

**DECEMBER 2021**

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

- In November, staff obtained over 1,100 COVID tests, administered 1,241 COVID vaccines, and continued with daily investigations into outbreaks and individual cases. Focused efforts continue to offer all services to the community while maintaining COVID response. Staff are navigating reaching objectives, while prioritizing being client focused with some of the services provided in virtual delivery model and the rest serviced in person.
- The Nursing division began implementation of a pilot project with current electronic medical record provider Patagonia, to test a contactless patient experience (CPX) or mobile portal. CPX allows clients the ability to request an appointment, cancel an appointment, update demographics and billing information and e-check in for appointments. This pilot also allows St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) to be involved in the creation of the application while receiving the benefits of its use prior to other health departments.
- Health Education/Outreach and Nursing staff continue providing mobile onsite services including harm reduction, testing, vaccination, Medicaid application assistance, referrals and more with partner organizations Odyssey House, Harbor Impact Ministries, Department of Health & Human Services, and the Soup Kitchen. Additionally on a bi-weekly basis, Outreach staff also provides onsite application/referral support for clients at Blue Water Recovery and Outreach Center (BWROC).
- In response of the ongoing high level of need for Monoclonal Antibody Infusion, the Emergency Preparedness and Response division is coordinating with Tri-Hospital EMS, Lake Huron Medical Center, Ascension River District Hospital, McLaren- Port Huron Hospital, and Emergency Management to provide equipment, supplies, staffing and volunteers for the twice weekly, stand-alone Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Clinics. Over 300 patients have been infused as of 12/17. These clinics provide intravenous antibody treatment for those ill, but not hospitalized with COVID-19, and can reduce viral loads, lessen symptom severity, prevent hospitalization and relieve some of the burden from our area hospitals. Special thanks to Tri-Hospital EMS for being the sponsoring agency.
- The Environmental Health (EH) division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are investigating high levels of PFAS in surface waters/drainage ditches in three areas of concern. The primary focus of the investigation are any potentially impacted private wells in the vicinity. EGLE is working with EH to assess the likelihood of elevated PFAS on these wells and to determine a sampling strategy if deemed necessary. To date there are no results above the established health advisory limit for residential or municipal drinking water. The focus of EGLE's surface water investigation is to determine the source(s) for the elevated levels. Planning to conduct additional sampling is underway with a goal of completing the task within the next several months.
- On December 14, Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) staff attended the first of two Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) POC 2 pilot program trainings. Implementation date for the ACES POC 2 is January 3 and staff will begin to track data to report out on, at the first technical assistance call on January 25.