Our Mission

“To assure the highest possible level of health for the people of the communities we serve.”

Inside this issue:

- State Homeland Security and Emergency Management Officials Promote National Preparedness Month
- The Seven Signs of Terrorism
- Health Department Website Redesigned
- Bovine TB and Human Health
- Eat 5 a Day for 5 Weeks

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Planning for A Mass Influenza Vaccination Clinic

(By Richard Thoune, Director)

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is currently working with Dickinson County Healthcare System and the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center to plan a Fall 2005 mass influenza vaccination clinic. The purpose of the clinic is to exercise and test the health department’s ability to organize and operate a Neighborhood Emergency Help Center, a major component of the Modular Emergency Medical System. Important public health emergency response functions that will be tested include our ability to disseminate health and safety information to the public via risk communication protocols, test redundant systems of communication, test the time it takes to disseminate information to the public with response partners, and exercising the local health department’s first responder dispensing plan.

The health department’s dispensing plan includes major components of our mass vaccination plan. Our objectives are to evaluate the coordination between the health department, community partners and volunteers to vaccinate the public during an emergency involving a communicable disease. We have chosen to exercise all of these responsibilities through an organized mass vaccination clinic where influenza vaccine will be administered.

Subject to the availability of flu vaccine, the clinic will be set up on October 29, 2005 at the Kingsford Middle School to vaccinate approximately 1200 people in a five hour period. The health department will inform area health care providers of this plan and ask that they support this effort by referring interested vaccine recipients to the scheduled event.

During the exercise, volunteers will be needed to assist in the mass vaccination clinic setting. Various clinic positions are available for both medical and non-medical volunteers. Training will be provided for each clinic position.

Additional detailed information will be released in the near future. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Sheila McNulty, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at 906-779-7205 or samcnulty@hline.org.
September 2005 is designated as “National Preparedness Month,” and all Americans are encouraged to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools and communities.

The official launch of National Preparedness Month, which will include a public-preparedness fair, will take place in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, September 1, 2005, bringing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross together with a coalition of national partners. The goal is to provide the people of this nation with an opportunity to learn more about ways they can prepare for an emergency.

To commemorate this event, the Michigan State Police Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is introducing its 2005 campaign, “Family and Community Emergency Safety” (F.A.C.E.S.) that will include a Family Preparedness Guide and additional valuable information for local communities, families, schools and businesses.

“This is an excellent opportunity for families to practice emergency preparedness and our local communities will become stronger by this effort,” stated Captain Kriste Etue, Deputy State Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. “I applaud all our partners at the local level in their participation of this very special event.”

National Preparedness Month will provide the citizens of Michigan a variety of opportunities to learn more about ways they can be prepared in the event of an emergency. Citizens can prepare an emergency supply kit, establish a family communications plan, and become better aware of threats that may impact their communities.

Local communities are being encouraged to help mark this month by holding preparedness events such as: hosting town hall meetings on preparedness, enacting resolutions and issuing proclamations designating September 2005 as “Preparedness Month” and encouraging citizens to get prepared, hosting first aid or preparedness training classes, discussing preparedness during regularly scheduled local radio and cable television shows, including preparedness information in community newsletters and hosting “kit making” or “communication planning” events.

Michigan continues to lead the nation in homeland security initiatives and strives to ensure that all citizens have the necessary education and resources to protect their families, homes, businesses, schools and communities.

---

**The Seven Signs of Terrorism:**

1. **Surveillance:** Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras, note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

2. **Elicitation:** People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, or in person.

3. **Tests of Security:** Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

4. **Acquiring Supplies:** Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

5. **Suspicious Persons Out of Place:** People who don’t seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. Includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.

6. **Dry Run/Trial Run:** Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

7. **Deploying Assets:** People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person’s last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.
The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has recently redesigned its website. The website can be accessed at www.didhd.org.

Using public health emergency preparedness and response funding from the State of Michigan and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, our website has been redesigned with the public in mind.

People will be able to find information regarding all of the programs offered through the health department, including immunizations, public health fact sheets on communicable diseases, WIC, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, Maternal and Infant Support Services, Family Planning, Hearing and Vision, Food Service, Onsite Wastewater Management, Private & Non-Community Water Supply, Health Promotion, and Emergency Preparedness activities, just to name a few.

Building a new home? Click on Environmental Health, Onsite Wastewater Management Program and get a fact sheet and fee information and print off a permit construction application you can complete and bring to the health department offices. Or select the Permits and Licenses link to get the same information. Other information on types of sewage disposal systems is also available.

Wondering what immunizations are recommended for your little Michigander or yourself? Click on Community Health Services, Immunizations to access links to recommended childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

Looking for health information about secondhand tobacco smoke or smoking cessation resources or services? Click on Health Promotion and select these topical links for the information you need.

The site will also be used to post current news and updates affecting the public health of the community and also contains links to several publications, newsletters and related links about public health issues and concerns. We invite all community based organizations, local governmental agencies, and others to post a link to the Health Department on their websites.

What is Bovine Tuberculosis?
Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium bovis, which is different from the strain of mycobacterium that usually infects humans. In the U.S., the disease is found primarily in cattle, captive cervidae (deer and elk), bison and goats, but can affect any warm-blooded animal, including humans.

Human Health Factors
In the U.S., humans contracting bovine TB from animals is rare. However there was one human case, diagnosed in 2002, that was linked to the unique strain of M. bovis found in the cattle and deer of Northern Lower Michigan.

People who come into contact with TB-infected animals are encouraged to take extra precautions and contact their personal physicians or the Local Health Department concerning the need to have regular TB skin tests. Extra precautions while handling animals include wearing disposable latex gloves and washing your hands afterward. A positive skin test reveals exposure, not infection, and does not identify the type or source of the exposure. Bovine TB can be effectively treated in humans, so it is crucial to contact your physician if you have been exposed.

Meat Safety
While it is possible to transmit bovine TB from animals to people, the likelihood is extremely rare. It is highly unlikely that a person field-dressing or eating the cooked meat of animals infected with bovine TB would become infected. The TB bacterium is very rarely found in meat (muscle tissue). Since bovine TB is primarily spread through respiration, the bacterium is generally found in lung tissue. As a precaution, however, all meats, including hunter-harvested deer, should be thoroughly cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F for 15 seconds to kill bacteria.

If the lungs, ribcage or internal organs from wild deer look abnormal (multiple tan or yellow lumps), the meat should not be eaten and the deer should be taken to a Michigan Department of Natural Resources check station.

For more information please visit www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.
The Wellness Council of the Upper Peninsula (WELCUP) and the Upper Peninsula Diabetes Outreach Network (UPDON) are teaming up to promote the Eat 5 Campaign.

The Eat 5 campaign can start any Sunday in September. The goal is to eat 5 servings of fruits and veggies a day for 5 weeks for a total of 175 servings.

**Grand Prize:** $175 paid by WELCUP. Participants can do online tracking or they can track by paper/pencil method.

For those interested in online tracking, go to [www.fitup.org](http://www.fitup.org) and register. Yes . . . you have to register again (even if you did Step UP and Get Moving U.P.).

For paper tracking, go to [http://www.diabetesinmichigan.org/updon.html](http://www.diabetesinmichigan.org/updon.html) and click on Eat Five Campaign.