

Practically Paperless

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Public Health Notes

Kalamazoo County Health and
Community Services Department
Disease Surveillance Program

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

Public Health Notes is also available online:

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

Have you missed receiving our paper newsletter in the U.S. mail?

Ink on paper simply cannot compete with the breaking-right-now news of digital cloud feeds, social media, and Google eyes. Sharing timely public health news via snail-mailed hard-copy has become quaint, anachronistic, and inefficient – not particularly useful to a community accustomed to receiving information literally at the speed of light and often in 140 characters or less.

With this reality in mind, KCHCS Disease Surveillance will publish a single annual edition of Public Health Notes in hard copy. You hold in your hands the 2013 issue. We will continue to keep you in the disease surveillance loop by delivering time-sensitive and emergent information through press releases to radio and television, 'Hot Topics' on www.kalcounty.com, RSS and Facebook feeds, and electronic transmission of breaking health alerts and advisories.

You won't have to check your post office box again until 2014.



Influenza Update

Please join us on **Thursday, August 15, 2013, 8-10 a.m.**, at **Gilmore Center for Health Education, Bronson Campus** (7 Healthcare Plaza, Kalamazoo 49007). CMEs are available.

On the agenda:

- Welcome and Overview — Dr. Douglas Homnick
- State, National, and International Influenza Update — Stefanie DeVita, RN, MPH
- Laboratory and Testing Update — Dr. Richard VanEnk
- Influenza Statistics for Kalamazoo County & 5th District — Annie Wendt, MPH

The Tasks at Hand

The KCHCS Disease Surveillance Office provides communicable disease monitoring and investigation. This covers a broad range of responsibilities. Five days a week we staff the County's TB Clinic. We provide on-going tuberculin skin testing and case manage both active disease cases and latent TB infections. This clinic also provides Hepatitis B and C screening.

In addition, we provide on-going investigations of more than eighty state-mandated, reportable communicable diseases. These investigations serve a two-fold purpose: identify epidemiological links; and prevent or minimize further exposure and illness. Our office works in concert with the County's Environmental Health to manage communicable disease and foodborne outbreaks. We also respond to state, regional, and national outbreaks, recalls, and alerts.

We follow up with all County Animal Services animal bite reports and provide protocols and guidance for post-exposure rabies prophylaxis following exposures. We monitor all MDCH and CDC dispatches and convey those to County health care providers. We are in constant communication and collaboration with local, regional,

state, and national public health services as well as health care providers, epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists.

Enclosed in this issue of Public Health Notes are the compiled Kalamazoo County ten-year reportable communicable diseases numbers through 2012.

In addition to individual reported cases, KCHCS Disease Surveillance responds to illness clusters and outbreaks. The following were the numbers for last year’s outbreaks:

<i>GI Illness/Norovirus Outbreaks</i>	
Long-term care facilities:	5
Schools/preschools	4
Inpatient care facilities (not hospitals)	3
Camps	2
<i>Respiratory/Influenza-like Illness Outbreaks</i>	
Long-term care facilities	1

We also followed up with County cases linked to out-of-state outbreaks. These included the nationwide shiga toxin E. coli non-0157:H7 and salmonella outbreaks. Throughout 2012, we closely monitored the state’s fungal meningitis infections. Fortunately, this did not directly affect any Kalamazoo County residents. This office also responded to over 200 animal bite cases and we followed up on 40 food-related complaints that came through HCS Environmental Health.

In 2012, Disease Surveillance provided health alerts to the regional medical community concerning emergent pertussis, influenza, Hepatitis A, and West Nile Virus. Additionally, more than 60 specific dispatches went to medical providers, long-term care facilities, hospitals, schools, et al, providing communicable disease testing and treatment guidelines, as well as contact and control measures and other information.

Mike Phillips, RN
Disease Surveillance

Facility Risk Assessment KCHCS TB Clinic–2013

At the start of every new year, Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department’s TB Clinic performs a facility risk assessment. This annual scoring is useful to both the clinic and the county’s health care providers in gauging tuberculosis transmission. It’s also a useful tool for developing exposure control plans. The annual risk level may vary depending upon the number of active cases counted the previous year and whether those cases involved HIV or multi-drug resistance. Reviewing data from 2012, this facility’s current risk for TB transmission to its employees is low.

In 2012, there were three active cases of pulmonary, drug susceptible TB in Kalamazoo County. The rate was 1.17 per 100,000 residents.

Mike Phillips, RN
Disease Surveillance



Immunizations 101

“Immunizations 101” is a free, intensive immunization course for RN’s, LPN’s, and MA’s interested in increasing their immunization knowledge.

The class is scheduled on August 8, 2013, 9am-4pm, at Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services, 3299 Gull Road, Conference Room D.

Please call 373-5238 or 373-5242 to register by July 24th. Class space is limited.

Roxanne Ellis, RN
IAP, KCHCS

Tuberculin Skin Test Training Dates for 2013

Medical personnel involved in TB skin testing are welcome to attend our free workshops for certification or recertification.



Once the 4-hour Certification course has been passed, a Recertification session can be taken every 2 years. Our 2013 class schedule is:

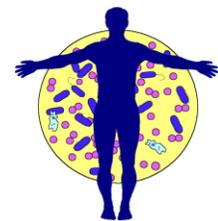
Certification – 8:00–Noon

July 24
October 24

Recertification – 1:00-3:30

October 24

Classes are held in Conference Room D, Health and Community Services building, Nazareth. Registration is required. To register, please call 269-373-5267.



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Disease Surveillance Program
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Kalamazoo County is committed to equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.