



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
St. Clair County Health Department

2020

SCCHD- 06

ISSUE DATE: 02/27/2020

TO: St. Clair County Healthcare Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians, Pulmonologists, Dentists, Long Term Care Facilities, Pharmacies, OB/GYNs
FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator
P: 810- 987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PRE-PANDEMIC PLANNING

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) continues to work closely with state and federal officials to monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Risk remains low locally however, SCCHD urges healthcare providers to prepare for the possibility of local cases and the spread of illness in St. Clair County. For more information on COVID-19 go to <https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus/>.

SCCHD is advising healthcare providers (HCP) to please consider the following preparedness measures:

- **Be prepared to collect specimens on-site at your practice;** train staff on proper technique for obtaining nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal specimens; order testing supplies from your couriers; review specimen storage and shipping requirements; prepare to send all SCCHD approved specimens to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratory.
- Take advantage of telemedicine and/or follow up phone calls to patients versus an office visit.
- Consider expanding strategies to increase patient's access to prescriptions and supplies.
- Increase stock of ambulatory acute medicines as supply chains may be disrupted.
- Consider increasing testing for influenza and other common respiratory viruses. If there is a suspicion of influenza treat with Tamiflu or other antiviral medication.
- Plan ahead for staff illnesses and time away from work by cross-training staff to cover vacant positions.
- Review with staff proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and assure adequate stock is on-hand.

HCP should **immediately** notify both infection control personnel and SCCHD in the event a patient under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 is identified.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours.

Refer to the "After Hours Emergency Contact List" or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.