

Connecting Point *Newsletter*

Mid-Michigan District
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CLINTON • GRATIOT • MONTCALM

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CLINTON OFFICE
1307 E. Townsend Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-2195

GRATIOT OFFICE
151 Commerce Drive
Ithaca, MI 48847
(989) 875-3681

**MONTCALM and
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES**
615 N. State Street
Stanton, MI 48888
(989) 831-5237

Visit www.mmdhd.org
for more information
on agency programs,
services and health
issues.

Oral Health Program

When a child has poor oral health, their quality of life is impacted. Dental pain caused by infection or damaged teeth, an inability to chew and embarrassment about their appearance can result in poor nutrition, lack of focus in learning and a negative impact on socialization and playtime. Good oral health enhances a child's well being.



The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) Oral Health Program offers screening and prevention services for young children. Dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications are available to children ages 0 to 5 through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics. Older siblings are also given the opportunity for screening, if they have not had a dental visit within the last year. Oral hygiene education for parents and caregivers is provided, along with resources in helping to find a dentist. In the last year, Oral Health Coordinator, Shelley Treynor, RDH, provided 602 screenings and 589 fluoride treatments. Of those 602 children, 98 were given a treatment referral for having some degree of tooth decay. Additionally, 81% of those children had not seen a dentist in the past year.

New this year is a Kindergarten Dental Screening Program. The Michigan Legislature is encouraging dental screenings for children entering kindergarten, just as they do for hearing and vision. As a result, MMDHD has taken a proactive approach to assess the rates of dental decay for kindergarteners in the three county area. Although offered, not all school districts chose to participate. In Montcalm County, six elementary schools participated, with 434 screenings being performed and 217 children being referred for treatment. In Gratiot County, 2 elementary schools participated, resulting in 101 screenings and 43 referrals. Children who participated received an oral health goody bag and parents received oral health information. For those children with urgent dental treatment needs, follow up was provided to make sure families were connected to a dentist and received access to the care they needed.

For more information on the Oral Health Program, contact Shelley Treynor, RDH, Oral Health Coordinator, at (989) 831-3621 or streynor@mmdhd.org

Michigan Care Improvement Registry

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) collects and tracks immunization information for Michigan residents of all ages. The registry consolidates immunization data received from multiple providers into comprehensive immunization records. The registry helps to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases and over-vaccination, and allows providers to view up-to-date patient immunization histories.



While originally focused on childhood immunizations, MCIR now tracks immunizations for adults as well. Health care providers are reminded and encouraged to enter data on their adult patients into the MCIR system. For more information on MCIR, visit: www.mcir.org

Sharps Disposal Program

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 8 million people per year use more than 3 billion needles, syringes, and lancets to manage medical conditions at home.



These conditions include cancer, infertility, migraines, diabetes, arthritis, hepatitis, allergies, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, HIV/AIDS and osteoporosis. Self-injectors are not always aware of safe sharps disposal practices, which can lead to haphazard disposal habits and increased community exposure to sharps. Members of the community at the greatest risk of being stuck by a used sharp include children, janitors, housekeepers, and sanitation and sewage treatment workers.

In addition to experiencing a painful needle stick, people are also at risk of contracting diseases. Used sharps are dangerous to people and pets, because they can spread infections such as HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B or C. All needles should be treated as if they are infected with a disease. As a result, all victims of a sharps-related injury should seek testing and treatment to prevent the spread of potential diseases to others.

Needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk if individuals take specific actions to protect themselves and others. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) encourages individuals to utilize its Sharps Disposal Program. This is a free service offered to residents at both the Gratiot and Montcalm Branch Offices. Sharps users can take their filled sharps containers to these offices for safe disposal.

The Sharps Disposal Program gives residents, who are medical self-injectors, the option of using empty household containers to collect sharps. Acceptable containers include medical sharps disposal boxes, empty coffee cans, laundry bottles or other suitable heavy duty plastic or metal containers with secure lids, that cannot be easily pierced. Sharps that are improperly disposed of by being placed in recycling containers or household trash cans can cause injury or spread infection.

Residents can safely dispose of both used and unused sharps by taking their medical sharps container to the Environmental Health Division at these MMDHD branch offices:

- 151 Commerce Drive, Ithaca
⇒ Hours: 8 AM to 12:30 and 1 PM to 4:30 PM
- 615 N. State Street, Stanton
⇒ Hours: 8 AM to Noon and 12:30 to 4:30 PM

My Community Dental Centers

My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) and the Mid-Michigan District Health Department have a long history of collaboration and a



shared vision for improving access to oral health care for at-risk residents. A MCDC clinic is located in Sidney at the Montcalm Area Career Center, and serves patients in the Montcalm County area. The MCDC clinic in St. Johns is located within the health department and serves patients from Gratiot and Clinton Counties.

Ammar Houssein, D.D.S., dentist for the Sidney clinic, shares that new patients, both adults and children, often receive their first dental care at the clinic. As a result, the clinic staff see a lot of dental decay. While nervous at the thought of receiving dental care, patients are made to feel comfortable and at ease by staff, helping to ensure that they will return for follow-up care. Registered dental hygienists provide education on oral hygiene and provide patients with dental supplies that will allow them to take care of their dental needs at home.

Dr. Houssein encourages primary care physicians to promote good oral hygiene by referring patients to their local MCDC clinic, if they suspect any dental problems. For more information, visit: www.mydental.org

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Reporting



Did You Know...

- Rates of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are skyrocketing?
- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are easy to treat?
- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) can help to prevent further spread of disease?
- MMDHD has an easier way to report positive cases and their treatment?

MMDHD's new STI Reporting Form can be found at: www.mmdhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/STI-REPORTING-FORM-2019.pdf. The 2019 listing of *Reportable Diseases in Michigan—By Condition* can be found at: www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/

For more information about these and other Health Department programs, contact:

Mark W. (Marcus) Cheatham, Ph.D. Health Officer
Mid-Michigan District Health Department
615 N. State R.
Stanton, MI 48888-9702
(989) 831-3614
E-mail: mcheatham@mmdhd.org

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