



Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
Friday 8am - 2pm

Cass County

Immunizations
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

STI testing & treatment
Thursdays

Dental
Monday - Friday

Van Buren County

Immunizations
Thursdays

STI testing & treatment
Wednesdays

Dental
Monday - Friday

Newsworthy

Visit vbcassdhd.org/news

Severe Weather Alert: Stay Safe During Upcoming Storms

Review the attached **March 2025 Medical Director and Nursing Special Report** for further updates on measles, bird flu, influenza, and more.

Dental Clinic and Outreach

- Dowagiac Dental Clinic
 - 21 new patients
 - 345 patients treated
- Lawrence Dental Clinic
 - 36 new patients
 - 566 patients treated
- VBCDHD continues to add new patients and are keeping a growth-oriented mindset.
- The hygiene students from Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) have been a welcome addition to both Dowagiac and Lawrence the last few months.

Environmental Health

- In the month of March, the department reports:
 - 61 septic permits
 - 22 septic final inspections
 - 53 well permits
 - 33 well final inspections
 - 56 restaurant inspections
 - 14 restaurant reinspections
 - 01 temporary food inspections

Medical Director and Nursing

- Special clinical events and activities:
 - A rapid HIV screening was held at the Van Buren County Specialty Courts from VBCDHD STI/HIV team.
 - A tuberculosis (TB) skin testing class was held at the Lawrence facility by our certified public health nurses (PHNs).
 - Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) staff member attended the Whole Child Summit at the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD).
- Kudos to the VBCDHD immunization public health nursing and support staff for helping a dad obtain car seats for their children and updating their immunizations. Great team work to Frances Rose, Nicole Balcuns, Anna McCoy, and Kim Pugsley!
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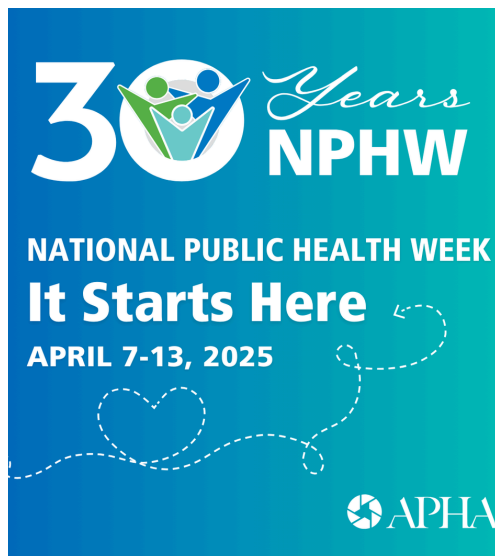
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Health Promotions

- Radiological trainings and exercises are being planned for the months of May and June. We will be participating in FEMA graded exercises in both Paw Paw and Gobles at the Public Reception & Decontamination Centers.
- Blood pressure self-monitors have been shipped from the American Heart Association to be used in both VBCDHD lobbies. AHA is also supplying banners and a small amount of money to help promote the blood pressure monitors. We will use these funds to support our radio campaign and educational materials.
- This week is National Public Health Week, which means festivities and prizes each day for staff. This includes a scavenger hunt, wellness activities, and team building events. We are utilizing some funds from the well-being grant to fund fun prizes for participation in activities throughout the week.
- OPEN network is supplying VBCDHD with Narcan carrying kits for our existing Narcan distribution project. This means we can now distribute with gloves, education resources, and face guards.
- Planning for the opening of farmers markets throughout the two counties early this summer as well.



During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation.

Stay connected with us on Facebook at facebook.com/VBCDHD!



Van Buren/Cass District
Health Department

March 2025 Medical Director and Nursing Special Report

Michigan Flu Focus: Weekly Surveillance Report | April 4, 2025 Vol.22;No.26.

- The FDA made recommendations to vaccine manufacturers for the virus strains for the 2025-2026 flu season. Reports say recommendations are similar to the previous year's strain selection.
- Michigan has dropped from "High Influenza Like Illness Activity" to "Moderate."
- Nationally, 168 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2024-2025 flu season. Seven (7) of those deaths were in Michigan:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2025/04/04/file_attachments/3220812/MIFF%204.4.25.pdf

Michigan COVID-19 Summary Metrics

- According to the Michigan COVID-19 summary metrics, both the number of reported COVID-19 cases and the number of COVID-19 related deaths in Michigan have decreased from last week. ER visits continue to decrease as are trends reported by the CDC showing nation-wide test positivity and ER visits are low.
- Michigan COVID-19 summary metrics: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

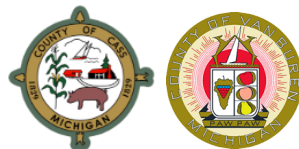
Measles Update

- The first 2025 measles case in the state was confirmed in Oakland County on March 1, 2025.
- According to the press release, the infected adult had recent overseas travel, and their vaccination status is unknown. "This case of measles is a reminder of how easily this highly contagious disease can spread, particularly with international travel," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Vaccination remains our best defense against measles and is highly efficient at protecting individuals and preventing outbreaks. We urge Michigan residents, especially those planning to travel, to check their vaccination status and get the MMR vaccine if needed. Contact your health care provider as soon as possible if symptoms develop."

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2025/03/14/first-measles-case-in-the-state-confirmed-in-oakland-county>

- Health Officials confirmed Kent County's first measles case in over a decade on April 1, 2025. Per the press release, the infected adult recently traveled abroad before returning to the U.S. and traveling between Michigan and New Jersey:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/KENTCOMI/bulletins/3d93e1e>



March 2025 Medical Director and Nursing Special Report

2025 Measles Outbreaks in the United States

- As of March 27, 2025, a total of 483 confirmed measles cases were reported by 20 jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.
- There have been 5 outbreaks (defined as 3 or more related cases) reported in 2025, and 93% of confirmed cases (447 of 483) are outbreak-associated. For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported during 2024 and 69% of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated.
- For more data and updates on measles cases in the United States (updated on Fridays): <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>
- Measles symptoms and complications: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms/index.html>
- Dr. Nitasha Bagdasarian on measles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQdRxXsaxbl>

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly called “bird flu,” is a virus found among various species of birds. HPAI viruses can infect domestic poultry, which includes chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/diseases/avian/avian-influenza>
- The virus also infects a wide variety of other birds, including wild migratory waterfowl. HPAI has been detected in various species of mammals-presumably after the animals come into contact with infected wild birds. For more information on current detections in domestic poultry, livestock, and wildlife across the United States: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/h5n1-hpai#detections-hpai>
- MDARD’s response: On May 1, 2024, Director Dr. Tim Boring signed a Determination of Extraordinary Emergency, HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order, to further protect Michigan’s poultry and livestock industries from the ongoing threat of HPAI: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/media/pressreleases/2024/05/01/mdard-director-signs-hpai-risk-reduction-response-order-for-hpai-outbreak-animal-health-emergency>

Local Health Department Update

- A concerned citizen reported dead birds on North Beach in South Haven, MI. Education was provided regarding prevention and transmission of HPAI for any suspicious sick or dead animals, including birds. The VBCDHD contacted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the DNR obtained a specimen for testing of HPAI. At this writing, results are pending.
- Use the “Eyes in the Field” DNR website to report wildlife diseases: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/ors/Home>
- Van Buren/Cass District Health Department website resource for HPAI: <https://vbcassdhd.org/protect-your-backyard-flock-from-avian-influenza-h5n1/>

