



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

www.didhd.org

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PHYSICIAN NEWSLETTER
July/August 2008

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Note from the Medical Director

Just a moment to introduce myself to the medical providers of Dickinson and Iron Counties. As the new Medical Director for the local health department, I am looking forward to working with you to promote and improve the health of our communities. I am a local, having graduated from Calumet High School in 1978. I attended the University of Michigan for both undergraduate studies and medical school. A pediatric residency at Northwestern University's Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago followed and finally, a Masters of Public Health degree from the University of California in Berkeley. I have practiced medicine in both rural and urban settings; in private, academic and tribal clinics in California, Illinois and Michigan and coordinated an orphan drug research project for the State of California. For the past several years I have spent the majority of my time developing and implementing public health programs for preschool children and their families. I feel fortunate to now have the opportunity to work with all of you to address the myriad health issues facing our communities, from obesity and chronic disease prevention to management of communicable disease, emergency preparedness and continued protection of local food, air and water. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your practice: tfrankovich@hline.org.

National Rabies Vaccine Shortage

I suspect there is not a provider out there who has not been besieged with information about the current vaccine shortage and the need for discretion in administering post-exposure prophylaxis. To update you, MDCH informs me that the shortage continues and may extend into the spring. Providers are asked to critically assess risk for patients and contact the local public health department if they feel prophylaxis is indicated or to discuss the issue. Local public health will then contact MDCH for a release code that can be conveyed by the patient's physician to Sanofi Pasteur. Local health department numbers are listed above. The medical director contact numbers and state numbers are listed below. Remember that if an animal is available for observation or testing, unnecessary administration of vaccine may be avoided. We expect that rabies testing will be able to be done more locally (Houghton County) beginning sometime in November of this year.

Dr. Terry Frankovich Office 906-482-7382 Cell 906-370-8440 Home 906-296-0389

MDCH: Business hours 517-335-8165 After Hours 517-335-9030

Local Flu Immunization Clinic Coming Soon

The 2008 mass flu immunization clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Kingsford Middle School. This clinic is not only an excellent way to offer fast, convenient flu shots to your patients, but also a great way for the local health community to practice mass vaccination procedures in the event of pandemic flu or some other large-scale emergency. Please encourage your patients to attend and remember this year flu vaccine is recommended for all children 6 months to 18 years in addition to standard risk groups. Please call the health department with any questions.

Tobacco –Free Legislation Headed to Lame Duck Legislature

House Bill 4163, aimed at creating a smoke-free workplace, was narrowly defeated on September 23rd in the Michigan House of Representatives. This bill represents a complete ban without exceptions for casinos, cigar bars etc. Governor Granholm has indicated that she would sign the bill as is or a compromise version such as HB 5074 (with some workplace exceptions included). Right now it seems most likely that there will be an effort to pass the stricter version after the November elections.

The workplace is a major source of secondhand smoke exposure for adults. As you know, secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace has been linked to an increased risk for heart disease and lung cancer among adult nonsmokers. The Surgeon General has concluded that smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure. The Surgeon General has also concluded that workplace smoking restrictions lead to less smoking among covered workers.

Upper Peninsula Reportable Communicable Diseases

July 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008 and YTD

Disease	Chippewa		Menominee		Iron		Delta		Dickinson		LMAS		Marquette		Western UP		UP Total	
	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD	Period	YTD
	Campylobacter	0	0	4	9	5	7	2	4	0	4	3	4	14	28			
Cryptosporidiosis	3	4	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	5	12				
Escherichia coli 0157:H7	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4				
Giardiasis	0	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	4	15				
Salmonellosis	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	2	2	6	1	3	6	16				
Shigellosis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2				
Meningitis - Aseptic	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4				
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5				
Blastomycosis	1	1	1	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	9				
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1				
Cryptococcosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2				
Flu Like Disease	0	155	0	1437	0	1357	0	170	0	490	0	1585	0	5194				
Histoplasmosis	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3				
Influenza	0	3	0	1	0	6	0	3	0	5	0	7	0	25				
Staphylococcus Aureus Infect.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1				
Chlamydia (Genital)	14	36	18	47	5	40	5	14	12	46	10	40	64	223				
Gonorrhea	0	1	4	5	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	3	4	16				
Chickenpox (Varicella)	2	2	1	4	0	7	0	1	0	8	0	1	3	23				
Mumps	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7				
Pertussis	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	6				
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1				
Lyme Disease	0	0	18	30	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	22	35				
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1				
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1				
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3				
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1				
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	9				
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	5	3	12				
Hepatitis C, Chronic	7	41	4	21	2	11	3	10	5	23	7	31	28	137				
Hepatitis C, Unknown	1	3	1	1	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	3	9	14				