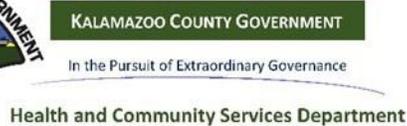


CSHCS Newsletter – December 2018



WE MOVED!

Our offices have moved to 311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Our phone numbers have not changed. If walking in for assistance please go to the reception desk and let them know you would like to meet with Heather, Phyllis, or Brenda. They will let us know you are here, so we can meet you in the lobby then go to a meeting room to maintain your privacy.

We Want Your Input

KCHCS is partnering with Bronson Healthcare and Ascension Borgess for a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a CHNA identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. One means of gathering data is via a survey. This survey is designed to gather information to help inform stakeholders what the community considers the main health issues facing Kalamazoo County. If you would like to take part please complete the survey by visiting the survey link below.

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HD7VLGK>

Come Get Your Influenza Shot

The Influenza (flu) Vaccine is now available at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, and health officials are urging all residents to get vaccinated against the flu. Everyone is suitable of the flu even those as young as six months old. The benefits include:

- Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor's visits each year.
- Vaccination helps protect women during and after pregnancy. It can also protect your baby after birth.
- Flu vaccine can be life-saving in children. The flu vaccination can significantly reduce a child's risk of dying from influenza.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to the flu, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Come by the Health & Community Services Department for the flu vaccinations at our office, located at 311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, on the following dates and times:

Monday, Tuesday*, Wednesday, and Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Thursday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (closed 1:00-2:00 p.m.).

*The third Tuesday of the month the clinic is closed from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Energy Assistance Available

As colder weather arrives, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding low-income residents they can apply for emergency energy assistance either online or using paper applications. As of October 1st, people can apply for energy assistance year-round. That's different than in recent years, when people were required to apply only during the designated energy crisis season, which was from Nov. 1 to May 31. Anyone with questions about energy assistance can visit www.michigan.gov/mdhhs or contact your local MDHHS office.

Free Groceries

Kalamazoo's Loaves and Fishes will be implementing a new service model that will begin on January 1, 2019. In the new model, clients will be able to schedule a pantry appointment once every calendar month and will receive three additional self-managed visits that can be used anytime throughout the year. Loaves and Fishes no longer accept referrals from a caseworker or third party for extra pantry visits. Clients have more flexibility to schedule extra visits without going through a caseworker and still can have up to 15 pantry visits/year. If you have questions regarding this change, please call: 269-343-3663



For next month's Newsletter, please go to "Hot Topics" as www.kalcounty.com/hcs or find it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. If you have questions or concerns please call the Family Phones Line at 1-800-359-3722 or the Kalamazoo CSHCS Program Representative, Heather, at 269-373-5015.



Kalamazoo Great Start Collaborative

Are you a parent or caregiver raising a young child and want to see that ALL children in Kalamazoo County have a great start?

Your voice matters! The Great Start Parent Coalition is a local group of parents who work together to provide feedback, voice concerns, share information and build relationships.

For questions and meeting dates, please contact: Marta Lehman at Marta.lehman@kresa.org or (269) 250-9665.

Family Resource

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center (MI F2F) is a federally funded project. They share information and resources on disability and health issues with families of children and youth with special health care needs. MI F2F also works with health and other professionals. MI F2F helps families make educated decisions and supports families to partner with professionals. They work to make services for children and youth with special health care needs better.

Below is the link to the Michigan Family Connections Fall 2018 newsletter, which is a combined publication of the Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center and the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. We hope you enjoy and we encourage you to please share with your networks.

<https://f2fmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Michigan-Family-Connections-Newsletter-Fall-2018.pdf>

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.