and providing education/consultation and regulatory guidance to establishments with a food license while supporting infrastructure without economic harm. Assisting with communication strategies and shared messaging is also essential in order to reach more people in the community.
- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) distributed JYNNEOS, an FDA-licensed vaccine indicated for prevention of smallpox and monkeypox, to hubs that will redistribute vaccines to other areas of the state as needed. MDHHS used epidemiological data, the population size of at-risk groups and geographic dispersion to determine vaccine pre-deployment locations. This strategy will help support local monkeypox response efforts. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) continues to provide testing, investigation, and prophylaxis of contacts.
- The Outreach team continues their work in connecting residents to community resources such as clothing, food, and shelter, in addition to Medicaid application assistance. This month staff attended several events to promote those services including; Mid-City Nutrition Soup Kitchen, Harbor Impact-Impact Day, Breastfeeding Awareness Celebration at the YMCA, NAACP Field Day and Southside Festival, and the Pop-Up Food Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church.
- The Environmental Health (EH) division recently received a State of Michigan grant to participate in a long-term groundwater monitoring project in Kimball Township. The investigation is in response to an EGLE site inspection at a facility in which oil, paper sludge, metal and plastic drums, crushed cars and stained soil were observed. EH is sampling nearby residential wells to determine the presence of Volatile and Semi-Organic Compounds. Fortunately, most of the neighboring residences are served by a municipal water supply.
- The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) completed their Cycle 8 Certification Review on August 17-19. The process consisted of an evaluation of program policies, a virtual tour to assess for compliance of safety and program standards, and a thorough client chart review. The MIHP Coordinator assisted with an in-depth inspection of 22 client charts. Preliminary findings showed nearly 100% compliance with certification indicators.
- The Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Event was held at the Blue Water YMCA on August 22 featuring several community vendors. WIC's Breastfeeding Peer Counselors discussed breastfeeding promotion and services provided that support moms and babies. WIC's Registered Dietitian's provided WIC approved foods samples and recipes. Over 30 families attended this event.
- Free vision and hearing screenings are available at the SCCHD for children entering preschool or kindergarten in the fall of 2022. Call ahead to schedule an appointment (810) 987-5300. Screenings begin August 29 and run through September 2. Beginning in October, appointments can be made for the 1st Monday and the 4th Wednesday of each month.