

# DAILY NEWS

Since 1854 — News from Montcalm County and Ionia County, Michigan

## Free Narcan/first aid kits flying off the shelves at public libraries

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*By Elisabeth Waldon*

*on March 30, 2024*

0:00 / 0:00



Free first aid kits with Narcan/Naloxone, a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, are available at public libraries in Montcalm County; however, many libraries have difficulty keeping them in stock due to the popularity of the life-saving items. – Submitted photo

Free first aid kits are available at Montcalm County public libraries and include Narcan/Naloxone, a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

However, the kits are so popular many libraries can't keep them in stock.



The free Narcan is one of the first tangible results of Montcalm County implementing its portion of opioid lawsuit settlement funding in an effort to combat the opioid epidemic.

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Stanton to provide Narcan kits to public libraries.



Richland Township Library Director Sherma Horrocks, right, and Vestaburg community member Penny Palmer are pictured with a free first aid kit being offered by public libraries in Montcalm County. The kits now include Narcan thanks to Montcalm County's portion of opioid lawsuit settlement funding. – Submitted photo



Narcan is provided from the state of Michigan to the MMDHD. The medication can be used to reverse the effects of intentional as well as unintentional ingestion of opioids.

The MMDHD provided Narcan/first aid kits to all eight of Montcalm County's public libraries, including Carson City Public Library, Crystal Community Library in Crystal Township, Flat River Community Library in Greenville, Home Township Library in Edmore, Reynolds Township Library in Howard City, Tamarack District Library in Lakeview, Richland Township Library in Vestaburg and White Pine District Library in Stanton. Signs at each library guide those interested in receiving a free kit.

Approximately 200 of the Narcan/first aid kits have been handed out for free this year at Montcalm County libraries and many libraries can't keep them in stock.

Reynolds Township Library Director Cheryl Smith said the Howard City library currently doesn't have any kits due to the high demand. "When they get delivered and the word gets out, they are gone within that day," Smith said. "We are hoping within a couple of weeks we will be able to get a larger shipment to meet some of the demand. We received 30 kits the first day, then two days later received 26 more.

"Most people think the kits are great, then others don't think we should give out Narcan," Smith noted of the community's response. "Narcan has such a bad connotation when it can do a lot of good. At first some of the elderly wanted us to take the Narcan out of the kits until we started telling them it could be used if a child accidentally got into their meds, or they spilled them and their animal ate them, or if they had an adverse reaction to a new prescription. Sometimes it is just about education and letting people know what kinds of things Narcan can be used for."



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In Michigan, since Jan. 1, 2023, there have been 14,747 emergency medical services administrations of Narcan, with 70 of those taking place in Montcalm County, according to the MMDHD. In 2023, 900 first aid kits were distributed to community members and local agencies. Additional kits are being ordered for library distribution in upcoming months as many libraries have trouble staying in stock with the popular kits, according to MMDHD Health Educator Christa Jerome.

“This partnership increases the safety of our communities,” Jerome said. “It has been so successful that it is difficult to keep the libraries supplied due to the interest of library visitors.”

Richland Township Library Director Sherma Horrocks said the Vestaburg library handed out 40 of the kits recently.

“People thought it was really important to have something in their car in case something happened,” Horrocks said. “One of the places I gave one to was our local Post Office because they thought it was an important thing to have because they have a lot of people coming and going from there.

“Even though some people didn’t know of anyone that used drugs that they knew of, they thought it would be smart to have one on hand just in case,” she added. “In today’s world, you just never know.”

Flat River Community Library in Greenville handed out 65 of the kits last year, according to the MMDHD.

“We have marketed them primarily as first aid kits to our patrons; the Narcan is referenced as part of its contents but not its focal point,” Library Director Stef Reed said. “We’ve been lucky to have a good relationship with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department for a while now and we are always happy to facilitate getting information and materials from their programs out to our patrons. We are grateful to provide a pathway to connect the community with health education initiatives, and we hope to continue to do so in the future.”

Tamarack District Library in Lakeview has handed out 118 kits since last summer, according to the MMDHD.

“We have asked for more kits several times over the timeframe from MMDHD and get 20 or more kits each time we ask,” Library Director Deanna Riggleman said. “We have heard many wonderful things about this service. The first aid kits are a great size for your vehicle and then you always have access to the Narcan if you ever find yourself in a situation when you might need to use it.”

White Pine District Library Director Jessica Hansen said the Stanton library received approximately two dozen of the kits and all have been given away.

“Our patrons could ask for the kits at our front desk as we had them safely stored in the office,” Hansen said. “We had two patrons who asked for a kit but did not want the Narcan as they have small children. Those who took the kits home seemed thankful.”

Home Township Library Director Jonelle Ball said the Edmore library handed out 30 of the kits.

“We have gotten a good response,” Ball said. “I think with it being a combination of a first aid kit as well as Narcan, people will find a lot of uses for it.”

Carson City Public Library Director Beth O’Grady said a few weeks ago the MMDHD delivered 25 kits and the library currently has 13 kits left (Crystal Community Library is within that same library district).

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## Public Health Advisory for Fish Creek in Carson City, Montcalm County

April 5, 2023

Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is issuing a No-contact Advisory for Fish Creek, Carson City, Montcalm County. Our office is currently responding to a spill of an unknown liquid.

At this time, MMDHD is advising all persons and animals to avoid contact with Fish Creek in Carson City, Montcalm County. Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is currently investigating the situation.



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## **Public Health Advisory LIFTED for Fish Creek in Carson City, Montcalm County**

April 8, 2024

Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has LIFTED the No-contact Advisory for Fish Creek, from the Village of Carson City to the South, Montcalm County.

At the time of the advisory, a small amount of an unknown liquid was discharged, and is now contained.

## ***Community Foundation Awards \$87,508 in Spring Grant Cycle***

The following initiatives received funding totaling \$87,508 from the Gratiot County Community Foundation during its Spring grant cycle:

- United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties received \$2,000 for their United Way Diaper Bank Program.
- Child Advocacy received \$3,678 to help expand mental health services in Gratiot County.
- Gratiot-Isabella RESD received \$3,702 for an inclusive literacy library to increase representation of disabilities in literature and accessibility to these materials to benefit the students served by the GIRESD.
- Ashley Community Schools received \$3,935 for students to visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Great Lakes Science Museum.
- Gratiot County Hope House received \$6,225 to help purchase equipment for their new laundry facilities for shelter guests and staff.
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department received \$8,000 to support Project Connect: A health and safety fair to provide Gratiot County youth and families with access to health and safety services for back-to-school season.
- St. Louis Public Schools received \$3,000 to provide world-class music instruction and performance opportunities to students and residents of Gratiot County with the Festival of Steel.
- Ashley District Library received \$2,500 to create a seed garden and Jim Seals memorial garden.
- Ashley Fire Rescue received \$11,600 for thermal imaging camera replacement and a gas detector upgrade.
- St. Louis Public Schools received \$4,473 to purchase a larger table saw and a larger planer to prepare rough sawn materials for the Woodshop to be more efficient with the preparation of their community projects.
- Clothing Inc. received \$3,500 to purchase men's underwear for those in need.
- Gratiot Emergency Housing received \$6,000 to provide assistance to Gratiot County residents who are facing a housing crisis and are in danger of losing their residence or are in need of securing a residence.
- Village of Ashley received \$8,400 to purchase and install a 22kw generator at their Community Center.
- Children's Discovery Academy received \$9,823 to assist in the childcare center relocation and renovation.
- Day Dreams received \$5,975 for the Dream Works Snack and Game Parlor within the existing Dream Works Resale Shoppe to increase the number of volunteer vocational and skill-building opportunities for their target population and to further serve the community.
- Alma College and the Academy of Performing Arts received \$4,696 for the Dance for Schools: Snow White Production to present an educational dance program to local elementary school students at the Alma College Heritage Center.

**Contact Information:**

Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
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**Release Date:**

4/12/2024

## Avian Flu Awareness and Guidance

**Clinton, Gratiot, Montcalm County, MI** – The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is encouraging those who work with livestock, particularly poultry and dairy herds, to be aware of the symptoms associated with exposure to the novel avian influenza A (H5N1). Avian influenza A (H5N1) is a type of flu virus that naturally infects wild birds and can infect domestic poultry and other birds and animals. It was recently detected in dairy cattle in several states, including two herds in Michigan. Though there is a low risk for the disease to transmit to people, those working around infected cows should take precautions and monitor for symptoms.

Liz Braddock, MMDHD Health Officer, says, “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a series of public health recommendations considering the recent avian flu activity. Although the risk of transmission between animals and humans is low, those working around potentially sick animals may be at a higher risk and should use the proper personal protective equipment, as well as performing thorough hand washing after contact with any animals or animal products.”

Signs and symptoms of H5N1 infection in people may include:

- Fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) or feeling feverish or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Eye redness (conjunctivitis)
- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Seizures

If you develop symptoms of H5N1, follow up with your healthcare provider, or contact one of the MMDHD Communicable Disease (CD) Nurses below if you have any questions:



**Clinton County:** (989) 227-3111

**Gratiot County:** (989) 875-1019

**Montcalm County:** (989) 831-3615

In addition, MMDHD reminds the public to avoid being near sick or dead animals, or surfaces contaminated with animal's feces, litter, raw milk, or other byproducts. As always, people should not prepare or eat uncooked or undercooked food, or related uncooked food products, such as unpasteurized (raw) milk or raw cheeses. Products that have not gone through the pasteurization process may be harmful to your health.

For more information regarding guidance, symptom information, and monitoring, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/hpai/hpai-interim-recommendations.html>.

###

**Contact Information:**

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**Release Date:**

4/15/2023

## Tri-County Survey Launches to Identify Community Health Concerns

**Clinton, Eaton, Ingham County, MI** – Healthy! Capital Counties (a collaborative effort between Barry-Eaton District Health Department, Ingham County Health Department, Mid-Michigan District Health Department, Eaton Rapids Medical Center, McLaren Greater Lansing, and University of Michigan Health - Sparrow) has launched the next cycle of the Community Health Needs Assessment, aimed at understanding and identifying the most pressing health concerns within the capital-area community. One of the first stages of this assessment is a community survey that can be completed by anyone who lives or works in Clinton, Eaton, or Ingham counties. This initiative underscores the commitment of the local health departments and hospitals to promoting the well-being of all community members in the tri-county area.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance community health, Healthy! Capital Counties recognizes the importance of gathering input from the community to identify areas for improvement and to tailor programs and services accordingly. The survey is designed to gather insights directly from residents, healthcare providers, and community members, to better understand the primary health concerns impacting the tri-county community.

The survey covers a wide range of topics, including but not limited to access to care, barriers to receiving care, health concerns, community resources, social determinants of health (housing, neighborhood, transportation, education, etc.), and emergency preparedness.

Healthy! Capital Counties encourages all community members, partners, and healthcare providers to participate in the survey. By sharing their perspectives and experiences, residents can help shape the future of health in the community and contribute to building a healthier, more resilient tri-county area for all.



The Community Health Needs Assessment Survey is available online at <https://bit.ly/hcchealthsurvey> and will remain open until May 31<sup>st</sup>.

To complete a paper survey, please visit:

- BEDHD Charlotte Office: 1033 Healthcare Dr. Charlotte, MI 48813
- ICHD Office: 5303 S Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48911 (Health & Resource Navigation Area)
- MMDHD Office: 1307 E. Townsend Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

For more information about the survey or to request accommodations for participation, please contact Kara Trimbach at [KTrimbach@ingham.org](mailto:KTrimbach@ingham.org) OR Sydney Nicholl at [SNicholl@bedhd.org](mailto:SNicholl@bedhd.org). Thank you for your commitment to helping and improving our communities. We look forward to positive change and improvement.

###

*The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has proudly served the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties since 1966. We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.*

# DAILY NEWS

Since 1854 — News from Montcalm County and Ionia County, Michigan

## Avian flu detected in two dairy cattle herds in Michigan

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*By The Daily News Staff*

*on April 17, 2024*

[Submitted by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department](#)

0:00 / 0:00

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“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a series of public health recommendations considering the recent avian flu activity,” MMDHD Health Officer Liz Braddock said. “Although the risk of transmission between animals and humans is low, those working around potentially sick animals may be at a higher risk and should use the proper personal protective equipment, as well as performing thorough hand washing after contact with any animals or animal products.”

Signs and symptoms of H5N1 infection in people may include:

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- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath
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- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Seizures

If you develop symptoms of H5N1, follow up with your healthcare provider, or contact a MMDHD Communicable Disease (CD) nurse in Montcalm County if you have any questions by calling (989) 831-3615.

In addition, MMDHD reminds the public to avoid being near sick or dead animals, or surfaces contaminated with animal’s feces, litter, raw milk, or other byproducts. As always, people should not prepare or eat uncooked or undercooked food, or related uncooked food products, such as unpasteurized (raw) milk or raw cheeses. Products that have not gone through the pasteurization process may be harmful to your health.

For more information regarding guidance, symptom information, and monitoring, visit the CDC website at [cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/hpai/hpai-interim-recommendations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/hpai/hpai-interim-recommendations.html).

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