



Livingston County

Department of Public Health

Communicable Disease Update

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Rabies

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We are moving into the season where there is more interaction between animals and humans. The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) staff are available to consult with you regarding post-exposure risk assessments for anyone who has had exposure to wild or domestic animals. Please call the Communicable Disease Nurse at 517-552-6882, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. After business hours and during the weekend call 517-546-9111.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has revised their recommendation for post exposure prophylaxis for persons who are not immunosuppressed or who have not previously been vaccinated for rabies. This includes four (4) doses of rabies vaccine (administered in the deltoid region) on days 0, 3, 7 and 14 and one dose of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) administered on day zero. HRIG should be infiltrated into the area around the bite and the remainder at a site distant from the vaccine administration. For more information about rabies, pre and post-exposure vaccination, and rabies risk assessment for animals and humans, please access the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at www.michigan.gov/gov/rabies or the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov/rabies.

Rabies Report 2009

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) received 132 specimens for rabies testing from Livingston County in 2009. Specimens tested were 51 bats, 39 cats, 28 dogs, 4 raccoons, 3 opossums, 3 skunks, 1 coyote, 1 groundhog, 1 horse and 1 mink. Livingston County had 5 animals that tested positive for rabies, 3 bats and 2 skunks.

Livingston County Immunization Advisory Coalition

The Livingston County Immunization Advisory Coalition has been holding meetings since May 2007 and would like to expand the membership to all interested immunization providers in the community. The purpose of the group is to give county providers the opportunity to discuss current issues about vaccination of both children and adults. Some of the past topics have included adolescent immunization strategies, seasonal and H1N1 influenza, vaccine availability/shortages, vaccine recommendations for healthcare workers, new vaccines and changes in school and childcare requirements. The coalition meets quarterly and always welcomes new attendees. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 from 8:00-9:00 AM at the Livingston County Department of Public Health, 2300 East Grand River Ave. Suite 102 (corner of Grand River and Chilson Road) in Howell. If you are interested in receiving notices of upcoming meetings, please contact Sue Worek, Immunization Supervisor at 517-552-6811 or by email at sworek@co.livingston.mi.us.

New School Immunization Requirements for 2010-2011

Susan Worek, R.N., B.S.N.
Immunization Supervisor

New school immunization rules go into effect this September and additional vaccines will be required for school admission. The immunization status of Michigan students is assessed at kindergarten and 6th grade entry, as well as for all students who are changing school districts.

All children assessed this year will be required to show proof of:

- Two doses of Varicella vaccine or a reliable history of having chickenpox disease.

In addition to the Varicella/Chickenpox requirement, all children ages 11 through 18 years who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in the 6th grade for fall will need:

- One dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4 or MPSV4)
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) if 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine (DTaP, Td, DT).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination of adolescents at 11-12 years of age. We appreciate your efforts to immunize these children at or after 11 years of age, in order to comply with the Public Health Code.

Providers are reminded to assess immunization needs for all ACIP-recommended vaccines at every visit and to recommend vaccines for adolescents at 11-12 years of age or as soon thereafter as possible. Studies have demonstrated that health care personnel recommendations to receive vaccines are strong determinants in parents' willingness to get their children vaccinated.

Many older children and adolescents are missing needed vaccines. Integrating vaccine administration with other preventative and acute health care visits, along with following the current ACIP immunization schedule are key strategies to ensure patients have received all needed immunizations. Back-to-school check-ups and sports physicals are an ideal time to make certain patients are fully immunized.

To facilitate access to the newly required immunizations, the Livingston County Department of Public Health will be offering vaccines procured through the ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009) Special Initiatives funding. The vaccine obtained with the ARRA funding is available to assist families who may have health insurance with very large deductibles or co-pays that could present a barrier to vaccinating their children for the newly required vaccines. If providers identify children who may be eligible to receive these vaccines, they are encouraged to refer them to the Health Department clinics.

Since the new vaccine requirements will most impact 6th grade students, we have chosen to target them for this one time program. We will be having a number of special immunization clinics at the Health Department prior to the start of school.

Three clinics are planned for August 5th, August 19th and August 26th. The clinics will be held from 12:00 PM until 7:00 PM by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, parents/guardians should call 517-546-9850.