



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers,
Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians, Walk-in
Clinics, Long-Term Care Facilities

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

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ROLE IN DIAGNOSIS AND SURVEILLANCE OF VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

St. Clair County is experiencing an increase in provider diagnosed vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) such as chickenpox (varicella), measles, mumps, and pertussis. Surveillance for VPDs requires close collaboration between providers, public health officials, and laboratorians.

Key items to remember:

- Per Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Communicable and Related Diseases Administrative Rules healthcare providers shall report each case of VPD within 24 hours of diagnosis or discovery to SCCHD. When a provider suspects the presence of a VPD, but does not have sufficient information to confirm its presence, the provider shall report the designated condition as suspect to SCCHD. Upon confirmation of the VPD the provider shall report the VPD as confirmed to SCCHD.
- Public health surveillance relies on both clinical and laboratory reports of VPDs; therefore appropriate specimen collection, transport and laboratory testing must be done by providers. It is no longer recommended that providers diagnose a client with a VPD in the absence of appropriate laboratory testing. Many clinicians are not familiar with clinical manifestations of VPDs, especially those that involve rashes. Without specimen testing the disease cannot be confirmed.
- Failure to collect and test when a VPD is suspected has severe ramifications in our community, including the potential for exclusion and isolation of vulnerable populations from aggregate group settings such as daycares, schools, long term care facilities, etc.
- “MDHHS Vaccine Preventable Disease Investigation Guidelines” including laboratory procedures and considerations can be accessed online at www.scchealth.co under “Healthcare Provider Resources”.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect or confirmed cases of VPD (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the “After Hours Emergency Contact List” or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.