

Summer 2011

Vol. 14 No. 2



Livingston County

Department of Public Health

Communicable Disease Update

Ted Westmeier, RS, MPH
Director/Health Officer

Donald W. Lawrenchuk, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Animal Bites and Rabies

Rebecca Cook, RN, BSN
Communicable Disease Supervisor

In 2010, Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) investigated 304 reported animal bites with potential rabies exposure. Of the animals submitted from Livingston County and tested at the Michigan Department of Community Health Lab, one bat was positive. For 2011 to date, Livingston County has had a fox and a bat test positive for rabies.

The fox investigation proved very interesting. Eight people were referred for rabies post exposure treatment; 2 were bitten and 6 had contact with fresh saliva from the fox. Two dogs and 1 cat needed a rabies booster along with a 45 day observation period. Thankfully, the rabies vaccines were up to date for all of these pets. This should serve as a reminder to avoid contact with wild and stray animals and to keep domestic animals up to date with their rabies vaccination.

Animal bites and bat exposures must be reported to the Health Department or Animal Control. LCDPH does not provide treatment as we do not keep Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG) or Rabies Vaccine for post exposure.

To make a report, or to consult us during routine business hours, please call LCDPH at 517-552-6882 or Animal Control at 517-546-2154. During evening, weekend and holiday hours contact Central Dispatch/911 and they will forward the information to the on call staff.

For a Rabies/Animal Bite Exposure fact sheet, go to www.lchd.org and click on Personal Health Fact Sheets. For more information on rabies in Michigan, go to www.Michigan.gov/rabies.

New CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

Donald W. Lawrenchuk, MD, MPH,
Medical Director

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published their updated sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines in December of 2010. This 100+ page document can be found on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. Given the rising number of sexually transmitted diseases reported in Livingston County, these new guidelines are very timely and much needed. Included in these STD treatment guidelines is the recommendation to retest Chlamydia-infected men and women no earlier than 3 months after treatment, regardless of whether their sex partners were treated.

Influenza 2011-2012

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

This fall, everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated against flu as soon as the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine becomes available even if they got vaccinated last season.

The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine as the best way to protect against influenza. Even in years when the strains of influenza the vaccine protects against remain the same as the previous season, the need for a yearly vaccine is recommended. The composition for the 2011-2012 flu vaccine again contains antigens for an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

A person's immune protection from flu vaccination declines over time and may be influenced by factors such as age, the person's health conditions or the antigen used in the vaccine. A decline in protection can leave some people more at risk for illness and possible serious complications from the same influenza virus a year after being vaccinated.

Influenza season is unpredictable and can begin as early as October. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza infection. Beginning vaccination as soon as vaccine is available will ensure that as many people as possible are protected before flu season starts.

Bed Bugs in Michigan

Matthew Bolang
Environmental Specialist

In the recent past, bed bugs were non-existent in Michigan; but with people traveling more frequently in today's society, bed bugs have been found in hotels, shelters, camps, hospitals, universities, schools, apartments, and homes. They are transferred from place to place by people moving them unsuspectingly on their clothes and other belongings.

The Livingston County Department of Public Health has received many calls from tenants and homeowners about infestations and how to control bed bugs. Recently in Livingston County, one of our local children's camps had an infestation of bed bugs.

The most common symptom of a bed bug infestation is the appearance of bite marks on exposed areas of skin. Some topical or systemic anti-histamine or anti-inflammatory medications may provide some relief from a localized allergic reaction.

For more information about eliminating bed bugs, please visit The Michigan Department of Community Health's website: www.michigan.gov/bedbugs