



# Public Health Notes

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## Public Health Notes

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*Public Health Notes is a newsletter for  
health care professionals in Kalamazoo  
County.*

**Public Health Notes** is available  
online:

[www.kalcounty.com/hcs/phnotes.htm](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/phnotes.htm)

*To be added to our mailing list  
for this publication,  
please contact the Epidemiology  
office at*

**269-373-5267**

## 2016 Kalamazoo Disease Surveillance Update

As of June 30, 2016, 9 Michigan residents have been diagnosed with Zika: 6 women, 3 men. None of the women were pregnant. All had traveled to endemic areas. None of these cases reside in this county.

This year's flu season peaked in mid-March. This is later than usual. Late winter and spring cases were predominantly Influenza B. Although the flu has waned, viruses continue to circulate at lower levels throughout the summer. The CDC recommends that all hospitalized and high-risk patients with suspected influenza be treated as soon as possible with appropriate antivirals without waiting for confirmatory lab testing.

In mid-June, Kalamazoo County had its first lab-confirmed rabies positive bat since 2013. Only a very small percentage of bats ever carry the disease. Any given year, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories (MDHHS BOL) tests upwards of 3,000 submitted animal specimens. In 2015, 35 animals tested positive: 33 bats, one fox, and one skunk. Rabies is usually transmitted by bite or scratch. In the United States, only 1 to 3 people die annually. (The last Michigan human rabies case was in 2009). Fatality is rare here because of the availability of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis as well as careful follow-up from local public health departments. Those rare individuals that die from the disease are either unaware of exposure, or else fail to seek medical attention after being bitten. In this country most human rabies deaths are attributed to bats.

To date in 2016 there have been 14 outbreaks. This includes 5 long-term care facilities with influenza. (Per MDHHS, 2 or more cases of lab-confirmed influenza in this type of congregate setting constitute an outbreak). Six long-term care and assisted living facilities had norovirus outbreaks. Suspect norovirus also struck a restaurant and several staff of an inpatient unit. There was also a group home with several residents positive for RSV.

## Legionellosis

Legionellosis is a bacterial infection of the lungs caused by the organism *Legionella*. It is spread through contaminated water either by aspiration, breathing in small (aerosolized) droplets, or direct instillation (e.g. through a NG tube or respiratory tubing). In the U.S. there are about 5,000 cases of legionellosis diagnosed each year. About 1 in 10 cases are fatal. Immune system disorders, age  $\geq 50$  years and smoking (current or historical) can increase a person's risk of developing serious disease.

It is recommended to test for *Legionella* in all patients with healthcare-associated pneumonia, severe pneumonia, pneumonia that fails antibiotic treatment, immunocompromised, ill during a Legionnaire's disease outbreak, or have a travel history within two weeks before symptom onset. The provider should use both a urinary antigen test and a lower respiratory specimen culture.

There are about 20 outbreaks reported nationally each year. Most of these occur in buildings with large water systems (hotels, hospitals, long-term care facilities). ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) has recently released new standards for *Legionella* water management. To see these standards please visit <http://bit.ly/1Ph3wQP>.

## Shingles

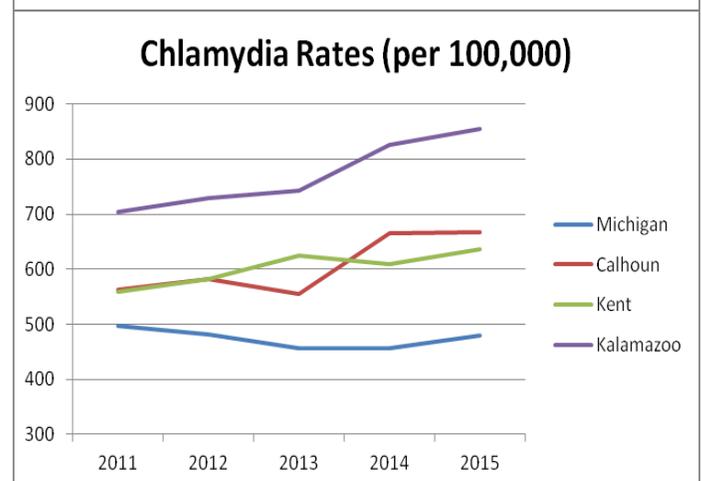
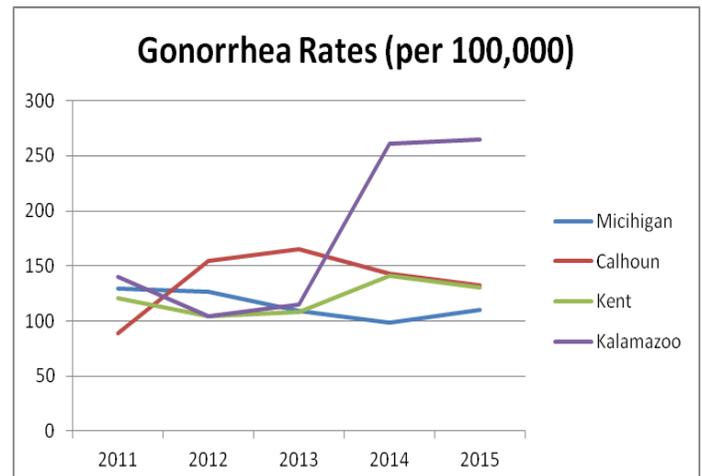
This is a reminder that Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services have a special Shingles program for those  $\geq 60$  years old that do not have insurance that covers the cost of the Shingles vaccine. This special Shingles program is available for a limited time so promptly refer eligible seniors now. They may call 373-5290 for more information regarding the Shingles vaccine and to make an appointment.

We also offer the Shingles vaccine at Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services for adults 60 - 64 years old with private insurance that we can bill.

## Kalamazoo STD Update

In 2015 Kalamazoo county's gonorrhea numbers remained high, the second highest rate in the state (after Detroit). Thus far in 2016, gonorrhea numbers are holding steady at outbreak levels. Chlamydia numbers continue to rise keeping Kalamazoo in the number two slot of statewide rankings.

The Kalamazoo County STD Task Force, a coalition of community members from a variety of agencies, including schools, provider offices, hospitals, churches, the health department, and more, is strategizing ways to decrease our STD rates. If you are interested in joining, or sitting in on a meeting, contact Kristen at [kawehl@kalcounty.com](mailto:kawehl@kalcounty.com).



Recently there have been two cases of meningococcal meningitis in men who have sex with men (MSM) in Chicago. Last spring/summer

there was a meningitis outbreak in this population as well. With many festivals and events targeting MSM upcoming in the summer months, it is important to ensure the MSM in our community are protected. Any MSM who has not been vaccinated for meningitis should receive one dose of MCV4 vaccine; those with HIV need two doses separated by eight weeks. If you are unable to provide this vaccine for your patients, please refer those who would need it to the health department.

## Zika Virus

Zika virus is not currently a threat in Michigan. Transmission requires a specific mosquito species vector that is not endemic to this region. Nonetheless, infection risk persists for those traveling to affected areas and those that are having sex with the travelers. To date, Zika virus has not been acquired in the continental U.S., with the exception of sexual transmission.

In general, Zika is a mild illness. However, for pregnant women the virus is more serious as it can pass to the fetus causing severe brain defects including microcephaly.



Pregnant women should be advised to use condoms or abstain from sex for the duration of pregnancy if her male partner has traveled to a country where Zika is present. Women who are trying to become pregnant should postpone attempts to conceive until:

- 8 weeks after their Zika symptoms first appeared
- 6 months after their male partner's symptoms first appeared
- 8 weeks after traveling to a country where Zika is present (asymptomatic individuals)
- 8 weeks after an asymptomatic male partner has returned from a country where Zika is present

Zika testing is now available through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Laboratory, but must be coordinated through KCHCS. At this time only symptomatic individuals and pregnant women with relevant travel history are being considered for testing. Please call 373-5267 for questions or to arrange for testing. Please see [Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure](#) or <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/> for more information.

## Protecting Adults: Are You Meeting the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice?

Jacklyn Chandler, M.S. , Outreach Coordinator, MDHHS Division of Immunization

Making sure your adult patients are up-to-date on vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) gives them the best protection available from several serious diseases and related complications. The National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) recently revised and updated the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice to reflect the important role that **all** healthcare professionals play in ensuring adults are getting the vaccines they need.

These new standards were drafted by the National Adult Immunization and Influenza Summit (NAIIS) of over 200 partners, including medical associations, state and local health departments, pharmacists associations, federal agencies, and other immunization stakeholders<sup>1</sup>.

MDHHS and Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services are calling on **all** healthcare professionals to make adult immunizations a standard of routine patient care in their practice by integrating four key steps<sup>8</sup>:

1. **ASSESS immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter.** This involves staying informed about the latest

CDC recommendations for immunization of adults and implementing protocols to ensure that patients' vaccination needs are routinely reviewed.

2. **Strongly RECOMMEND vaccines that patients need.** Key components of this include tailoring the recommendation for the patient, explaining the benefits of vaccination and potential costs of getting the diseases they protect against, and addressing patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language.
3. **ADMINISTER needed vaccines or REFER your patients to a provider who can immunize them.** It may not be possible to stock all vaccines in your office, so refer your patients to other known immunization providers in the area to ensure that they get the vaccines they need to protect their health. Coordinating a strong immunization referral network will reduce a substantial burden on your adult patients and your practice. If your adult patients do not have insurance, or if their insurance does not cover any of the cost of an immunization, check with your local health department to see if your patient qualifies for the following public vaccines: Td, Tdap, MMR, Hep A, Hep B or Zoster.
4. **DOCUMENT vaccines received by your patients.** Help your office, your patients, and your patients' other providers know which vaccines they have had by documenting in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). And for the vaccines you do not stock, follow up to confirm that patients received recommended vaccines.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Reasons to Vaccinate](#). Accessed May 17, 2016.

## Tuberculin Skin Test Training

We are continuing to do training and certification in skin testing for TB. To sign up for a training please visit <http://www.tstmichigan.com/> and click on 'find a workshop'. Each participant must sign up individually. The certificate of completion is e-mailed to participants within 6 weeks.

Our upcoming classes are below:

### Training and Recertification

July 21

October 20

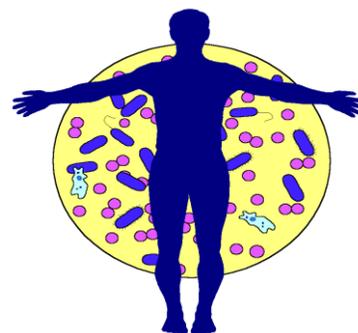
### Train the Trainer

12:00 - 1:00

July 21

The workshops are held in conference room D in the basement of the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services building. The workshop is free. Registration is required. There are CEU's offered to Registered Nurses taking the certification course.

Certification is valid for 2 years.



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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.