

JANUARY 2022

Points of Interest...

- During the month of December, the Outreach team attended 14 community events and assisted 13 individuals to access Medicaid benefits. Furthermore, a holiday giving tree was set up near the front entrance of the health department and staff/partners contributed winter essentials such as hats, gloves, and socks for visitors in need.
- The Environmental Health Division continues to lead the St. Clair County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Watershed Advisory Group for storm water permit compliance. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) collaborates with 18 dues-paying St. Clair County municipalities and school districts to share storm water permit costs, implement activities, submit reports, assist with audits and meet federal mandates from the Clean Water Act. Eleven of the twelve municipal Advisory Group members have received their Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) storm water permit. The City of Algonac is still in the permit review phase. Staff training available for Advisory Group members was completed last year with guest speakers from EGLE and the Friends of the St. Clair River. Twenty-seven people successfully completed the instruction with a posttest average of 97%. Training is required for all involved staff at least once every five years per the approved EGLE permit.
- Continuing to provide staffing support and scheduling for the St. Clair County Infusion Center site. Two schedules are produced weekly (one for each clinic). Infusers are recruited from Ascension, Lake Huron Medical Center, Tri-Hospital EMS and MiVolunteer Registry. The pool of available infusers is limited but committed.
- The St. Clair County Public Health Order requiring masks be worn in K-12 educational settings will not be extended and expires upon the completion of classes on Friday, January 28, 2022. The decision was made after careful consideration and is based on the following factors: schools reporting decreasing cases and adequate staffing; epidemiological modelling suggesting we are near or at the peak transmission and should be coming down quickly; and local hospitals and healthcare response teams reporting a slight improvement in their stressors. SCCHD believes universal masking has significantly blunted the impact of Omicron in school aged children and should be considered a primary and effective tool against future challenges with Covid infections. With the Order expiring, the SCCHD strongly recommends masks continue to be worn in K-12 settings as well as all public and crowded spaces until viral transmission rates are below 10%. Applying preventive measures that include physical distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene, and cleaning of high-touch surfaces does reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19.