



PUBLIC HEALTH **NEWS & VIEWS**

A Regional Health Professional Newsletter

FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

Karen Luparello, DO, MPH, Medical Director

Welcome to the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency's Spring Provider Newsletter. I hope this newsletter finds you well and you're enjoying the beauty of spring. Longer days, sunshine, and new beginnings are good for the soul.

The agency has started using Constant Contact to provide news to our community. You may have already received an email from the agency regarding measles in May. We hope that you will share the opportunity for your office teams to subscribe to our mailings and that you will "whitelist" this newsletter and health-ed@bhsj.org to ensure delivery to your inbox.

Measles has been at the forefront of many of our conversations. If we can assist with preparation, protocols, or vaccine hesitancy, please let us know.

In this issue, we have included information regarding:

- **New requirements for blood lead testing of young children**, including educational handouts and resources for parents/caregivers.
- Information on the **CDC's Milestones Matter**, which helps monitor and support child development.

- A request link for MDHHS's Family Planning Resources that will allow your practice to provide patients with free OTC oral contraceptives, emergency contraception, condoms, and additional materials on family planning.

With spring comes an increase in tick-borne illnesses and animal scratches or bites. Both rabies and tick-borne diseases must be reported to your Local Health Department.

National HIV Testing Day is on June 27th. It is important to ensure that patients are being tested and have testing options available to them. The agency offers Free, Confidential, Curbside Testing. Appointments can be scheduled on our [website](#).

As we move into summer, remember to take care of yourself and your family as well as your patients. Enjoy this beautiful time in Michigan. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to see additional topics in our next newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

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Measles:

Currently, our jurisdiction has **no** confirmed cases of measles. According to the MDHHS Epidemiologist, as of May 14th, there have been 8 confirmed cases of measles in Michigan across 5 counties: Oakland, Kent, Macomb, Montcalm, and Ingham. Additionally, Canada has reported



1,440 cases.

Evaluating A Patient- Flow Chart 2025 Measles is a helpful chart to use when evaluating a patient for Measles.

Handout for patients:

- **What to Know About Measles**



New requirements for blood lead testing of young children:

By law, physicians are now required to conduct or order testing for children as outlined below:

- All children at age 1 and 2, or by age 6 if not tested previously.
- At age 4, if they live in a designated high-risk area.
 - City of Bronson - Branch
 - City of Coldwater - Branch
 - Colon Township - St. Joseph
 - Constantine Township - St. Joseph
 - City of Hillsdale - Hillsdale
 - City of Sturgis - St. Joseph
 - City of Three Rivers - St. Joseph
 - Union Township - Branch
 - Wright Township - Hillsdale
- At least once between their most recent test and age 6 if they are at high risk because they live in a home built before 1978 or where other children with lead poisoning live.

This approach is commonly called “universal blood lead testing”. It is the physician’s responsibility to test or order the test. The law updates the Public Health Code, adding **MCL 333.5474d** and amending **MCL 333.9206 (1)**. Administrative rules (**R 330.301-304**) for the implementation of the law were made official on April 30, 2025.

Resources for Providers:

- **Universal Blood Lead Testing: Questions and Answers for Physicians**
- **Management of Blood Lead Test Results: Guidance for Health Care Providers**



Lead Safe Home Program:

Children with elevated blood lead levels may also qualify for services provided through the Lead Safe Home Program, which can help eligible families find and fix lead hazards. Eligibility for the program is based on Medicaid or household income status and home location. Eligible families must also submit a completed application.

Click here for Application

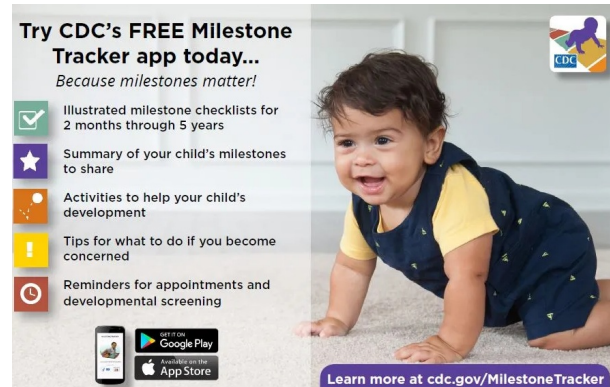
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe>

Resources for Parents/Caregivers:

- [Questions and Answers for Parents, Caregivers and the Public - MDHHS](#)
- [Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning - CDC](#)

CDC Milestones Matter:

Utilize the CDC's free materials to support your practice in identifying the **1 in 6 children with developmental disabilities or delays**, ensuring they receive needed assistance. Encourage parents to monitor their child's developmental milestones between visits and share any concerns.



Try CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker app today...
Because milestones matter!

- ✓ Illustrated milestone checklists for 2 months through 5 years
- ★ Summary of your child's milestones to share
- 🔥 Activities to help your child's development
- 💡 Tips for what to do if you become concerned
- 🕒 Reminders for appointments and developmental screening

GET IT ON Google Play
Available on the App Store

Learn more at cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker

Tools for Tracking Milestones:

- Promote the **CDC's free Milestone Tracker app**
- Encourage the use and review of developmental checklists with patients at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 1 year, 15 months, 18 months, 2 years, 30 months, 3 years, 4 years, and 5 years.
- **Milestone Brochure: Track Your Child's Developmental Milestones**

To access free materials from "Learn the Signs. Act Early", click [here](#).

If developmental concerns arise, refer families to the Early On program by using the [referral system](#) provided [here](#).

Be Ready for Kindergarten in One Stop!

Please share this flyer with families who have children entering Kindergarten or Young 5's. We will offer Hearing and Vision Screenings, Immunizations, and Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments on the dates and at the locations mentioned.

[Click here](#) for the registration link and flyer.



Be Ready for Kindergarten in One Stop!

Prepare your child for Kindergarten or Young 5's with Hearing and Vision Screening, Immunizations, and a Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment!

Coldwater	Three Rivers
570 Marshall Rd. • June 12th & 26th • July 10th & 24th • August 7th & 14th All dates: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1110 Hill St. Wednesday, August 6th 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Hillsdale	Sturgis
20 Care Dr. Friday, August 8th 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1555 E. Chicago Rd, Suite C. Tuesday, August 12th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Appointments are required!
To schedule, please call 517-933-3046 or scan the QR code.



Vector-Borne Disease:

Mosquito and tick-borne diseases are a yearly concern in Michigan, posing risks to human and animal health. For Michigan data on mosquito-transmitted viruses, visit- **MI Weekly Arbovirus Summary, 2024**



Ticks are another concern during the spring and summer months. Although tick exposure can occur year-round, they are most active from April to

September. For additional information, click the link below-
Tickborne Disease in Michigan: A Reference for Health Care Providers

Tick and mosquito-borne illness must be reported to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) or local health department within 24 hours if the agent is identified by clinical or laboratory diagnosis.

Prevention:

Encourage patients to

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents
- Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Treat clothing and gear with a product containing 0.5% permethrin

For mosquitoes

- Remove standing water around the home
- Use screens on windows and doors, or use air conditioning to keep mosquitoes outside

For ticks

- Avoid contact with ticks by staying away from wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter
- Check clothing and body for ticks when returning indoors
- Check pets for ticks after they have been outdoors
- Shower after spending time outside to help remove unattached ticks

Handouts for Patients:

- **Control Mosquitoes- Tip'n Toss**
- **Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks**

Rabies:

The agency has seen increased activity in animal bites this spring. Michigan law requires that animal bites be immediately reported to your Local Health Department. If a patient discloses a bite from any animal, domesticated or wild, please contact our **Personal Health & Disease Prevention Director, Heidi Hazel, at 517-279-9561, ext. 143.**



See the link below for a flowchart on when to administer PEP:

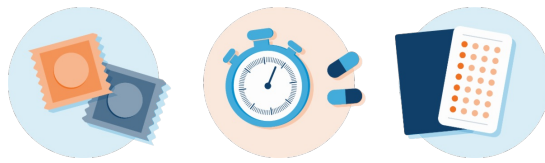
2016 MI Rabies Flowchart

National HIV Testing Day- June 27th

The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine care. If a patient has not been tested, it's important to request a lab at an annual physical or direct them to their Local Health Department for testing- **HIV Testing and Counseling | Branch Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

Additionally, for those who prefer not to test in-office, at-home testing kits are available to order by visiting: **Together TakeMeHome**

Free CME: Inclusive HIV Prevention & Care: Are You Up to Date on Best Practices?



Family Planning Resources

This form is for MDHHS partners to request Family Planning Kits for free distribution. The kits promote awareness of sexual and reproductive health and provide information on the Plan First Medicaid benefit and family planning resources. To request supplies, visit: **Free OTC Family Planning Resource Kit Request**

[Free CME: Curbside Consults: Top Questions From PCPs on Family Planning](#)

Did you enjoy this email?



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