The Michigan Waiver Plan has been very successful. Those seeking a non-medical exemption for public and private school attendance must be certified at the Health Department that they have learned: the benefits to them and the community; and risks of not immunizing their child and other children.

The percentage of children receiving waivers in Van Buren and Cass County compared to state levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Van Buren County (%)</th>
<th>Cass County (%)</th>
<th>State (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opioid Overprescribing and Overdose Deaths

Both nationally and locally there continues to be overprescribing in number and strength of opiate prescriptions. For example, prescribing Norco for an ankle sprain in a teen! Really? Studies have shown that Ibuprofen provides better relief without the risk of becoming Opioid dependent. Please evaluate carefully before prescribing and if so be cognizant of the duration and strength of the prescription. Remember: Opioid prescribing rates are directly proportional to community drug overdoses!

Zika virus infections should be considered in Michigan patients, particularly pregnant women, with acute onset of symptoms and who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to illness onset (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html).

Patients with suspected Zika virus infection should also be evaluated and managed for possible dengue or chikungunya infection. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected Zika virus disease cases to their local health department or to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate diagnosis and testing.

Flint Water Crisis

For patients with concerns about their drinking water:

- 98 – 99% of all lead poisoning is a result of lead paint.
- Municipal water systems are regulated and under the authority of the DEQ (Dept. of Environmental Quality).
HEALTH ADVISORY

Deliver to:  The person responsible for distributing time-sensitive health information
Distribution:  PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
From:  Disease Surveillance 269-621-3143
Re:  INFLUENZA

This week, the CDC report increasing cases of severe influenza illness across the county.

Clinicians are reminded to provide antiviral treatment for all severely ill and high-risk patients as soon as possible if influenza is suspected or confirmed. This includes those with progressive disease and all hospitalized patients regardless of negative rapid testing. Early antiviral treatment is optimal. However, treatment may also offer benefit when started up to 4-5 days after symptom onset in hospitalized patients. Please do not wait for laboratory confirmation if empiric antiviral therapy is warranted.

Most patients with severe viral respiratory illness are unvaccinated. Michigan lags behind US estimates for flu vaccine coverage in every age group. Thus, clinicians are urged to continue vaccinating patients.

CDC high-risk designation and antiviral use guidelines can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm

Official CDC Health Advisory:

http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00387.asp