

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & VIEWS

A Regional Health Professional Newsletter



Karen Luparello, DO, Medical Director

FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

Summer has come to an end. Kids are back in school. Friday night football, cross country meets, and volleyball games fill our families' schedules. Public health practice is returning to our new normal, encouraging healthy lifestyle, protecting the environment, and providing protection from communicable disease.

In this quarter's issue we hope you will find articles of interest and relevance in your practice. We continue to monitor the number of COVID-19 cases and support entities when outbreaks occur. We are monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms in area bodies of water, and for additional cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in area horses. We are on the lookout for Monkeypox, Swine flu, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza as well.

I am pleased to work with dedicated Providers who positively impact the health of our residents. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at luparellok@bhsj.org or 517-279-9561 ext 103.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Family and domestic violence including child abuse, intimate partner abuse, and elder abuse is a common problem in the United States. Family and domestic violence are estimated to affect 10 million people in the United States every year. It is a national public health problem, and virtually all healthcare professionals will at some point evaluate or treat a patient who is a victim of some form of domestic or family violence.

The National Institute of Health offers this [Continuing Education Activity](#), which describes the evaluation, reporting, and management strategies for victims of domestic abuse and stresses the role of team-based interprofessional care for these victims.

Huecker MR, King KC, Jordan GA, et al. Domestic Violence. [Updated 2022 Jul 1]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK499891/>

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

BRANCH COUNTY:

Branch County Coalition Against
Domestic & Sexual Violence
517-278-SAFE(7233)

HILLSDALE COUNTY:

Domestic Harmony
888-439-1454

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

Domestic And Sexual Abuse Services
800-828-2023

TALKING TO PARENTS ABOUT VACCINES

Many parents have questions about their children's vaccines, and answering their questions can help parents feel confident in choosing to immunize their child according to the CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

Many parents won't have questions about vaccines when you give your strong recommendation and use language that assumes parents will accept vaccines for their child. If a parent questions your recommendation, this does not necessarily mean they will not accept vaccines. They consider you their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines and sometimes parents simply want your answers to their questions.

Because vaccines are very effective, many parents have not seen a case of a vaccine-preventable disease firsthand. Therefore, they may wonder if vaccines are necessary and if the risks of vaccinating outweigh the benefits of protection from vaccine preventable diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website "[Vaccines for Your Children](#)" is an evidence-based page for parents.

MONKEYPOX

The local health department has been provided a small number of JYNNEOS vaccines which are available to individuals who have been exposed to a confirmed case, individuals who participate in high-risk activity, individuals with multiple sex partners, individuals taking HIV PreP or living with HIV, or individuals who plan to have close contact at a high-risk venue or event.

Additionally, we have a small number of courses of Tecovirimat (TPOXX) from the CDC's SNS program. TPOXX antiviral is for the treatment of Monkeypox.

MDHHS has provided these antivirals to the local health department for prescribing by local Providers. Should a Provider need to prescribe, please reach out to any of the following RN/Clinic Supervisors that make up our Communicable Disease team:

- Aimmee Mullendore
mullendorea@bhsj.org 269-273-2161 ext.241
- Heidi Hazel hazelh@bhsj.org 517-279-9561 ext. 105
- Shelby Ankney ankneys@bhsj.org 517-437-7395 ext. 307

If a Provider office cannot reach one of these nurses, call Rebecca Burns, Health Officer at 517-279-9561 ext 148 or Kali Nichols, Director of Personal Health & Disease Prevention at 517-279-9561 ext. 143. Additional information can be found at www.bhsj.org/monkeypox.

MiChEM MONITORING COMING TO BRANCH AND HILLSDALE COUNTIES

The MiChEM project is the first statewide effort to gather data on the concentrations of certain chemicals in the blood and urine of Michiganders, including lead, mercury, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

MDHHS has randomly selected 66 areas of Michigan to include in the MiChEM project. This includes a geographical area in Coldwater, and Adams, Wheatland, Pittsford and much of Jefferson townships in eastern Hillsdale County. MDHHS will invite residents from approximately 2,000 randomly selected households in each area to participate.

Participants will answer survey questions online or by phone, which will take about 20 minutes. These questions are about how they may have come in contact with certain chemicals.

Participants will attend a 30-minute appointment, during which a trained professional will collect a blood sample and ask for a urine sample. The testing will be looking for 17 organochlorine pesticides, 45 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 1 polybrominated biphenyl congener (PBB), 10 polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), 100 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and 24 metals including; Lead, Mercury, Arsenic, Aluminum, Manganese, Chromium, Selenium, Thallium, Cadmium, and Cobalt.

Participants will receive the results of their testing and a \$65 gift card.

COVID-19 Update

The Branch Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency continues to monitor and update the latest regional and county data at www.bhsj.org/coronavirus.

At the time of this writing, the CDC reports the community transmission rate as "Low" in all three counties. This trending pattern of small surges is expected to continue as residents transition into fall and gather for holidays.

Case counts are impacted by unreported "at home tests". Cases of hospital admissions remains low at the time of this writing.

The agency now offers bivalent COVID-19 booster doses to anyone over age 12 who have not received a dose of vaccine in at least 2 months. In addition, we offer Novavax as an option for those not wishing to receive an mRNA vaccine.

Appointments for COVID-19 vaccines may be made at www.bhsj.org/scheduling

INFLUENZA VACCINES

I encourage providers to talk with their patients about receiving their flu shot as soon as possible. Flu shots are readily available within PCP offices, local pharmacies, and at our offices. While influenza cases have been low during the past 2 years, influenza has not gone away.

With the St. Joseph and Hillsdale County fairs at the end of September, be mindful to look for Swine Flu in patients presenting with influenza symptoms with a history of spending long periods of time in swine barns.

WIC NATIONAL ENROLLMENT WEEK: OCTOBER 10-14

The Branch Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency manages the WIC program for all three counties. We encourage all eligible families to take part in the program. It is worth noting that a pregnant patient would be counted as 2 individuals, or more if there are confirmed multiple fetuses, for the purpose of income eligibility.

If you are caring for families who are pregnant, nursing, post-partum in the past 6 months, or have children aged 5 or under, please refer to the Health Agency office near you.

Branch County: 517-279-9561 ext. 198
 Hillsdale County: 517-437-7395 ext. 398
 St. Joseph County: 269-273-2161 ext. 298

BREAST FEEDING PEER COUNSELORS ARE HERE TO HELP

Moms who decide to breast feed their babies often have many questions on how to do this successfully.

The Branch Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency offers:

- Free, individual breastfeeding consultations by a Breast Feeding Peer Counselor.
- Access to 24/7 support through our Warmline
- Free breast pumps if eligible.
- Referrals to breastfeeding support groups in the local community.

Coldwater: 517-279-9561 ext. 121 After Hours Call or Text: 517-617-2252

Hillsdale: 517-437-7395 ext. 330 After Hours Call or Text: 517-617-5585

Three Rivers: 269-273-2161 ext. 223 After Hours Call or Text: 517-617-5098



Women, Infants & Children FREE Food Benefits

For pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum women, infants & children up to 5 years old, available for those who qualify by income and/or Medicaid

Basic foods could include:

- Infant formula, cereal, fruits, and vegetables
- Infant meats, for fully breastfed babies
- Cereal, cheese, eggs, juice, milk
- Dry beans or peas, canned beans, peanut butter
- Tuna for fully breastfeeding mothers
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Whole grain bread, tortillas, brown rice or oatmeal



2022-2023 WIC Annual Income Guidelines 185% Federal Poverty Level

WIC Policy Memorandum #2022-5, Published April 19, 2022

| Family Size* | Hourly 2080 Hours | Weekly 52 weeks | Biweekly 26 weeks | Monthly 12 months | Annual |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 | \$12.08 | \$484 | \$967 | \$2,096 | \$25,142 |
| 2 | \$16.28 | \$652 | \$1303 | \$2,823 | \$33,874 |
| 3 | \$20.48 | \$820 | \$1,639 | \$3,551 | \$42,606 |
| 4 | \$24.68 | \$988 | \$1,975 | \$4,279 | \$51,338 |
| 5 | \$28.87 | \$1,156 | \$2,311 | \$5,006 | \$60,070 |
| 6 | \$33.07 | \$1,324 | \$2,647 | \$5,734 | \$68,802 |
| 7 | \$37.27 | \$1,492 | \$2,983 | \$6,462 | \$77,534 |
| 8 | \$41.47 | \$1,659 | \$3,318 | \$7,189 | \$86,266 |
| 9 | \$45.67 | \$1,827 | \$3,654 | \$7,917 | \$94,998 |
| 10 | \$49.87 | \$1,995 | \$3,990 | \$8,654 | \$103,730 |
| 11 | \$54.06 | \$2,163 | \$4,326 | \$9,372 | \$112,462 |
| 12 | \$58.26 | \$2,331 | \$4,662 | \$10,100 | \$121,194 |
| 13 | \$62.46 | \$2,499 | \$4,998 | \$10,828 | \$129,926 |
| 14 | \$66.66 | \$2,667 | \$5,333 | \$11,555 | \$138,658 |
| 15 | \$70.86 | \$2,835 | \$5,669 | \$12,283 | \$147,390 |
| 16 | \$75.05 | \$3,003 | \$6,005 | \$13,011 | \$156,122 |

*Pregnant woman is counted as one + the number of infants expected when determining income eligibility for the Total Economic Unit



Follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA or Instagram www.instagram.com/bhaji_healthagency.



Branch County
570 N. Marshall Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561

Hillsdale County
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395

St. Joseph County
1110 Hill St.
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161

Sturgis Office
1555 E. Chicago Rd.
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 273-2161

