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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Veterinarians, Laboratories, Medical Control Authority, Central Dispatch

FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator
P: 810-987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) depends upon reports of suspect and actual disease to initiate epidemiological investigations. Timely, accurate and complete disease reporting assists the health department in the identification and control of outbreaks, enables preventive treatment and education to be initiated, and is essential to our communities' health.

According to the Michigan Communicable Disease Rules, Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, physicians and clinical laboratories are required to report the occurrence or suspected occurrence of any disease, condition, or infection as identified in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidelines, to the local health department. It is imperative that agencies develop policies and procedures to ensure appropriate reporting is being completed. During **normal business hours**, reporting is done via phone (810) 987-5300 or fax (810) 985-4340 directly to SCCHD. MDHHS Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) may be utilized anytime. **After hours**, contact Central Dispatch at 810-985-8115 or follow your agency's internal policy for the reporting procedure. If reporting and emergency contact information is needed, contact the SCCHD Communicable Disease Coordinator at 810-987-5300.

The MDHHS "Health Care Professional's Guide to Disease Reporting in Michigan" and "Reportable Diseases (by Pathogen) in Michigan" can be accessed under Healthcare Provider Resources on the SCCHD website at www.scchealth.co.

The Privacy Rule in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) allows for the disclosure of protected health information, without individual client or patient authorization, to public health authorities, who are legally authorized to receive such reports for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease.