

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) Board of Health (BOH) Agenda
February 11, 2026

The BOH will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 3:00 pm**. The meeting will be held in the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department at 260 South Street, Lawrence, MI in the Conference Room as well as on Microsoft Teams. Below is the agenda.

1. **Roll call**
2. **Moment of Silence for Randall Peat** Danielle Persky
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
4. **Finance Director’s Report** Nancy Desai
5. **Administrator/Health Officer’s Report** Danielle Persky
6. **Nursing Report** Julie Beeching
7. **Medical Director** Dr. Larry Wile
8. **Dental Report** Dr. Andrew Malsbary
9. **Environmental Health Report** George Friday
10. **Health Promotions Report** Jennifer Zordan
11. **Program Perspectives: A Series** Well & Septic, Environmental Health –
Cody Davis, Corrinne Taylor, Brian Lint,
Ryan Heimsath
12. **Other Business**
13. **Public Comment**
14. **Adjournment**



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Chairperson Leary called the meeting to order at the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department at 260 South Street, Lawrence, MI in the Conference Room at 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Roll call taken.

Board members present: Jeremiah Jones, Tina Leary, Robert Linderman, Roseann Marchetti, Randall Peat in-person and Priscilla Gatties virtually

Employees present: Danielle Persky, Lauren Jaramillo in-person and Kelly Adkins, Julie Beeching, Dr. Wile, Jennifer Zordan virtually

Others: Jerry Marchetti in-person and Karen Tan virtually

November meeting minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Leary and second by Peat to approve the meeting minutes as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Board members provided positive feedback on communication of board documents and meetings.

Finance Director's Report

Persky provided financial updates on the disbursement report for October. The next meeting will have a financial packet to review. The financial audit is scheduled for January. Linderman asked about what is covered under Dr. Wile's malpractice liability insurance. Persky answered that the insurance covers nursing staff when doing their role through standing orders. Linderman asked if this is annual insurance. Persky confirmed yes. Dr. Wile added that, for example, if a patient passed out and nursing staff provided care, that is covered under the liability umbrella. Leary noted the low cost. Persky added that the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) also provides insurance for the organization. Linderman asked if the dentists also have their own liability insurance. This is confirmed.

Linderman asked why some staff are paid out on mileage after company vehicles were purchased. Persky explained that all vehicles are utilized. Some staff do not have vehicles assigned to them, meaning they use their personal vehicles still. Linderman asked about when the November and December financial information could be available. Persky noted it could be ready mid to late January in advance of the February meeting. Linderman added a request to also review grants, which Persky responded that a status report can be made available.

Discussed and reviewed. Motioned by Marchetti, second by Jones to accept the October disbursement report. All voting yes, motion carried.

Expenditures Report

There were no updates at this time.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report

Persky began by discussing the application of Anne Wendling for the vacant Board of Health position. Persky met with her and Dr. Dommer several weeks ago to discuss the opportunity, and Wendling has since shared interest in joining the board. Persky highlighted Wendling's experience as the Chief Nursing Officer at Bronson along with her local roots. Linderman asked how she found out about the vacancy. Persky responded that the connection was sought out. There is also a benefit to having a health care

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professional with patient care and nursing experience. The Van Buren County Commissioners will be reviewing her application in January, then the selection will be brought to this board.

Linderman asked if there was concern for conflicts of interest. Persky responded no, that there are no concerns. There is a synergistic relationship between hospital systems and local health departments. Peat asked if there was more information on her background. Persky will review the county application for her resume. Persky asked the commissioners if background checks were completed for board applications. They are not per Van Buren and Cass County Commissioners. Leary and Peat offered upcoming dates for when the appointment will be reviewed and then approved by the county. The February Board of Health meeting will then tentatively be the final approval. Persky at this time also made note that we will be moving the chairperson role to a Cass County commissioner at the start of the year as per the board bylaws and the meeting series for the 2026 calendar year will go out soon. A consideration for 2026 is that the November meeting is presently on Veteran's Day.

Persky provided an update on the state budgeting meeting to discuss how the state dental coalition safety net funding will be dispersed. The aim for the disbursement is to not be burdensome for participating dental organizations. Linderman asked how much is funded through this safety net. The entire supplemental is four million dollars with a general estimation of \$300,000 to \$400,000 allocated to the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department dental clinics. Linderman asked if there are ever any roadblocks with Indiana patients not being accounted for in these patient numbers. Persky stated that no, the determination timeline for disbursement was by total patient numbers from July of 2024 to June of 2025.

Nursing and Medical Director Report

Nursing updates are discussed in the written report. Dr. Wile commented on the ideal situation of having a Bronson executive on board. The health department has worked with Bronson on community needs health assessments for several years, and the experience has been mutually beneficial.

Dr. Wile highlighted that the predominant strain of influenza is H3N2, which is presenting as a more severe influenza. Ahead of the holidays, it's important to note the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of sickness to loved ones. Dr. Wile noted the symptoms, heightened risk for those 65 and older, and the medications that can decrease the severity of influenza symptoms.

Marchetti asked for specific information on the more severe symptoms. Dr. Wile explained that it is generally more severe across all symptoms. Persky requested more information on the anti-viral recommendations. Dr. Wile recommended connecting with a provider as it can depend upon the situation if you are already sick or requesting in a preventative manner.

Linderman asked about Dr. Wile's experience with Bronson. Dr. Wile noted although he has not worked directly with Wendling, he remembers a discussion with the president of Bronson where there was real excitement around the experience she brings to the table. Persky noted her experience on the Bronson community health board and the communication capacity there is for local knowledge. Linderman discussed his difficulty with scheduling an appointment with Bronson in South Haven. Dr. Wile highlighted the importance of system improvements and support of expanding services into Van Buren County.

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Dental Report

Persky met with dental and financial leadership to brainstorm changes that can be made in addition to a dental fee increase. What came of this was a proposal to extend patient hours by asking Lawrence hygienists if they would be interested in adjusting their schedule to 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Thursday. This group of staff agreed to this adjustment as a pilot program to see if this would also potentially work in Dowagiac. Marchetti confirmed that it will just be hygienists. Persky responded yes, that the earlier appointments will be for cleanings and if a dentist is needed, they would be able to step in towards the end of the appointment. Friday is then dedicated to administrative tasks and front desk appointment scheduling. The dental team is focusing on scheduling to prevent no-show appointments. Discussed was the shortage of front desk staff, which leads to no time to refill the schedule. This shift will hopefully give more time to fill appointments and to keep the calendar moving.

Leary appreciated the schedule shift as many patients like to have early morning appointments. Persky agreed, and the other option of late afternoon appointments can be tough to fill. Linderman asked what the current waiting list looks like for Lawrence. Persky confirmed that there is a long patient wait list at close to 400. With Friday dedicated to rescheduling, it will hopefully bring this list lower. Linderman asked about Dowagiac, which Persky confirmed the demand outweighs the supply at this clinic as well. Although the clinics are generally fully staffed, there are still limitations. Persky gave appreciation to clinic staff as patients consistently want to come to the dental clinics. The reason that funding such as the dental coalition safety net is important is because patients often prefer comprehensive dental care clinics.

Linderman asked for an update on maintenance staffing. Logistics to plan for the changing business hours are being reviewed. Considerations include burglar alarms and door access hours. Persky will eventually bring the discussion of shifts in maintenance to the board. Linderman asked about snow removal as an example. Persky confirmed it has been going well with assistance from Van Buren Tech.

Persky then reviews the increased dental fee proposal on behalf of Dr. Malsbary. This is a proposal for a 2.25 percent increase across all dental services. This amount is still below many dental clinic fees. If the dental clinics fees were raised more in line with other clinics, it would be closer to four percent. This slight increase gives a significant enough bump while still being reasonable. Patients that will feel this the most are private pay, which accounts for ten percent of clients. This increase will provide full reimbursement by Medicaid and improve reimbursement by private insurers.

Alongside this plan, Persky also proposed a sliding fee scale. This will provide a discount for patients that complete a form with an income verification. This balances the need for increased fees to sustain operations but acknowledges that up to 250 percent of federal poverty can benefit from a sliding scale. Linderman asked if there is a projected income from these cost increases. Persky stated not at this time. Gatties provided positive feedback on the fee structure as it would capture the Medicaid reimbursement while still being under what is customary among private practices and standard Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Linderman discussed his concern of those patients that have become regular patients and can't pay with these updated costs. Persky confirmed that existing fees will be honored for those currently in treatment. New patients will receive these costs up front with their dental plan. Linderman reviewed the potential need to increase costs across the board, which he could get behind if it was financially needed. Leary

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agreed it is good business practice. Persky agreed and noted the need to review dental fees more regularly to prevent the burden of large fee increases. Leary asked if a vote is requested at this time. Persky noted that the board can be brought this at a later time to vote, otherwise it is ready to be implemented on January 1st, 2026. The board reviewed local experiences that coincide with federal poverty rates.

Motioned by Linderman, second by Gatties to accept the new dental fee schedule and sliding fee scale. All voting yes, motion carried.

All other dental updates are discussed in the written report.

Environmental Health Report

Updates are discussed in the written report.

Health Promotions Report

There were no updates at this time.

Public Comment

Tan agreed with the increase in dental costs as the true cost of medical and dental services not being taken into consideration doesn't serve anyone in the long run. Tan also noted if research has been done on vaccine-acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (VAIDS). Persky responded that the leadership and clinic team did discuss how to best be transparent about vaccine adverse reactions. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is now added to this list of resources on the health department website.

There was no other business.

Motion to adjourn at 3:52pm by Jones, second by Peat. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 3:00pm at the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department at 260 South Street, Lawrence, MI in the Conference Room.

Tina Leary, Board of Health Chairperson

Danielle Persky, Health Officer

Lauren Jaramillo, Board of Health Secretary



VAN BUREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

VAN BUREN/CASS COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION

HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

WHEREAS, Van Buren County continually accepts applications from residents interested in serving on local and regional boards, commissions, and advisory committees, and reviews such applications as vacancies arise or term near expiration; and,

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the VBCCHD Board. Former Commissioner Hanson decided not to request a re-appointment; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Wendling, RN, is the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services, Bronson LakeView and Bronson South Haven Hospitals; and,

WHEREAS, The VBCCHD Board has reviewed her application and recommends her appointment; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the appointment of Anne Wendling to the Van Buren Cass Community Health Department Board for a three-year term to expire January 1, 2029.

Signed: Randall Peat
Paul Wood
David Lilly
Paul Schmeiser

Date: January 27, 2026

MOTION BY: Chappell
 SECONDED BY: Schmeiser

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

CARRIED
 NOT CARRIED

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department
Check/Voucher Register - Check Register - Board Report
From 11/1/2025 Through 11/30/2025

Item No.	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
1	11/7/2025	11072025REG	Various Employess	11072026REG Payroll Wages/Dental Production	169,593.10
2	11/21/2025	11212025REG	Various Employess	11212026REG Payroll Wages/Dental Production	163,144.47
3	11/10/2025	33124883	Internal Revenue Services Department of Treasury	11072025REG PR Taxes - FIT/SS/Medi	37,879.78
4	11/25/2025	3845576	Internal Revenue Services Department of Treasury	11212025REG Payroll - FIT Withholding	36,928.96
5	11/7/2025	49592854	Blue Care Network of Michigan	Health Insurance Premium - POS November	26,457.59
6	11/7/2025	49592843	Blue Care Network of Michigan	Health Insurance Premium - HMO November	24,661.15
7	11/7/2025	13107	Van Buren Cass Community Health Properties	Lawrence Building Rent	19,200.91
8	11/24/2025	4635396838	State of Michigan	MI State Withholding Taxes - November	11,448.87
9	11/12/2025	733357	MERS	11072025REG PR Taxes - ER MERS Benefits	9,127.71
10	11/25/2025	735040	MERS	11212025REG Payroll - ER MERS DC Contribution	8,424.58
11	11/7/2025	13106	Van Buren Cass Community Health Properties	Dowagiac Building Rent - November 2025	7,100.00
12	11/19/2025	13131	Moderna US Inc.	SPIKEVAX Exp 5.8.26 Lot 3052553 10 Doses	6,107.90
13	11/19/2025	13140	US Business Systems Inc	Copier Overage Fees 07/25/25-10/24/25	4,687.83
14	11/19/2025	13129	MALPH - Administrator's Forum	MALPH Dues 10.01.2025-9.30.2026	4,371.00
15	11/19/2025	13111	Sentage Corp DBA Dental Services Group	Dental Laboratory Services	3,986.50
16	11/19/2025	13123	Everstream Solutions, LLC	Dedicated Fiber Optic Line/Data Lines - November	3,621.12
17	11/7/2025	13087	Sentage Corp DBA Dental Services Group	Dental Laboratory Services	3,507.00
18	11/7/2025	13091	DBIX IT	Professional Networking Support 10.03.25-10.30.25	3,185.00
19	11/26/2025	13147	Benco Dental Company	Dental Supplies PO# 9272	3,094.17
20	11/26/2025		Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC	MMR II, Varivax, Sterile Diluent	2,843.63
21	11/7/2025	13102	Patterson Dental	General Dental Supplies	2,404.43
22	11/26/2025	13162	Pfizer Inc	Pevnar 20 LSS 10 doses .5ml Batch MH9579 Exp 01.31.27	2,355.78
23	11/26/2025	13144	Sentage Corp DBA Dental Services Group	Dental Laboratory Services - V Peterson	2,209.00
24	11/30/2025	11302025 DP	Huntington National Bank	CC Expenses- November 2025	2,154.38
25	11/21/2025	112125S03	George D. Friday	PTO Payout	1,777.94
26	11/19/2025	13124	Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC	Billing Summary Client Matter 87657-00002	1,600.00
27	11/21/2025	112125S05	James C. Davis	PTO Payout	1,515.29
28	11/30/2025	11302025 ND	Huntington National Bank	CC Expenses- November 2025	1,472.74
29	11/7/2025	13092	City of Dowagiac	Electric/Water/Sewer 09.01.25-09.30.25	1,402.69
30	11/21/2025	112125S01	Brian R. Lint	PTO Payout	1,353.65
31	11/26/2025	13149	City of Dowagiac	Electric/Water/Sewer 10.01.25-10.31.25	1,305.94
32	11/26/2025	13161	Patterson Dental	Dental Supplies PO# 9275	1,286.25
33	11/19/2025	13132	Preferred Printing	Printing - Seal Program Forms	1,276.00
34	11/7/2025	13089	Benco Dental Company	General Dental Supplies	1,172.67
35	11/26/2025	13151	Foune Well Drilling	Coliform/EColi/Nitrate Testing	1,075.00
36	11/26/2025	13158	Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC	Rotateq 2ml 10 dosesBatch 2155640 Exp 12.17.26	1,007.01
37	11/26/2025	13153		Dental Refund to PT	1,000.00
38	11/26/2025	13166	United States Postal Service	Postage Meter Postage	1,000.00
39	11/7/2025	13095	Garrett Laboratories Inc.	Lab Services/Coliform/E Coli/Nitrite/Nitrate	906.72
40	11/26/2025	13155		Dental Refund	834.28
41	11/19/2025	13113	Airgas USA, LLC	Gases Cylinder Rental/Nitrous & Oxygen Cylinder	808.26
42	11/19/2025	13122	AFLAC Traditional and Direct	AFLAC Premiums - Billing Period - November 2025	712.28
43	11/7/2025	11072025 4	Conway, Richard	Mileage Reimbursement - 10.01.25-10.31.25	711.20
44	11/7/2025	13090	Crystal Flash	Company Vehicle Fuel Cost	639.04
45	11/7/2025	11072025 8	Lint, Brian	Mileage Reimbursement - 10.01.25-10.31.25	629.30
46	11/26/2025	13164	Staples Business Credit	Office Supplies	622.67
47	11/26/2025	13168	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Bill - Cellular 10.09.25-11.08.25	604.81
48	11/26/2025	13152	Frontier Communications	Dowagiac - Fax Line - 269.782.0121	569.48

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department
Check/Voucher Register - Check Register - Board Report
From 11/1/2025 Through 11/30/2025

Item No.	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
49	11/7/2025	13088	Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital	██████████/Radiology/Diagnostic	543.00
	11/7/2025	11072025 15	Taylor, Corrinne	Mileage Reimburse/Meal Reimb 10.01.25-10.31.25	530.00
50					
51	11/19/2025	13137	Staples Business Credit	ZOLL Adult & Child AED Pads - Safety	530.00
		13133	Quadient, Inc	Maintenance Agreement/Meter Rental 12.01.25-2.28.26	524.94
52	11/19/2025				
	11/7/2025	13105	Staples Business Credit	Foam Soap Initial Order for New Dispensers	520.97
53					
54	11/19/2025	13114	Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital	██████████ Radiologic/Diagnostic	482.00
	11/7/2025	11072025 14	Smith, Jessica	Mileage Reimbursement - 10.01.25-10.31.25	479.50
55					
56	11/7/2025	13108	Waste Management	Waste Removal 11.01.25-11.30.25	477.64
	11/7/2025	11072025 9	McNair, Caitlin	Mileage Reimb/Meal Reimb - 10.01.25-10.31.25	474.70
57					
58	11/19/2025	13116	Benco Dental Company	General Dental Supplies	453.24
59	11/19/2025	13120	The Proctor & Gamble Distributing, LLC	General Dental Supplies	449.82
60	11/19/2025	13134	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	Postage Meter Lease - Dowagiac	381.15
61	11/10/2025	103125-HUNT	Huntington National Bank	Huntington Bank Fees - October	368.64
62	11/26/2025	13146	Anterior Quest	Liquid Dental Waste Removal - Lawrence	353.75
63	11/7/2025	11072025 19	TelNet Worldwide	Desk Phones 11.01.25-11.30.25	329.51
64	11/19/2025	13117	Patterson Dental	General Dental Supplies	328.67
	11/7/2025	11072025 3	Carr, Ellen	Mileage Reimbursement/Tablet Strap 10.01.25-10.31.25	321.71
65					
66	11/26/2025	13159	Michigan Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development	Food Service Licensing Fee	282.00
67	11/7/2025	V110725R31	Davin V. Renda	Travel Allowance	260.00
68	11/21/2025	V112125R32	Davin V. Renda	Travel Allowance	260.00
	11/7/2025	13094	Field Plumbing & Heating Inc	Dental Laboratory Undersink Connection Repair	256.25
69					
70	11/7/2025	13104	Salter, Caleb	Septic Permit Refund	250.00
71	11/19/2025	13126	Khoury Johnson Leavitt	Dental Consulting Srvcs	250.00
72	11/7/2025	13093	City of Dowagiac	Electric/Sewer/Water 09.01.25-09.30.25	223.41
73	11/7/2025	11072025 16	Wagoner, Amy	Mileage Reimbursement - Imms/H&V	202.72
74	11/19/2025	V11192025 1	Lingo Telecom, LLC	Elevator Emergency Phone Line	190.84
75	11/7/2025	11072025 17	Wanberg, Sherri	Mileage Reimbursement Dental Asst	189.14
76	11/26/2025	13150	City of Dowagiac	Electric/Water/Sewer - 10.01.25-10.31.25	186.44
77	11/7/2025	13100	██████████	Dental Refund/DOS 11.14.24	184.00
78	11/7/2025	11072025 11	Oosterwal, Susan	Mileage Reimbursement - STI/HIV	181.58
79	11/7/2025	V110725R8	Anna L. De La Rosa	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
80	11/7/2025	V110725R8	Anna L. De La Rosa	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
81	11/7/2025	V110725R29	Danielle Persky	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
82	11/7/2025	V110725R72	Missie L. Hoenes	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
83	11/21/2025	V112125R8	Anna L. De La Rosa	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
84	11/21/2025	V112125R30	Danielle Persky	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
85	11/21/2025	V112125R74	Missie L. Hoenes	Health Insurance Opt Out	150.00
86	11/19/2025	13130	Menards	Janitorial Supplies	147.67
87	11/7/2025	13096	Gordon Water Systems	Water Cooler Rental/Water Services	146.69
88	11/19/2025	13143	Whitlock, Gary	Permit Refund/Event Cancelled	140.00
89	11/7/2025	13097	Hospital Network Healthcare	Sharps Removal 10.06.25 Lawrence Office	134.06
90	11/19/2025	13125	Frontier Communications	Lawrence Faxline - 11.05.25-12.04.25	131.41
91	11/19/2025	13128	██████████	Dental Refund	130.00
92	11/19/2025	13141	██████████	Dental Refund	130.00
93	11/26/2025	13167	The UPS Store #3816	CD/Rabies Specimen	129.88
	11/19/2025	V11192025 3	Friday, George	Mileage Reimbursement - Sewer/Well/BOH Mtg	129.50
94					
	11/7/2025	11072025 2	Bretz, Cristy	Mileage Reimbursement - Annual Staff Mtg/Clothing Allowance	127.02
95					
96	11/30/2025	11302025 JD	Huntington National Bank	CC Expenses- November 2025	120.00
97	11/26/2025	13154	██████████	Dental Refund	114.20
	11/26/2025	V11262025 1	Kazlauskas, Mindie	Mileage Reimb - M.Kazlauskas 11.3-11.12.25	108.08
98					
	11/7/2025	11072025 18	Marchetti, Roseann	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage 10.08.25	106.00
99					
100	11/19/2025	13112	Spencer's Soft Water	Drinking Water/Distilled Water Delivery	102.93
101	11/7/2025	11072025 7	Kazlauskas, Mindie	Annual Uniform Allotment	100.00
102	11/19/2025	V11192025 2	Calderon, Cristina	Annual Uniform Allocation	100.00

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Check/Voucher Register - Check Register - Board Report
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Item No.	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
103	11/7/2025	11072025 5	Eldred, Melissa	Mileage Reimbursement - H&V 10.01.25-10.31.25	99.33
104	11/2/2025	11022025HRA	Blue Care Network	Employee HRA Payments - November	94.72
105	11/30/2025	11302025 EF	Huntington National Bank	CC Expenses- November 2025	88.36
106	11/7/2025	11072025 13	Rouse, Dawn	Mileage Reimbursement - Flu/Covid Outreach	88.20
107	11/26/2025	13163	R&S Northeast LLC	Epinephrine Inj .15ml/.3ml 4 Pens Lot112936 Exp 02.2027	86.00
108	11/7/2025	13098	Jones, Jeremiah	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage 10.08.25	84.30
109	11/19/2025	13121	The UPS Store #5277	CD Program Shipping	82.40
110	11/19/2025	V11192025 4	Hoenes, Missie	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assisting	81.06
111	11/26/2025	V11262025 2	Slack, Lisa	Mileage Reimb L.Slack 11.4-11.20.25	81.06
112	11/26/2025	V11262025 3	Wanberg, Sherri	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assisting 11.3, 11.17, & 11.2	81.06
113	11/7/2025	13101	Linderman, Robert	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage 10.08.25	80.80
114	11/19/2025	13135	Semco Energy	Utilities - Natural Gas 10.07.25-11.06.25	80.55
115	11/26/2025	13160	New Age/Landmark Inc	E Coli/Coliform/Nitrate Testing	80.00
116	11/9/2025	11092025HRA	Blue Care Network	Employee HRA Payments November	69.82
117	11/19/2025	13136		Dental Refund	65.00
118	11/19/2025	13139	Unemployment Insurance Agency	YE 2024 UIA Charge	60.00
119	11/26/2025	13156	State of Michigan	Laboratory Services	57.50
120	11/7/2025	11072025 1	Balcuns, Nicole	Mileage Reimbursement - Vaccine Redlist	54.60
121	11/7/2025	13099	Kellogg Ace Hardware	Pipe Wrench & Steel P Trap	53.98
122	11/26/2025	13148	Cotiviti	Refund Ins Co For Pmnt - J Feece	53.00
123	11/7/2025	13103		Dental Refund DOS 07.31.25	50.60
124	11/19/2025	13127		Dental Refund	46.40
125	11/7/2025	13110	The UPS Store #3816	TB Control - Shipping	44.70
126	11/7/2025	V110725R8	Anna L. De La Rosa	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
127	11/7/2025	V110725R10	Amy M. Malsbary	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
128	11/7/2025	V110725R29	Danielle Persky	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
129	11/7/2025	V110725R39	Ellen E. Carr	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
130	11/7/2025	V110725R43	George D. Friday	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
131	11/7/2025	V110725R52	Jessica A. Smith	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
132	11/7/2025	V110725R55	Jennifer L. Zordan	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
133	11/7/2025	V110725R63	Lauren E. Jaramillo	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
134	11/7/2025	V110725R83	Michele L. Woodhams	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
135	11/7/2025	V110725R87	Nancy B. Desai	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
136	11/7/2025	V110725R89	Rebecca L. Burge	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
137	11/7/2025	V110725R91	Richard T. Conway	Cell Phone Allowance	40.00
138	11/7/2025	11072025 6	Hiemstra, Carrie	Mileage Reimbursement - All Staff Meeting	27.30
139	11/7/2025	11072025 12	Rank, Miranda	Mileage Reimbursement - Annual Staff Meeting	27.02
140	11/26/2025	13157	Menards	Janitorial Supplies	26.97
141	11/7/2025	13109	Jones, Charles	Partial Refund of Septic Permit	25.00
142	11/19/2025	13138	Summit Fire Protection	Monthly Extinguisher Inspection	25.00
143	11/26/2025	13165	Summit Fire Protection	Monthly Extinguisher Inspection - Dowagiac	25.00
144	11/26/2025	13145	Spencer's Soft Water	Water Dispenser Rental	14.98
145	11/19/2025	13142	Voices for Health	Translation Services	12.80
146	11/7/2025	11072025 10	Smith, Myah	Mileage Reimbursement - STI/HIV - 10.15.25	12.46
147	11/19/2025	13115		Dental Refund	3.00
Total Disbursements - November					\$ 599,734.11

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department
Check/Voucher Register - Check Register - Board Report
From 12/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

Item No.	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
1	12/19/2025	12192025REG	Various Employees	12/19/2025 Regular Payroll	173,680.33
2	12/5/2025	120525REG	Various Employees	12/05/2025 Regular Payroll	167,371.42
3	12/22/2025	49825356	Blue Care Network of Michigan	Jan 2025 Health Insurance Premiums - POS	62,373.14
4	12/8/2025	13195	Michigan Municipal Risk	Property Liability Policy Premium 01.01.2026	27,354.50
5	12/1/2025	496856072	Blue Care Network of Michigan	Health Insurance Premium PPO - 12.01.25-12.31.25	26,457.59
6	12/1/2025	496856071	Blue Care Network of Michigan	Health Insurance Premium HMO - 12.01.25-12.31.25	25,991.73
7	12/1/2025	13170	Van Buren Cass Community Health	Lawrence Building Rent - December 2025	19,200.91
8	12/23/2025	4302872	Internal Revenue Services	Federal Tax Deposit - FICA/SS/Medicare 12192025REG	11,976.75
9	12/22/2025	4685772302	State of Michigan	MI SWT Pmt - December	11,852.87
10	12/9/2025	10087526	Internal Revenue Services	12052025REG Payroll Taxes - FIT/FICA/Medicare	11,590.20
11	12/19/2025	738210	MERS	MERS ER Contributions 12192025REG	10,850.04
12	12/8/2025	736735	MERS	MERS ER Contribution - 12052025REG Payroll	9,266.18
13	12/8/2025	13176	Accident Fund Insurance Co.	Premium Payment - Coverage Jan, Feb, & Mar 2026	8,432.00
14	12/8/2025	13193	MALPH	November 2025 PH Infrastructure/Shared Vision CJS Project	7,917.00
15	12/22/2025	13209	Sentage Corp DBA Dental Services Group	Dental Laboratory Services	7,523.00
16	12/22/2025	13217	Aseptico	Go Ultra Portable Dental System S/N DV20251118-001	7,125.00
17	12/1/2025	13169	Van Buren Cass Community Health	Dowagiac Building Rent December 2025	7,100.00
18	12/8/2025	13185	Everstream Solutions, LLC	Dedicated Fiber Optic Line/Data Lines December 2025	4,748.52
19	12/8/2025	13175	Sentage Corp DBA Dental Services Group	Dental Laboratories Service	3,750.00
20	12/22/2025	13213	Patterson Dental	General Dental Supplies	3,549.34
21	12/8/2025	13183	DBIX IT	Professional Network Support - November 2025	3,185.00
22	12/8/2025	13196	Patterson Dental	General Dental Supplies	3,076.39
23	12/8/2025	13180	Commando LLC	LGBTQ Advertising Bundle 2025-2026	3,000.00
24	12/8/2025	13179	Benco Dental Company	General Dental Supplies	2,949.94
25	12/8/2025	13199	Standard Insurance Company	Life & Short Term Disability Premiums 12.01.25-12.31.25	2,866.98
26	12/1/2025	13172	Delta Dental	Delta Dental Insurance Premium - 12.01.25-12.31.25	2,861.52
27	12/31/2025	12312025 ND	Huntington National Bank	C/C Reconciliation 12.31.25	2,553.52
28	12/22/2025	13211	Benco Dental Company	Dental Supplies	2,481.02
29	12/31/2025	12312025 DP	Huntington National Bank	C/C Reconciliation 12.31.25	2,476.31
30	12/22/2025	13242	Work Easy Software	Easy Clocking Renewal 65 Licenses Time & Attendance	2,340.00
31	12/8/2025	13205	Vogt's Snow Removal	Parking Lot Snow Removal & Salting 5/plow 5 salt	1,810.00
32	12/8/2025	13191	KONE	Passenger Elevator Repair - Outside The Scope KONE Svs Agree	1,670.39
33	12/22/2025	13225	Garrett Laboratories Inc.	E Coli/Coliforms/Nitrate/Nitrite	1,076.73
34	12/22/2025	13240	Vogt's Snow Removal	Lawrence Parking Lot Snow Plow Services	1,010.00
35	12/8/2025	13200	Staples Business Credit	Janitorial Supplies/Office Supplies	923.78
36	12/8/2025	13178	Anterior Quest	General Dental Supplies - Liquid Dental Waste Pickup	803.75
37	12/22/2025	13232		Dental Refund - DOS 02.11.2025	744.00
38	12/22/2025	13215	AFLAC Traditional and Direct	AFLAC Insurance Premium - Billing Period December 2025	712.28
39	12/22/2025	13241		Dental Refund	612.00
40	12/1/2025	13173	Fidelity Security Life Insurance Co.	Vision Insurance Premium - Billing Period December 2025	568.94
41	12/8/2025	13188		Dental Refund	558.00
42	12/8/2025	V12082025	Noggle, Deena	Dental Allowance for Dental Loops - DNoggle	500.00
43	12/22/2025	13218	Burk, Kristie	Well & Septic Permit Refund - Not Needed	500.00
44	12/22/2025	13235	Stericycle, Inc.	Old Files/Shredding Services	490.00
45	12/22/2025	13210	Airgas USA, LLC	Gas Cylinder Rentals	484.75
46	12/8/2025	13207	Waste Management	Waaste Removal Dowagiac - 12.01.25-12.31.25	479.85
47	12/8/2025	13181	Crystal Flash	Fuel - Company Vehicles	479.52
48	12/22/2025	13223	Foune Well Drilling	Coliform/E Coli/Nitrate Testing	450.00
49	12/22/2025	13216	Andrews, Jessica	Food License Fee Not Needed Until 2026	425.00
50	12/22/2025	13222	Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC	DHHS Document Request Response 87657 00001	425.00
51	12/22/2025	13212	Henry Schein Inc	Hygiene Supplies	385.92
52	12/22/2025	V12222025 5	TelNet Worldwide	Desk Phones 12.01.25-12.31.25	337.93
53	12/8/2025	113025HUNT	Huntington National Bank	Huntington Bank Fees - November	334.36
54	12/8/2025	V12082025 9	Lint, Brian	Mileage Reimbursement - Sewer/Well	322.70
55	12/8/2025	13184	Dental Equipment & Repair	Repair Suction Pump Coupler	315.00
56	12/8/2025	13203	United States Postal Service	Postage Machine Fill	300.00
57	12/8/2025	V12082025 2	Carr, Ellen	Mileage Reimbursement - Beaches/Food	266.00
58	12/5/2025	V120525R71	Davin V. Renda	Travel Allowance	260.00
59	12/19/2025	V121925R69	Davin V. Renda	Travel Allowance	260.00
60	12/8/2025	V12082025	Smith, Jessica	Mileage Reimbursement - Food	259.28
61	12/1/2025	13174	Legal Shield	Legal Shield Premium - Coverage Month November 2025	258.20
62	12/8/2025	13190	Khoury Johnson Leavitt	Consulting Services - December 2025	250.00
63	12/22/2025	13219	Chabot, Browning	Septic Permit Refund - Not Needed	250.00
64	12/22/2025	13220	Dietrich, Greg	Septic Permit Refund - Not moving forward	250.00
65	12/8/2025	V12082025	McNair, Caitlin	Mileage Reimbursement - Food	248.50
66	12/8/2025	V12082025	Taylor, Corrinne	Mileage Reimbursement - Sewer/Well/Complaint	228.20
67	12/22/2025	13233	Semco Energy	Utilities - Natural Gas 11.06.25-12.08.25	224.05
68	12/8/2025	V12082025 3	Conway, Richard	Mileage Reimbursement - Food	220.50
69	12/8/2025	13187	Henry Schein Inc	Medical Supplies	212.27

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department
Check/Voucher Register - Check Register - Board Report
From 12/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

Item No.	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
70	12/8/2025	13182	Davidson, Mark	Refund Home Loan Permit/Not Required	200.00
71	12/22/2025	V12222025 9	Lingo Telecom, LLC	Elevator Emergency Service Phone Line 269-674-4766	190.84
72	12/22/2025	13239	Village of Paw Paw	Colilert/Nitrate Laboratory Services	180.00
73	12/8/2025	13204	The UPS Store #3816	CD Program Shipping	158.78
74	12/8/2025	V12082025 4	Cornejo, Robin	Wellness Grant Funds - Christmas Party Items	157.79
75	12/5/2025	V120525R32	Anna L. De La Rosa	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
76	12/5/2025	V120525R47	Missie L. Hoenes	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
77	12/5/2025	V120525R66	Danielle Persky	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
78	12/19/2025	V121925R31	Anna L. De La Rosa	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
79	12/19/2025	V121925R45	Missie L. Hoenes	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
80	12/19/2025	V121925R64	Danielle Persky	Health Opt Out - December	150.00
81	12/8/2025	V12082025 5	Eldred, Melissa	Mileage Reimbursement - Hearing/Vision	146.44
82	12/22/2025	13226	Gordon Water Systems	Office Water Cooler/Water	144.49
83	12/22/2025	V12222025 6	Wagoner, Amy	Mileage Reimbursement Hearing & Vision 11.03.25-11.09.25	142.10
84	12/22/2025	13224	Frontier Communications	Fax Line - Lawrence 12.05.25-01.04.26	135.23
85	12/8/2025	V12082025 1	Balcuns, Nicole	Mileage Reimbursement - IAP/IMMS	129.50
86	12/8/2025	13198	Sitt, Ezra	Refund Partial Payment/Incorrect Inspection	125.00
87	12/22/2025	V12222025 1	Adkins, Kelly	Mileage Reimbursement - IT	123.76
88	12/8/2025	V12082025 6	Friday, George	Mileage Reimbursement - Sewer/Well	123.20
89	12/8/2025	V12082025	Zordan, Jennifer	Mileage Reimbursement - PHEP Confrence/Meetings	119.00
90	12/22/2025	V12222025	Vogt, Kimberlee	Mileage Reimbursement - CD/Imms/Lead K Vogt 10.01-	115.50
91	12/8/2025	V12082025 7	Hoenes, Missie	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assisting	108.08
92	12/22/2025	V12222025 3	Kazlauskas, Mindie	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assist 12.02-12.10.25	108.08
93	12/22/2025	13234	Staples Business Credit	Copy Paper/Tape/Binder Clips/Envelopes	105.12
94	12/8/2025	V12082025	Whitcomb, Melissa	Annual Dental Uniform Allowance - M Whitcomb	100.00
95	12/22/2025	13238	The UPS Store #3816	Rabies Prevention Program - Shipping	100.00
96	12/22/2025	V12222025 7	Wolfe, Kathryn	Annual Uniform Allowance - Dental	100.00
97	12/8/2025	V12082025	Noggle, Deena	Annual Dental Uniform Allowance - D Noggle	97.35
98	12/8/2025	13201		Dental Refund	90.00
99	12/22/2025	V12222025 2	Burgett, Annie	CDA Renewal - A Burgett	90.00
100	12/8/2025	V12082025	Oosterwal, Susan	Mileage Reimbursement - HIV/STI	85.40
101	12/8/2025	V12082025 8	Kazlauskas, Mindie	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assisting 11/17,18,21	81.06
102	12/22/2025	V12222025 4	Kazlauskas, Mindie	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assist - 12.16-18.2025	81.06
103	12/8/2025	13208	West Michigan Document Shredding, LLC	Secure Shredding Services - 11.24.25	67.00
104	12/22/2025	13227		Dental Refund	66.00
105	12/8/2025	V12082025	Marchetti, Roseann	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage 11.12.25	65.96
106	12/22/2025	13237	The UPS Store #5277	CD Shipping - Rabies Testing	64.84
107	12/8/2025	13197		Dental Refund	64.50
108	12/22/2025	13229		Dental Refund	62.94
109	12/22/2025	13221	Fidelity Security Life Insurance Co.	June Billing Correction - Inv# 166843963	62.74
110	12/8/2025	13189	Jones, Jeremiah	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage 11.12.25	56.30
111	12/8/2025	13202	Summit Fire Protection	Monthly Fire Extinguisher Inspection - Lawrence	56.00
112	12/8/2025	13186	Gatties, Priscilla	Board Meeting Per Diem & Mileage - November 2025	54.20
113	12/22/2025	V12222025	Slack, Lisa	Mileage Reimbursement - Dental Assisting 12/1 & 12/8	54.04
114	12/8/2025	13192	Linderman, Robert	Board Meeting - Virtual - November 2025	50.00
115	12/22/2025	13231	Michigan Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development	Food Services Licensing Fees	49.00
116	12/8/2025	13194	Menards	Janitorial/Maintenance Supplies	47.31
117	12/22/2025	13230	State of Michigan	Laboratory Services	46.00
118	12/22/2025	13228		Dental Refund	40.00
119	12/5/2025	V120525R16	Rebecca L. Burge	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
120	12/5/2025	V120525R20	Ellen E. Carr	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
121	12/5/2025	V120525R24	Richard T. Conway	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
122	12/5/2025	V120525R32	Anna L. De La Rosa	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
123	12/5/2025	V120525R34	Nancy B. Desai	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
124	12/5/2025	V120525R40	George D. Friday	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
125	12/5/2025	V120525R48	Lauren E. Jaramillo	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
126	12/5/2025	V120525R56	Amy M. Malsbary	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
127	12/5/2025	V120525R66	Danielle Persky	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
128	12/5/2025	V120525R81	Jessica A. Smith	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
129	12/5/2025	V120525R103	Michele L. Woodhams	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
130	12/5/2025	V120525R106	Jennifer L. Zordan	Cell Phone Reimbursement	40.00
131	12/1/2025	49685633	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan	CDH Monthly Fee - 10.01.25-10.31	39.50
132	12/8/2025	13206		Dental Refund	31.62
133	12/22/2025	13236	Summit Fire Protection	Monthly Extinguisher Inspection - Dowagiac	25.00
134	12/31/2025	12312025 EF	Huntington National Bank	C/C Reconciliation 12.31.25	20.80
135	12/22/2025	V12222025 8	Woodhams, Michele	Mileage Reimbursement - CSHCS - 10.01.2025	17.08
136	12/22/2025	13214	Spencer's Soft Water	Water Cooler Rental - Dowagiac	14.98
137	12/8/2025	13177	Spencer's Soft Water	Water Delivery	11.27
138	12/31/2025	12312025 CD	Huntington National Bank	C/C Reconciliation 12.31.25	10.00

Total Disbursements - December

\$ 661,602.96

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - All Programs (Not Including Dental)

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - 1st Quarter

From 10/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Fees & Collections - 1st & 2nd Party	0.00	96,803.52
Fees & Collections - 3rd Party	0.00	44,759.32
MDHHS Comprehensive	0.00	594,420.00
Local Funds - Other	0.00	83,625.36
Non-Profit Grants	0.00	10,000.00
Total SOURCE OF FUNDS	0.00	829,608.20
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Salary & Wages	0.00	546,550.29
Fringe Benefits	0.00	180,888.93
Cap Exp for Equip & Fac	0.00	7,125.00
Supplies & Materials	0.00	18,880.97
Travel	0.00	13,218.47
Communication	0.00	19,865.36
Space Costs	0.00	68,964.64
All Others	0.00	39,580.29
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	0.00	895,073.95
INDIRECT COSTS		
Indirect Expenditures	0.00	446.88
Total INDIRECT COSTS	0.00	446.88
NET INCREASE(DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE	0.00	(65,912.63)

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - 1st Quarter

401 - Dental General ONLY

From 10/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Fees & Collections - 1st & 2nd Party	0.00	199,931.83
Fees & Collections - 3rd Party	0.00	347,306.37
Local Funds - Other	0.00	30.00
Non-Profit Grants	0.00	17,411.50
Total SOURCE OF FUNDS	0.00	564,679.70
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Salary & Wages	0.00	361,554.97
Fringe Benefits	0.00	89,165.89
Supplies & Materials	0.00	76,005.34
Travel	0.00	2,992.06
Communication	0.00	4,302.06
Space Costs	0.00	32,877.89
All Others	0.00	6,575.40
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	0.00	573,473.61
NET INCREASE(DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE	0.00	(8,793.91)

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - All Programs From 10/1/2024 Through 9/30/2025

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Fees & Collections - 1st & 2nd Party	0.00	538,291.39
Fees & Collections - 3rd Party	0.00	133,395.43
Federal Medicaid Outreach	0.00	69,965.76
Required Match - Local	0.00	82,838.02
MDHHS Comprehensive	0.00	2,963,656.00
Local Funds - Other	0.00	34,642.03
MDHHS Fixed Unit Rate	0.00	59,682.17
Non-Profit Grants	0.00	69,260.94
Total SOURCE OF FUNDS	0.00	3,951,731.74
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Salary & Wages	0.00	1,790,981.84
Fringe Benefits	0.00	532,674.33
Cap Exp for Equip & Fac	0.00	66,567.24
Contractual	0.00	82,838.87
Supplies & Materials	0.00	69,312.82
Travel	0.00	59,252.27
Communication	0.00	37,492.09
Space Costs	0.00	152,340.30
All Others	0.00	17,656.62
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	0.00	2,809,116.38
INDIRECT COSTS		
Cost Allocation Plan/Other	0.00	471,494.85
Total INDIRECT COSTS	0.00	471,494.85
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE	0.00	671,120.51

Van Buren-Cass District Health Department

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - DENTAL ONLY

99 - General Fund

401 - Dental General

From 10/1/2024 Through 9/30/2025

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Fees & Collections - 1st & 2nd Party	0.00	849,617.45
Fees & Collections - 3rd Party	0.00	1,399,898.13
Local Funds - Other	0.00	12.90
Non-Profit Grants	0.00	56,184.55
Total SOURCE OF FUNDS	0.00	2,305,713.03
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Salary & Wages	0.00	1,808,615.47
Fringe Benefits	0.00	400,461.89
Contractual	0.00	27,352.13
Supplies & Materials	0.00	328,895.58
Travel	0.00	10,458.37
Communication	0.00	4,737.47
Space Costs	0.00	151,599.81
All Others	0.00	5,531.20
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	0.00	2,737,651.92
INDIRECT COSTS		
Cost Allocation Plan/Other	0.00	466,702.19
Total INDIRECT COSTS	0.00	466,702.19
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE	0.00	(898,641.08)



Medical Director and Nursing

Public Health Nursing staff completed training in preparation for the MCIR Modernization Project, transitioning immunization reporting to the new system in summer 2026. Respiratory illnesses, including RSV, influenza, and COVID-19, increased in early December, prompting vaccination outreach from **MDHHS**¹ and VBCDHD to encourage timely flu and other recommended vaccines. During this period, one long-term care COVID-19 outbreak was reported, along with two pediatric **pertussis**² cases and continued sporadic reports of **hand, foot, and mouth disease**³. Communicable Disease Nursing also received updates on **New World Screwworm**⁴ surveillance, with current risk to the U.S. remaining very low.

Flu cases in Michigan⁵ continue to be a concern, especially **among children**⁶. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available for all ages, with free or low-cost options for **eligible children**⁷ and adults. For scheduling or questions, call the health department at (269) 621-3143 or visit **Vaccines.gov**⁸.

Environmental Health

- 26 septic permits
- 27 septic final inspections
- 28 well permits
- 23 well final inspections
- 47 restaurant inspections
- 14 restaurant reinspections
- 02 temporary food inspections
- 03 body art facility inspections

Dental Clinic and Outreach

In December, the Dowagiac clinic saw 347 patients, including 22 new patients, while the Lawrence clinic saw 429 patients with 12 new patients. Over the past couple of months, the dental clinic has experienced several changes, along with a seasonal slowdown due to holidays and severe weather, which led to an increase in cancellations. Fortunately, this appears to be mostly behind us, and we are looking forward to patient volumes picking up in the coming weeks.

Health Promotions

VBCDHD received a \$25,000 SNAP-Ed Nutrition grant from the Michigan Fitness Foundation to support the planned sunset of the SNAP-Ed program, which officially ended statewide in September. Through this funding, the program will aim to educate community members at events on nutrition related resources including food banks, mobile food distribution efforts, budgeting, and general nutrition education.

In addition, we were awarded a \$4,000 well-being grant from the Michigan Associational of Local Public Health (MALPH) to support employee wellness initiatives.

Location

Van Buren County

260 South Street, Lawrence, MI 49064

Cass County

302 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Business Hours

Monday - Thursday · 8:00am to 5:00pm

Friday · 8:00am to 12:00pm

Clinics

Van Buren County

Immunization · Thursdays

STI Testing & Treatment · Wednesdays

Dental · Monday - Thursday

Cass County

Immunization · 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

STI Testing & Treatment · Thursdays

Dental · Monday - Thursday

Newsworthy

Recall Alert: Pecorino Romano Cheese – Listeria Risk

UPDATE: Precautionary Boil Water Advisory – Eagle Lake Condos, Cass County Lifted

Links

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2025/12/02/flu-vaccine>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/hand-foot-mouth/about/index.html>

⁴ <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/stop-screwworm>

⁵ <https://www.michigan.gov/flu/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder1/Folder43/MIFluFocus.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.wnem.com/2026/01/22/flu-cases-rise-sharply-among-mid-michigan-children-season-hits-early/>

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html>

⁸ <https://www.vaccines.gov/en/>



Medical Director and Nursing

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available at the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department with several no-cost or low-cost options for children and adults. Most insurance plans cover flu vaccination for children ages 6 months to 18 years, and those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, Alaska Native, or American Indian may **qualify**¹ for free vaccination through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Adults can also receive flu vaccines at little or no cost, including uninsured or underinsured individuals through the Adult Vaccine Program (AVP).

The health department also offers the 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured or underinsured adults through AVP, and for children 6 months to 18 years both with insurance and through VFC for those who qualify. For details, call (269) 621-3143 or visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)² to find additional flu vaccine locations.

Health Promotions

Health Promotions staff began working on the Firearms Safety Grant. This \$123,000 grant is geared toward educating community members on firearms safety with educational campaigns, radio spots, and incentives such as trigger locks, and lock boxes or bags to store firearms. We will partner across both counties with a variety of community partners including the Sheriffs' departments, mental health organizations, local libraries, schools, and the Suicide Coalition in Van Buren.

vbcassdhd.org · (269) 621-3143

Dental Clinic and Outreach

In January, the Dowagiac clinic saw 319 patients, including 18 new patients, while the Lawrence clinic saw 438 patients with 19 new patients.

Several staffing changes will take effect beginning in February. Dr. Renda will divide his time between the Lawrence and Dowagiac clinics, and Dr. Stricker will move to full-time status to ensure both clinics are staffed Monday through Thursday.

Early hygiene hours in Lawrence have been successful, even amid challenging winter weather. This month also marks the implementation of the new fee schedule and sliding scale discount. Establishing a new billing structure required additional backend configuration with billing support from staff. While some adjustments are expected, the team is well prepared to navigate challenges as they arise.

Environmental Health

- 25 septic permits
- 24 well permits
- 45 restaurant inspections
- 02 temporary food inspections
- 13 septic final inspections
- 38 well final inspections
- 11 restaurant reinspections
- 03 public swimming pool inspections

Location

Van Buren County

260 South Street, Lawrence, MI 49064

Cass County

302 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Business Hours

Monday - Thursday · 8:00am to 5:00pm

Friday · 8:00am to 12:00pm

Clinics

Van Buren County

Immunization · Thursdays

STI Testing & Treatment · Wednesdays

Dental · Monday - Thursday

Cass County

Immunization · 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

STI Testing & Treatment · Thursdays

Dental · Monday - Thursday

Newsworthy

Boil Water Advisory Lifted for the Village of Decatur

Boil Water Advisory Lifted – Village of Decatur

Mobile Food Pantries – Van Buren & Cass Counties

Links

¹ **<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html>**

² **<http://vaccines.gov>**

Program Perspectives: A Series
Inside the initiatives driving healthier communities
2026 Presentation Schedule

This presentation series offers board members a concise, behind-the-scenes look at the programs shaping public health in our community. Each 10-minute presentation will spotlight a different area of focus, providing insights into the strategies, challenges, and successes that make our mission possible. We'll explore the impact of our work and the people who make it happen.

Date	Program Focus	Department	Staff Presenters
Wed., February 11 @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Well & Septic	Environmental Health	Cody Davis, Corrinne Taylor, Brian Lint, Ryan Heimsath
Wed., March 11 @ 3:00pm, Dowagiac	Food, Bugs, Pools & Campgrounds	Environmental Health	Rich Conway, Jessica Smith, Caitlin McNair, Ellen Carr, Cody Davis
Wed., April 8 @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Community Dental Clinics & Outreach	Dental	Dr. Andrew Malsbary and Emily Flowers
Wed., May 13 @ 3:00pm, Dowagiac	Community Health Programs & Outreach	Community Health	Holly Young
Wed., June 10, @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Communicable Disease & Tuberculosis	Clinical (Nursing)	Kim Vogt, Diana Baker and Julie Beeching
Wed., July 8 @ 3:00pm, Dowagiac	Immunizations & Lead Poisoning	Clinical (Nursing)	Nicole Balcuns, Diana Baker and Kim Vogt
Wed., August 12 @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Children's Special Healthcare Services	Clinical (Nursing)	Amy Malsbary, Michele Woodhams and Ermelinda Aranda
Wed. September 9 @ 3:00pm, Dowagiac	Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV programs	Clinical (Nursing)	Susan Oosterwal and Myah Smith
Wed., October 14 @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Children's Hearing & Vision Screening	Clinical	Melissa Eldred, Amy Wagoner and Julie Beeching
Wed., November 11 @ 3:00pm, Dowagiac Veterans Day	-----	-----	-----
Wed., December 9 @ 3:00pm, Lawrence	Public Health Communications	Community Health	Kelly Adkins



Michigan Flu Focus

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

January 9, 2026

Vol. 23; No. 14

Week Ending January 3, 2026 | WEEK 53

Editor: Sue Kim, MPH

Data provided in this report are preliminary and will be updated as additional data are received

Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity Map Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

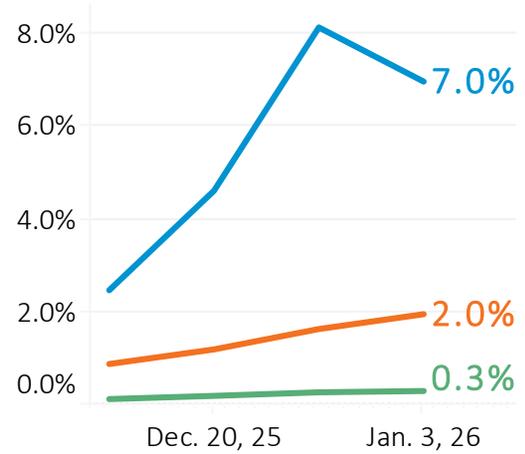
This system monitors visits for respiratory illness that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI, not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

2025-26 Influenza Season Week 53 ending Jan 03, 2026



Source: [CDC FluView](#) | [MDHHS Respiratory Disease Reports](#)

Percent of Emergency Department Visits Associated with COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV



For the 2025-26 respiratory season:

24.6% of Michiganders have received an Influenza vaccine	8.6% of Michiganders have received a COVID-19 vaccine
35.2% of Michiganders 0-7 months old have received an RSV antibody	43.5% of Michiganders +75 years old have received an RSV vaccine

Updates of Interest

Nationally, seasonal influenza activity remains elevated across the country. CDC [estimates](#) that there have been at least 15,000,000 illnesses, 180,000 hospitalizations, and 7,400 deaths from flu so far this season.

Please see CDC's latest [FluView report](#) for more information.

Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality

Nationally, seventeen (17) influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2025-2026 flu season. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Michigan have been confirmed by MDHHS for the 2025-2026 season.

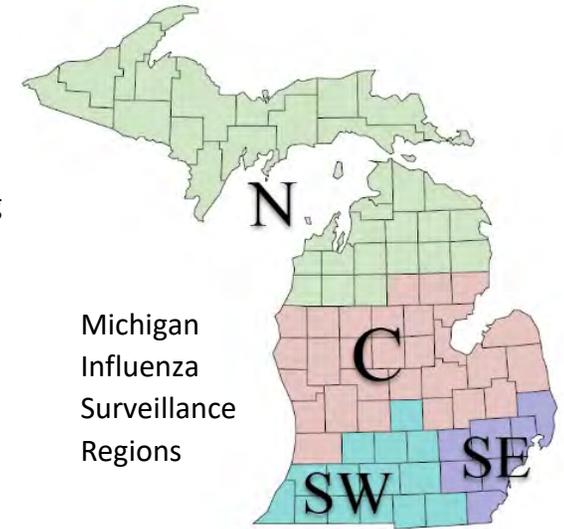
U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Michigan participates in ILINet, a collaborative effort between the CDC, state and local health departments, and volunteer sentinel clinicians as part of Michigan’s influenza surveillance. ILINet provides data on the total number of outpatient visits to health care providers seen for any reason and the number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI[†]). ILINet data is collected from a range of healthcare settings, including family medicine, internal medicine, and student health clinics. It also incorporates syndromic surveillance data submitted by urgent care and emergency departments through the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE).

[†]ILI is defined as fever (>100°F) and a cough and/or a sore throat.

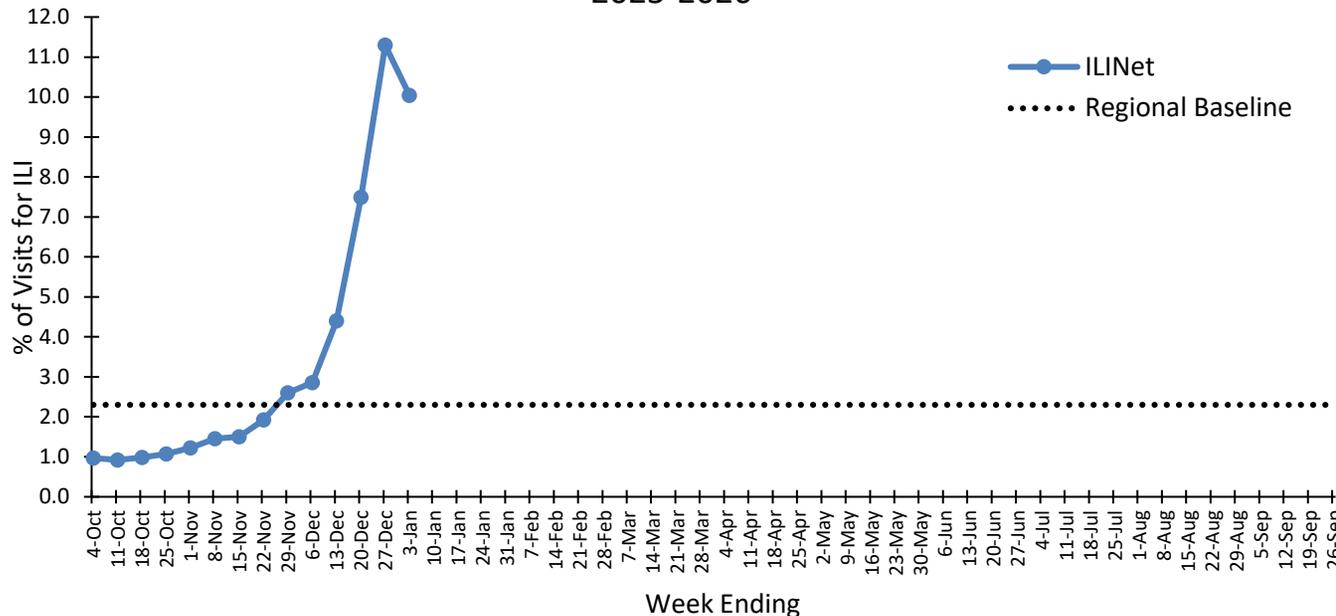
of Reports and ILI % by Region During this Time Period

	C	N	SE	SW
# of Reporters (256)	77	32	114	33
ILI %	8.0	9.7	12.1	6.8



Michigan Influenza Surveillance Regions

Percentage of Visits for ILI in Michigan Reported by ILINet, 2025-2026



Note: ILINet monitors visits for ILI (fever and cough and/or sore throat) and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

Michigan ILI Activity: 10% ↓

(Last week: 11.3%)

Regional Baseline: 2.3%

A total of **11,756** patient visits due to ILI were reported out of **117,121** outpatient visits.

National Surveillance

In the United States, **7.2%** of outpatient visits were due to ILI. This is **above** the national baseline of 3.1%

Become an ILINET provider!

Contact Arianna Eaton at

eatona4@michigan.gov

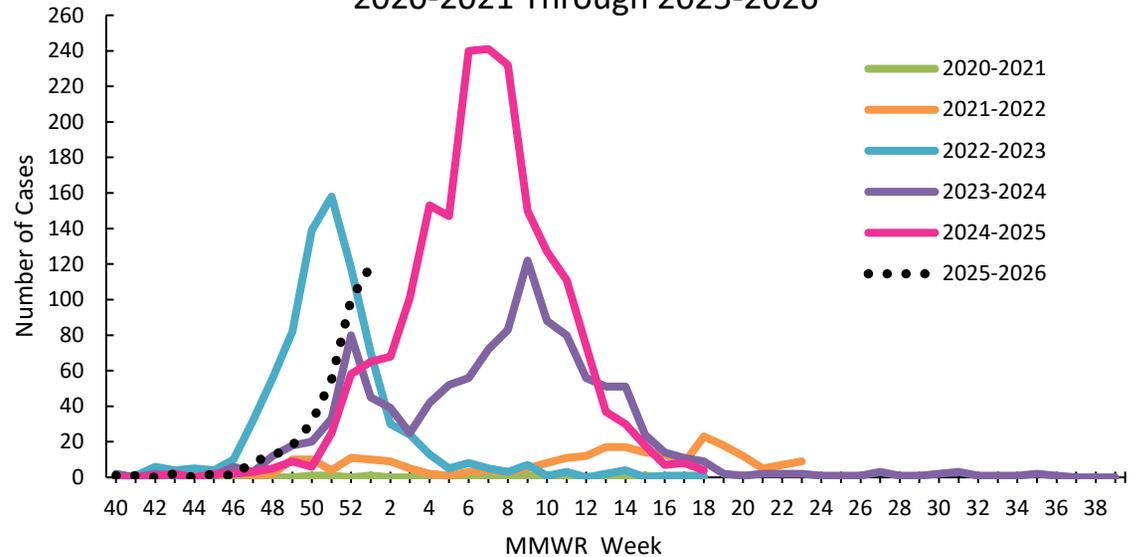
Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET)

The CDC's Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) provides population-based rates of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations beginning October 1st of each year. Michigan participates for Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties.

of MI FluSurv-NET Cases Reported During this Time Period

	Pediatric	Adult	Total
Cases (Change from Previous Week)	9 (-9)	110 (+28)	119 (+19)
Cumulative Cases	49	302	351

MI FluSurv-NET Cases by Season, 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026



Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations

Starting October 2024, acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals (representing 90% of the state) began reporting confirmed influenza cases among hospitalized patients.

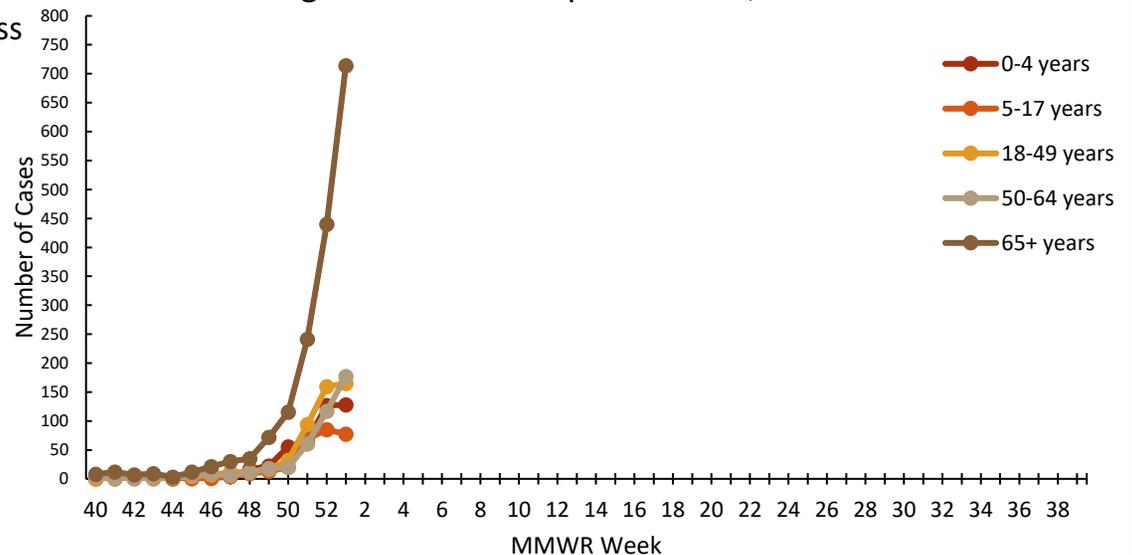
of Influenza Hospitalizations Reported During this Time Period

Region	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Hospitalizations	287	58	775	141	1261

of Influenza Hospitalizations by Region

Age Group	C	N	SE	SW	Total
0-4 years	37	2	380	15	434
5-17 years	23	0	244	13	280
18-49 years	92	26	347	40	505
50-64 years	106	18	250	59	433
65+ years	454	86	980	199	1719
Total	712	132	2201	326	3371

Michigan Influenza Hospitalizations, 2025-2026



If you have any questions about this data, please contact

MDHHS-CHECC-EMResource@michigan.gov

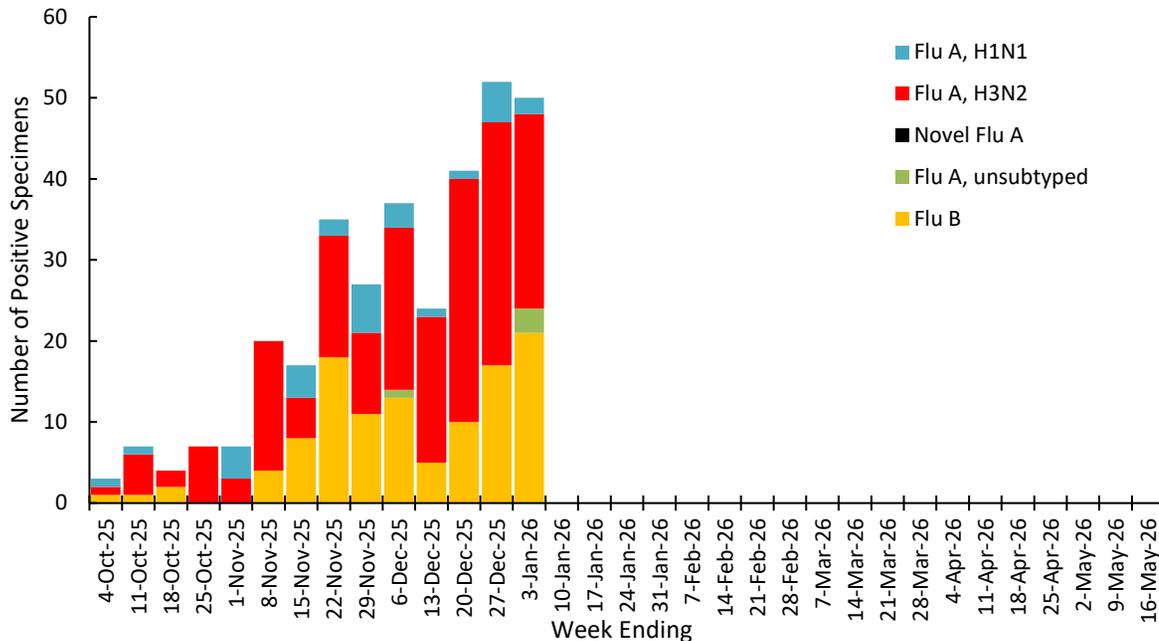
MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Virology Laboratory Data

There were **50** (4C, 2N, 23SE, 21SW) positive influenza results reported by the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) during this time period. Positive flu results for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

of Positive Influenza Virus Results by Region

	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Flu A H1N1	2	1	16	11	30
Flu A H3N2	48	9	71	58	186
Novel flu A*	0	0	0	0	0
Flu A unsubtype	0	1	1	2	4
Flu B**	10	1	78	22	111
Total	60	12	166	93	331

Influenza Positive Test Results, 2025-2026



Note: results are based on specimen collection date

*Novel influenza A results include: H5, H1N1v, H1N2v, H7N2v, H1v, H3v

**Flu B specimens will no longer be genotyped at MDHHS BOL but will continue being sent to CDC for surveillance.

Michigan Sentinel Clinical Lab Network Respiratory Virus Data

Eleven (11) sentinel clinical labs (1SE, 5SW, 4C, 1N) reported during this time period.

Southeast Region

Influenza A:	High ↓	↑ = Increase from previous week ↓ = Decrease from previous week → = Similar to previous week
Influenza B:	Moderate - high ↓	
SARS-CoV-2:	Slightly elevated →	
Parainfluenza:	Low ↓	
RSV:	Low - elevated →	
Adenovirus:	Sporadic - low ↓	
hMPV:	Sporadic - low ↓	

Central Region

Influenza A:	High ↓
Influenza B:	Slightly elevated →
SARS-CoV-2:	Elevated ↑
Parainfluenza:	Low - slightly elevated →
RSV:	Elevated - moderate →
Adenovirus:	Low →
hMPV:	Low - slightly elevated ↑

Southwest Region

Influenza A:	High →
Influenza B:	Low - moderate ↑
SARS-CoV-2:	Moderate - high →
Parainfluenza:	Sporadic ↑
RSV:	Low - elevated ↑
Adenovirus:	Sporadic →
hMPV:	Low ↑

North Region

Influenza A:	Low - moderate ↑
Influenza B:	No activity →
SARS-CoV-2:	Low →
Parainfluenza:	No activity →
RSV:	No activity ↓
Adenovirus:	No activity →
hMPV:	Sporadic ↑

Congregate Setting Influenza Outbreaks

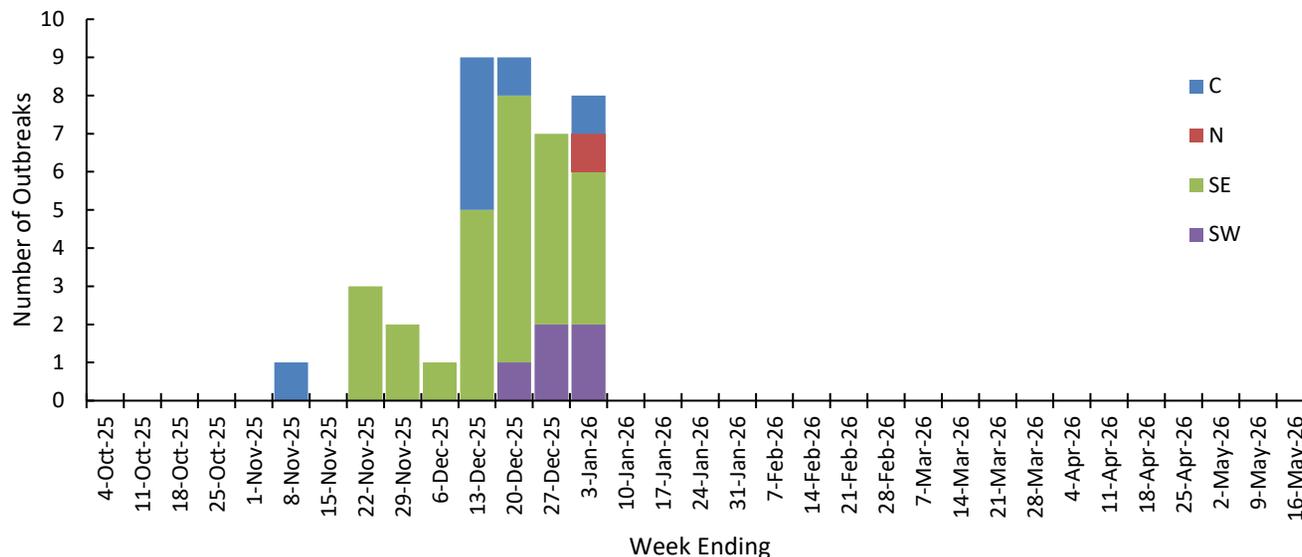
There were 8 (1C, 1N, 4SE, 2SW) confirmed influenza outbreaks reported to MDHHS during this time period. Influenza outbreaks for the 2025-2026 season are summarized below.

of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Region

Facility Type	C	N	SE	SW	Total
Schools: K-12 & College	2	0	13	0	15
Long-term Care / Assisted Living Facility	5	1	10	5	21
Healthcare Facility	0	0	1	0	1
Daycare	0	0	2	0	2
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0	0
Correctional Facility	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	1	27	5	40

Note: Data are reported on outbreaks with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

Influenza Outbreaks in Congregate Settings by Region, 2025-2026



Did you know?

Congregate setting outbreaks of viral respiratory illness are required to be reported to your local health department?

Outbreak Response Resources:

- [MDHHS Guidelines for Influenza and Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [MDHHS Respiratory Illness Outbreak Response Tool for use in Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)
- [CDC Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes](#)

For more information on outbreaks please visit the [Michigan Respiratory Virus Dashboard](#).

Health Officials Hold Round Table to Urge Vaccination ([WILX](#))

Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Chief Medical Executive for Michigan, Dr. Ryan Malosh, Director of the Division of Immunization for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Dr. Aarti Raheja, a board-certified pediatrician and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Michigan Medicine discuss respiratory virus season and vaccinating to prevent illness.



Subclade K Update

From December 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026, 97% of the influenza viruses reported by public health laboratories were influenza A. Of the subtyped influenza A viruses, 92% were A(H3N2). Among 436 influenza A(H3N2) viruses collected since September 28, 2025, that underwent additional genetic characterization at CDC, 91.5% belonged to subclade K. Read more on this week's FluView Report ([CDC](#)).

Influenza News Blast

- Flu continues to surge in Michigan -- what to know ([Click On Detroit](#))
- Michigan flu cases surge; some kids on ventilators, health officials say ([The Detroit News](#))
- Michigan 'a pretty sick state' amid surge of 'super flu,' COVID cases ([Bridge Michigan](#))
- What's subclade K? Why new 'super flu' can make you feel awful ([Detroit Free Press](#))
- Flu surge in Michigan: State reaches worst tier on CDC scale ([MLive](#))
- 'It's an issue of trust:' Doctors hope to increase vaccination rates ([WNEM](#))
- Michigan health officials urge families to vaccinate children as flu hospitalizations surge ([Click On Detroit](#))
- West Michigan hospitals busy amid flu surge ([Wood TV 8](#))
- Flu surge in Michigan has Midland County urging vaccinations ([Midland Daily News](#))
- 'We're following the science': Michigan faces high levels of flu activity ([WCMU](#))
- Michigan worsening flu rates expected to get even worse ([Fox 2](#))

Additional Resources

- [MDHHS Influenza Webpage](#) and [Influenza Surveillance in MI](#)
- **NEW!** [MDHHS Seasonal Respiratory Viruses Surveillance and Immunizations Dashboard](#)
- [MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories \(BOL\) Webpage](#)
 - [Test Request Forms](#)
- [Immunization Action Coalition: Ask the Experts - Flu](#)
- [CDC FluView Report](#)

View Michigan Flu Focus Report archives [here](#).

MDHHS Contributors

Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention: A. Eaton, MPH, L. Leegwater, MPH, S. Kim, MPH, V. Tellez Nunez, MPH, E. Urlaub, MPH

Bureau of Laboratories: K. Margulieux, PhD, V. Vavricka, MS



MICHIGAN HEALTH WATCH

Michigan ‘a pretty sick state’ amid surge of ‘super flu,’ COVID cases



by **Robin Erb**
January 6, 2026



A medical assistant holds a flu vaccine syringe. Fewer than 1 in 4 Michiganders are vaccinated against the flu. Experts say flu vaccines help reduce symptoms, even if they don't prevent the flu altogether. (AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson, File)

- **Driven by a new virus strain, flu season is packing a punch across Michigan and the US**
 - **As of Monday, 818 adults and children were in Michigan’s hospitals with flu — twice the number as last year at this time**
 - **Fewer than 1 in 4 Michiganders are vaccinated against the flu**
-

Peak flu season may be worse than usual this year, driven in part by a potent new strain of influenza. As of Monday, Michigan hospitals reported that 818 of their inpatients — 759 adults and 59 children — had influenza, according to the [Michigan Health & Hospital Association](#).

And while the majority of the hospitalized patients are 75 and older, it is very young children — 4 years and under — who make up the next highest rate for hospitalizations, according to the [newest state data](#).

In addition, 540 Michigan hospital patients have tested positive for COVID, according to Jim Lee, the organization’s senior vice president of policy and data analytics.

And that doesn’t count thousands of outpatients treated at emergency rooms, doctors offices and urgent care centers for flu, COVID and other respiratory misery.

“You couple (flu and COVID) with [RSV](#), the common cold, and rhinovirus, and we’re a pretty sick state,” said Dr. Terry Matthews, CEO and medical director of [Lansing Urgent Care](#), which operates eight sites.

Related:

- [Abuse, neglect common in Michigan nursing homes — and no one is coming to help](#)
- [Michigan caregivers have a new one-stop, online resource to find help](#)
- [Michigan’s death doulas bring solace to those navigating the end of life](#)

It’s the “layer cake effect,” in that the respiratory illnesses — strep throat is another one — add up to “a significant base layer of sick patients,” according to [Urgent Care Consultants](#), which tracks data for the industry.

“Right now, Michigan is fighting a specific Flu A epidemic that has landed on top of a stubborn, high baseline of COVID and Strep,” Alan Ayers, president of Urgent Care Consultants, told Bridge by email.

“If you are walking into an urgent care today with sudden, severe symptoms, the data suggests it is far more likely to be the flu than it was just three weeks ago,” Ayers wrote.

By **early Tuesday**, another seven flu outbreaks in congregate settings including schools, nursing homes and a prison had been reported to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, bringing the total to 32 this season.

Michigan isn't alone in reaching for the tissues and [Tamiflu and other medications](#).

Across the US, levels of flu cases in nearly every state, including Michigan, are listed as [“high” or “very high,”](#) according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the year closed, more than [9,800 Americans](#) were hospitalized with severe flu symptoms — bringing the total to 120,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 flu-related deaths since Oct. 25, according to data released late Monday by the CDC.

A bright spot? Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, cases have slid, according to both Ayers and Lee.

Shape-shifting misery

The surge in flu is likely driven by a new strain known as [H3N2 subclade K](#) or the [“super flu.”](#)

The genetics of the flu virus evolve each year in a process known as [antigenic drift](#), forcing drugmakers to reformulate each season's flu vaccines. In this case, the subclade K virus [emerged in June](#), after the US had settled on its vaccine formula for the 2025-26 season, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

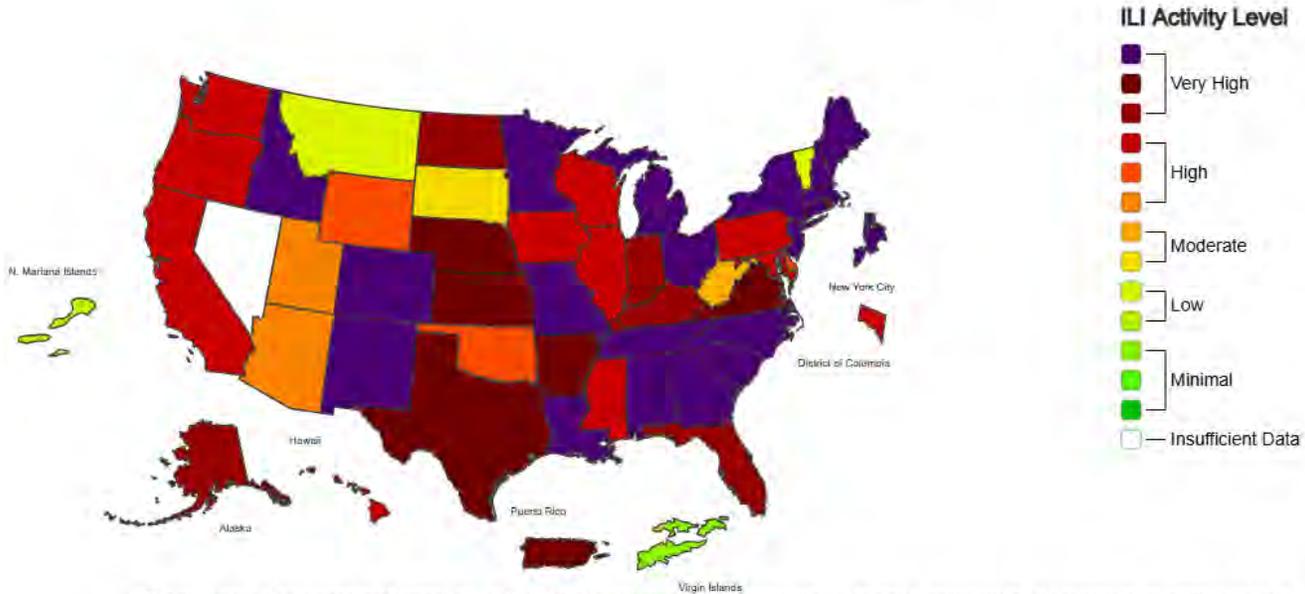
To what extent the new flu virus evades this season's vaccine is still unclear. Experts have said flu vaccines [help reduce symptoms](#) if they don't prevent the flu altogether.

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity Map Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

This system monitors visits for respiratory illness that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI, not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

2025-26 Influenza Season Week 52 ending Dec 27, 2025



*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.

*Data displayed in this map are based on data collected in ILINet, whereas the State and Territorial flu activity map are based on reports from state and territorial epidemiologists. The data presented in this map is preliminary and may change as more data is received.

*Differences in the data presented by CDC and state health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the state likely being the more complete.

*For the data download you can use Activity Level for the number and Activity Level Label for the text description.

*This graphic notice means that you are leaving an HHS Web site.

For more information, please see CDC's Exit Notification and Disclaimer policy.

For more information on the methodology, please visit Outpatient Illness Surveillance methods section.

(Courtesy of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

It's mostly unvaccinated patients that doctors are seeing at Lansing Urgent Care, which operates eight clinics, said Matthews, its CEO.

Some patients mistakenly believe that a flu vaccine they received years ago is still effective, he said. It's not.

"They're paying the price," he said. "They're out of work, they're miserable, their children aren't going to school."

Subclade K is more potent, Matthews said, “and it seems to target those less able to fight off an infection.”

Ayers agreed, noting that the steep upward swing in Flu A cases suggests “a highly contagious strain is circulating rapidly now that holiday gatherings have concluded.”

Several medical groups, as well as the state of Michigan, recommend vaccines against influenza, COVID and RSV. (Michigan’s recommendations [are here](#).)

About 2.4 million Michiganders — or fewer than 1 in 4 — are vaccinated against the flu. Fewer than 850,000 Michiganders — or fewer than 1 in 10 — [are vaccinated](#) against COVID, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. (Michiganders can get flu vaccines at their [local health department](#) or at clinics listed at the [Vaccine Finder](#) website.)

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[Powered by Newspack](#)

Cass County 2025 Reportable Diseases

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

Presented to: Appointed Membrs of the Board of Health
Presented by: Julie Beeching RN, BSN Director of Nursing

<u>Dec-2025 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total	2020 total
acute flaccid myelitis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
anaplasmosis					1								1	0	0	0	0	0	0
animal bites	4	4	8	5	5	7	9	8	7	7	5	8	77	66	66	73	66	63	61
anthrax													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
arboviral encephalitides													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
eastern equine													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
west nile													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
zika													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
babesiosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
blastomycosis													0	1	1	0	1	0	0
botulism													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
brucellosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
campylobacteriosis						2	2	1				1	5	6	6	5	3	4	5
candidiasis								1					1	0	0	0	0	0	0
chancroid													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
chickenpox/varicella													0	0	0	0	1	0	1
cholera													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
coccidioidomycosis						1							1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPO (CP-CRE)				1									1	0	0	1	0	1	0
cryptosporidiosis													0	1	1	1	1	2	4
cyclosporidiosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
dengue fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
diphtheria													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E-coli O157:H7													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ehrlichiosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
encephalitis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
giardiasis			1					1					2	3	3	1	3	0	6
glanders													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
guillain-barre syndrome													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
haemophilis influenzae	1							1					2	2	2	4	0	0	1
hantavirus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hemolytic uremic syndrome													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hemorrhagic fever virus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis A													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis B		1				2							3	2	2	2	2	2	5
hepatitis C acute	3		1			1							5	9	9	8	0	2	2
hepatitis C chronic	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	4		1		1	18	8	8	17	6	3	9
hepatitis non A non B													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
histoplasmosis	1	1	1		1								4	2	2	1	0	0	0
influenza virus ILI and confirmed	186	411	141	75	67	7	0	3	98	150	121	129	1388	1049	1049	933	267	0	677
kawasaki disease													0	0	0	1	0	0	0
legionellosis	1												1	0	0	1	2	2	3
leprosy													0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Cass County 2025 Reportable Diseases

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

Presented to: Appointed Membrs of the Board of Health
Presented by: Julie Beeching RN, BSN Director of Nursing

<u>Dec-2025 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total	2020 total
leptospirosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
listeriosis													0	0	0	2	0	0	1
lyme disease						2	2		1	2	1		8	5	5	10	4	16	3
malaria													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
measles													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
meliodosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
meningitis - aseptic								2					2	0	0	2	2	1	2
meningitis - bacterial													0	0	0	2	0	0	0
meningococcal disease													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MERS-CoV													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mumps													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
orthopox virsu													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pertussis	1			2	3			2					8	2	2	0	0	0	0
plague													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
polio													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
prion disease													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psittacosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rabies													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rubella													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
salmonellosis							1					1	1	4	4	3	1	3	4
SARS													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
shigellosis													0	1	1	0	0	0	0
spotted fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEC - shiga toxin e-coli							1						1	0	0	0	1	0	0
staphylococcus aureus MRSA													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
streptococcus pneumonia,Invasive			1	1				1		1	1		5	5	5	2	5	0	4
streptococcus pyogenes grp A		1		1									2	5	5	10	0	2	3
tetanus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
toxic shock syndrome													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
trichinellosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
tuberculosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
tularemia													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
typhoid fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vibriosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VISA(5)/VERSA(4)													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
yellow fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
yersiniosis				1									1	1	1	0	0	2	0
COVID-19	68	46	17	13	4	7	2	10	47	10	14	43	281	480	480	729	3748	5253	2895
RSV pediatic mortality (< 5 yrs of age)													0	0	0	na	na	na	na

**Van Buren County 2025
Reportable Diseases**

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

Presented to: Appointed Membrs of the Board of Health
Presented by: Julie Beeching RN, BSN Director of Nursing

<u>Dec-2025 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total	2020 total
acute flaccid myelitis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
anaplasmosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
animal bites	11	12	21	17	18	23	17	25	21	14	9	6	194	150	150	117	185	131	151
anthrax													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
arboviral encephalitides													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
eastern equine													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
west nile													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
zika													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
babesiosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
blastomycosis				1									1	1	1	1	0	0	0
botulism													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
brucellosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
campylobacteriosis	1		1	1	3	1	9	4		2			22	18	18	12	13	16	7
candidiasis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
chancroid													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
chickenpox/varicella			1	1								1	3	5	5	0	0	0	1
cholera													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
coccidioiodomycosis													0	0	0	1	0	0	0
CPO (CP-CRE)											1		1	0	0	0	1	0	1
cryptosporidiosis							1	1					2	1	1	2	4	4	5
cyclosporidiosis													0	0	0	0	0	3	1
dengue fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
diphtheria													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E-coli 0157:H7													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ehrlichiosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
encephalitis													0	0	0	0	0	0	2
giardiasis					1			1	1	1			4	1	1	4	3	3	9
glanders													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
guillain-barre syndrome													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
haemopholis influenzae				1	1			2					4	0	0	4	2	1	2
hantavirus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hemolytic uremic syndrome													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hemorrhagic fever virus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis A	1												1	0	0	0	0	0	1
hepatitis B													0	1	1	2	2	5	2
hepatitis C acute		1						1		1		1	4	11	11	3	1	4	6
hepatitis C chronic		1			2	1	2			1	1		8	20	20	18	12	13	17
hepatitis non A non B													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
histoplasmosis		3								1			4	0	0	3	8	3	0
influenza virus ILI & Confirmed	710	1460	714	365	184	29	2	12	277	315	241	302	4611	3547	3547	3070	1739	5	1699
kawasaki disease													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
legionellosis													0	4	4	0	1	3	3
leprosy													0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Reportable Diseases

<u>Dec-2025 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total	2020 total
leptospirosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
listeriosis													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
lyme disease			1		1	5	10	5	4				26	20	20	23	11	16	3
malaria													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
measles													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
melioidosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
meningitis - aseptic					1	1	1		1	1			5	1	1	2	6	2	4
meningitis - bacterial					1		1						2	5	5	3	2	0	0
meningococcal disease													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MERS-CoV													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mumps													0	0	0	1	0	0	0
orthopox virus										1			1	0	0	0	0	0	0
pertussis	1					1	1	1				1	5	5	5	0	0	0	4
plague													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
polio													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
prion disease													0	0	0	0	0	1	0
psittacosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q fever													0	0	0	0	0	1	0
rabies													0	0	0	1	0	0	0
rubella													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
salmonellosis	2						1	1		1			5	6	6	13	4	7	5
SARS													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
shigellosis													0	3	3	5	2	1	1
spotted fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	1
STEC - shiga toxin e-coli				1						1			2	3	3	4	1	1	2
staphylococcus aureus MRSA	1				1					1			3	11	11	1	2	0	0
streptococcus pneumonia Inv.	2	2	1	1	1		1		1		1	2	12	11	11	11	7	11	5
streptococcus pyogenes grp A	1	2		1						1			5	5	5	19	3	0	2
tetanus													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strep toxic shock syndrome													0	0	0	0	0	0	1
trichinellosis													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
tuberculosis	1												1	0	0	0	0	0	0
tularemia													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
typhoid fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vibriosis													0	0	0	0	1	0	0
VISA(5)/VERSA(4)													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
yellow fever													0	0	0	0	0	0	0
yersiniosis					1					1			2	3	3	2	1	0	4
COVID-19	118	104	42	18	5	2	12	25	60	15	24	69	494	879	879	1254	7475	8410	3877
RSV pediatric mortality (< 5 yrs of age)													0	0	0	na	na	na	na

Monthly

Cass County 2026 Reportable Diseases

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

Presented to: Appointed Membrs of the Board of Health
Presented by: Julie Beeching RN, BSN Director of Nursing

<u>Jan-2026 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	2025 total	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total
acute flaccid myelitis													0		0	0	0	0	0
anaplasmosis													0		1	0	0	0	0
animal bites	3												3	4	77	66	73	66	63
anthrax													0		0	0	0	0	0
arboviral encephalitides													0		0	0	0	0	0
eastern equine													0		0	0	0	0	0
west nile													0		0	0	0	0	0
zika													0		0	0	0	0	0
babesiosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
blastomycosis													0		0	1	0	1	0
botulism													0		0	0	0	0	0
brucellosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
campylobacteriosis													0		5	6	5	3	4
candidiasis													0		1	0	0	0	0
chancroid													0		0	0	0	0	0
chickenpox/varicella													0		0	0	0	1	0
cholera													0		0	0	0	0	0
coccidioidomycosis													0		1	0	0	0	0
CPO (CP-CRE)													0		1	0	1	0	1
cryptosporidiosis													0		0	1	1	1	2
cyclosporidiosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
dengue fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
diphtheria													0		0	0	0	0	0
E-coli O157:H7													0		0	0	0	0	0
ehrlichiosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
encephalitis													0		0	0	0	0	0
giardiasis													0		2	3	1	3	0
glanders													0		0	0	0	0	0
guillain-barre syndrome													0		0	0	0	0	0
haemophilis influenzae													0	1	2	2	4	0	0
hantavirus													0		0	0	0	0	0
hemolytic uremic syndrome													0		0	0	0	0	0
hemorrhagic fever virus													0		0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis A													0		0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis B													0		3	2	2	2	2
hepatitis C acute	2												2	3	5	9	8	0	2
hepatitis C chronic	2												2	1	18	8	17	6	3
hepatitis non A non B													0		0	0	0	0	0
histoplasmosis													0	1	4	2	1	0	0
influenza virus ILI and confirmed	166												166	186	1388	1049	933	267	0
kawasaki disease													0		0	0	1	0	0
legionellosis													0	1	1	0	1	2	2
leprosy													0		0	0	0	0	0

Cass County 2026 Reportable Diseases

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

Presented to: Appointed Membrs of the Board of Health
Presented by: Julie Beeching RN, BSN Director of Nursing

<u>Jan-2026 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	2025 total	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total
leptospirosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
listeriosis													0		0	0	2	0	0
lyme disease													0		8	5	10	4	16
malaria													0		0	0	0	1	0
measles													0		0	0	0	0	0
meliodosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
meningitis - aseptic													0		2	0	2	2	1
meningitis - bacterial													0		0	0	2	0	0
meningococcal disease													0		0	0	0	0	0
MERS-CoV													0		0	0	0	0	0
mumps													0		0	0	0	1	0
orthopox virsu													0		0	0	0	0	0
pertussis													0	1	8	2	0	0	0
plague													0		0	0	0	0	0
polio													0		0	0	0	0	0
prion disease													0		0	0	0	0	0
psittacosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
Q fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
rabies													0		0	0	0	0	0
rubella													0		0	0	0	0	0
salmonellosis	2												2		1	4	3	1	3
SARS													0		0	0	0	0	0
shigellosis													0		0	1	0	0	0
spotted fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
STEC - shiga toxin e-coli													0		1	0	0	1	0
staphylococcus aureus MRSA													0		0	0	0	0	0
streptococcus pneumonia,Invasive	1												1		5	5	2	5	0
streptococcus pyogenes grp A													0		2	5	10	0	2
tetanus													0		0	0	0	0	0
toxic shock syndrome													0		0	0	0	0	0
trichinellosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
tuberculosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
tularemia													0		0	0	0	0	0
typhoid fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
vibriosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
VISA(5)/VERSA(4)													0		0	0	0	0	0
yellow fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
yersiniosis													0		1	1	0	0	2
COVID-19	40												40	68	281	480	729	3748	5253
RSV pediatric mortality (< 5 yrs of age)													0		0	0	na	na	na

**Van Buren County 2026
Reportable Diseases**

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

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<u>Jan-2026 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	2025 total	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total
acute flaccid myelitis													0		0	0	0	0	0
anaplasmosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
animal bites	4												4	11	194	150	117	185	131
anthrax													0		0	0	0	0	0
arboviral encephalitides													0		0	0	0	0	0
eastern equine													0		0	0	0	0	0
west nile													0		0	0	0	0	0
zika													0		0	0	0	0	0
babesiosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
blastomycosis													0		1	1	1	0	0
botulism													0		0	0	0	0	0
brucellosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
campylobacteriosis													0	1	22	18	12	13	16
candidiasis													0		0	0	0	0	0
chancroid													0		0	0	0	0	0
chickenpox/varicella	1												1		3	5	0	0	0
cholera													0		0	0	0	0	0
coccidioidomycosis													0		0	0	1	0	0
CPO (CP-CRE)													0		1	0	0	1	0
cryptosporidiosis													0		2	1	2	4	4
cyclosporidiosis													0		0	0	0	0	3
dengue fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
diphtheria													0		0	0	0	0	0
E-coli 0157:H7													0		0	0	0	0	0
ehrlichiosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
encephalitis													0		0	0	0	0	0
giardiasis													0		4	1	4	3	3
glanders													0		0	0	0	0	0
guillain-barre syndrome													0		0	0	0	1	0
haemophilis influenzae	1												1		4	0	4	2	1
hantavirus													0		0	0	0	0	0
hemolytic uremic syndrome													0		0	0	0	0	0
hemorrhagic fever virus													0		0	0	0	0	0
hepatitis A													0	1	1	0	0	0	0
hepatitis B													0		0	1	2	2	5
hepatitis C acute	2												2		4	11	3	1	4
hepatitis C chronic													0		8	20	18	12	13
hepatitis non A non B													0		0	0	0	0	0
histoplasmosis													0		4	0	3	8	3
influenza virus ILI & Confirmed	550												550	710	4611	3547	3070	1739	5
kawasaki disease													0		0	0	0	1	0
legionellosis													0		0	4	0	1	3
leprosy													0		0	0	0	0	0

**Van Buren County 2026
Reportable Diseases**

Date Reported: 02/11/2026

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<u>Jan-2026 Reporting Period</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	2025 total	2024 total	2023 total	2022 total	2021 total
leptospirosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
listeriosis													0		0	0	0	1	0
lyme disease													0		26	20	23	11	16
malaria													0		0	0	0	0	0
measles													0		0	0	0	0	0
meliodosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
meningitis - aseptic													0		5	1	2	6	2
meningitis - bacterial	1												1		2	5	3	2	0
meningococcal disease													0		0	0	0	0	0
MERS-CoV													0		0	0	0	0	0
mumps													0		0	0	1	0	0
orthopox virus													0		1	0	0	0	0
pertussis	1												1	1	5	5	0	0	0
plague													0		0	0	0	0	0
polio													0		0	0	0	0	0
prion disease													0		0	0	0	0	1
psittacosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
Q fever													0		0	0	0	0	1
rabies													0		0	0	1	0	0
rubella													0		0	0	0	0	0
salmonellosis													0	2	5	6	13	4	7
SARS													0		0	0	0	0	0
shigellosis	1												1		0	3	5	2	1
spotted fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
STEC - shiga toxin e-coli													0		2	3	4	1	1
staphylococcus aureus MRSA	2												2	1	3	11	1	2	0
streptococcus pneumonia Inv.													0	2	12	11	11	7	11
streptococcus pyogenes grp A	1												1	1	5	5	19	3	0
tetanus													0		0	0	0	0	0
Strep toxic shock syndrome													0		0	0	0	0	0
trichinellosis													0		0	0	0	0	0
tuberculosis													0	1	1	0	0	0	0
tularemia													0		0	0	0	0	0
typhoid fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
vibriosis													0		0	0	0	1	0
VISA(5)/VERSA(4)													0		0	0	0	0	0
yellow fever													0		0	0	0	0	0
yersiniosis													0		2	3	2	1	0
COVID-19	122												122	118	494	879	1254	7475	8410
RSV pediatric mortality (< 5 yrs of age)													0		0	0	na	na	na

CDC Childhood Immunization Schedule Update – Overview

Following a scientific review comparing the United States childhood and adolescent immunization schedule with those of peer, developed nations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released updates to the U.S. childhood immunization schedule. Under the updated guidance, the CDC continues to recommend routine immunization for all children against 10 diseases for which there is broad international consensus, as well as varicella (chickenpox). For additional diseases, the CDC recommends vaccination for defined high-risk groups or through shared clinical decision-making when population-wide benefit cannot be clearly established. This represents a change from the CDC child and adolescent schedule in effect at the end of 2024, which recommended 17 vaccines for universal use in all children.

Key Features of the Updated CDC Schedule

The updated CDC childhood immunization schedule:

1. Aligns routine vaccine recommendations with those supported by consensus among peer, developed nations.
2. Expands the use of shared clinical decision-making and targeted recommendations for certain vaccines, particularly for individuals or populations at higher risk.
3. Maintains access to all vaccines included in prior schedules. These vaccines remain covered under Affordable Care Act–compliant insurance plans and federal programs, including Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. No changes to reimbursement or out-of-pocket costs for families are anticipated.
4. Is accompanied by a commitment from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to strengthen vaccine research, including additional randomized controlled trials and observational studies to evaluate long-term outcomes of individual vaccines and the overall immunization schedule.

Relationship to American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other professional organizations continue to recommend adherence to the prior immunization schedule. No vaccine included in previous guidance has been reclassified as “not recommended” under the updated CDC schedule. Both the CDC and AAP continue to endorse vaccines that have demonstrated safety and effectiveness in preventing disease.

Differences between the two sets of guidance primarily involve recommendation language, timing of administration, number of doses, and the CDC’s increased use of shared clinical decision-making.

Examples include:

- The AAP recommends routine hepatitis B vaccination for all newborns at birth, whereas the CDC recommends birth-dose vaccination for infants at higher risk and initiation of the vaccine series at two months of age for others.
- The AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents aged 6 months through 18 years, while the CDC advises that vaccination in this age group be considered through shared clinical decision-making based on individual risk factors.

Public Health Context

The CDC has indicated that these updates are intended to address declining vaccine uptake, reduced public confidence, and gaps in public understanding related to vaccine safety. The updated approach emphasizes informed discussions between patients, families, and healthcare providers and supports individualized clinical decision-making.

Our Health Department continues to follow CDC recommendations while recognizing that some healthcare providers and organizations may choose to align with American Academy of Pediatrics guidance.

Areas of Alignment

- Both the CDC and AAP share the goal of protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Both support informed discussions between parents and healthcare providers regarding vaccine benefits and risks.
- Vaccine availability and insurance coverage are expected to remain unchanged.
- Children whose families choose full vaccination will receive the same vaccines by kindergarten age under either set of recommendations.
- Continued efforts to improve vaccine research, transparency, and safety monitoring are broadly supported.

Areas of Ongoing Concern

- Limited cooperation and agreement between organizations may contribute to public confusion and mistrust.
- Media coverage that lacks balance or context can further complicate public understanding of vaccine policy.
- Education efforts related to the updated CDC schedule may be less visible than public opposition to the changes.
- Effective vaccine counseling requires adequate provider time, communication skills, and access to clear, evidence-based resources.
- Institutional policies within large healthcare systems may influence how vaccine information is presented to families by their employed providers.

Future Policy Considerations

- A review of immunization policies across 20 peer, developed countries found no significant difference in vaccination rates between countries that mandate childhood vaccines and those that rely primarily on education and recommendations. This topic may warrant further discussion in future public health policy considerations.
- Trust in public health and healthcare institutions remains a significant challenge. Collaboration among federal, state, and private healthcare entities using evidence-based medicine is essential to improving public confidence and health outcomes.

[Fact Sheet: CDC Childhood Immunization Recommendations | HHS.gov](#)

[Assessment of the U.S. Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule Compared to Other Countries](#)

[CDC Acts on Presidential Memorandum to Update Childhood Immunization Schedule | CDC Newsroom](#)

Medical Director's Report

A new ranking released by U.S. News & World Report says Michigan is **No. 43rd** overall in meeting the diverse needs of its residents.

The rankings, which U.S. News first launched in 2017, assess the states across eight categories and 71 metrics. Here's where Michigan ranked in -

Health care: No. 22

Education: No. 45

Natural environment: No. 32

Opportunity: No. 23

Economy: No. 33

Crime and corrections: No. 39

Infrastructure: No. 44

Fiscal stability: No. 38

We had particularly weak scores in Education and Infrastructure which contributed to us being ranked the 8th worst state in the country.

We did rank better in Public Health but still were in the lower half of the states.

No. 34 in Public Health

Mental Health: No. 41

Low Infant Mortality Rate: No. 34

Low Obesity Rate: No. 30

Low Smoking Rate: No. 31

Low Mortality Rate: No. 33

Higher than the average state's hospital readmission rate.

Michigan's data may be skewed by the densely populated southeast including the city of Detroit and its surrounding suburbs. Next month I hope to present how our district compares to the rest of the state in these rankings followed in subsequent months by what is being done in our district to try to improve these rankings.

[Rankings: Overall Best States | U.S. News Best States](#)



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 7, 2026

To: Principals and Superintendents of all Michigan Public, Private, Charter and Parochial Schools

From: Michele Kawabe, MPH, RDN, CDCES
Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program Consultant

Subject: Dental Screening for Kindergarten Entrants

[Section 333.9316](#) of the Public Health Code requires that all children in Michigan enrolled in their first year of school, either kindergarten or 1st grade, receive an oral health assessment (“dental screening”). MDHHS is required by law to establish and maintain a statewide Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (KOHA) to provide the dental screenings at no cost to families. Similar to Michigan’s school-based hearing and vision screening programs, the dental screening program is carried out at the local level through local health departments or their designee and operates in all Michigan counties.

Please note the following points regarding the kindergarten dental screenings:

- **Parents/guardians** are responsible for getting their child’s dental screening completed.
- **Schools** facilitate the screenings by communicating the requirement to parents along with options for screening. Schools are encouraged to collaborate with local health departments to provide the screenings on-site during registration events and during the kindergarten school year.
- **Local health departments (or their designees)** offer no-cost dental screenings to all eligible children within their service area and coordinate events with local schools and pre-K settings.
- Dental screenings can take place prior to entry into kindergarten but no earlier than 6 months prior to the start of school. They can also take place during the kindergarten school year through May 31st.
- Children cannot be barred from enrolling in or attending school if the dental screening is not completed prior to the start of the school year. Schools are encouraged to arrange for [local health departments](#) to provide in-school dental screenings during the kindergarten school year in an effort to reach children who did not have it done prior to the start of school.
- The [MDHHS Certificate of Dental Screening](#) (MDHHS-6280) or a letter from a private dental office are acceptable forms of documentation.
- All Michigan schools are required to report their dental screening data to the State. Schools that receive proof of screening from a parent/guardian or local health department should select the

“Dental Screened” checkbox in MCIR. Selecting this box in MCIR indicates a student was screened and fulfills the school’s reporting requirement to the State.

More information about the State’s dental screening program and resources for schools can be found on the [MDHHS KOHA website](#).

Should you or your support personnel have questions regarding the kindergarten dental screenings, please contact MDHHS-KOHA@michigan.gov.

Sliding Scale Fee Schedule Application

We use this form to decide your discount based on your income.

Patient Name:	Parent or Legal Guardian Name:
Phone Number:	Home Address:
Total # of People Living in Your Home:	

How much money do you and the people living in your home make at your job(s)?

Name	Total Amount	Frequency (circle one)	Name of Employer
You	\$	Bi-Weekly Monthly Yearly	
Spouse/Partner	\$	Bi-Weekly Monthly Yearly	
Other (grandparent, extended family, etc.)	\$	Bi-Weekly Monthly Yearly	

If anyone in your home receives the benefits listed below, how much money do they get each month?

Write the total monthly amount.

Other Income	Unemployment Benefits	SNAP/Bridge Card/WIC	Social Security Benefits	Retirement Pension	Child support	Other
You	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Spouse/Partner	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other (grandparent, extended family, etc.)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Children		\$				\$
Total						

Before approving the application, we must receive at least one document showing proof of income for everyone receiving income in your household. *Examples of acceptable documents include: yearly income tax return, a copy of your W-2 or 1099, three (3) paystubs, a copy of your social security check or social security statement. We may consider other forms of proof of income; please check with office staff first.*

I certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if my income changes, I will tell the clinic. I understand that I will be asked to re-apply every year. If I do not accurately provide my income or update it on time, I may lose my discount or be removed from the clinic.

Patient or Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Environmental Health: Residential/Type III Wells Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

George Friday, RS/REHS, Director of Environmental Health (15 years)

Cody Davis, REHS/RS, CPO, Supervising Sanitarian (8 years)

Brian Lint, Environmental Sanitarian (36 years)

Corrinne Taylor, Environmental Sanitarian (8 years)

Ryan Heimsath, Environmental Sanitarian (3 years)

Carrie Hiemstra, Secretary (25 years)

Robin Cornejo, Secretary (25 years)



What are Residential/Type III Wells Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems?

A **Residential well** is an onsite groundwater well that serves a single home or household for drinking, cooking, and other domestic uses.

A **Type III well** is a small public water supply that is not a Type I (community) or Type II (non-community) public water supply. Typically serves fewer than 25 people, fewer than 15 service connections, or operates less than 60 days per year.



What We Do

Well Permits

Homeowners

Our sanitarians guide homeowners through the process, from site evaluation and system design to permit issuance and final inspection, ensuring your well meets all safety and environmental standards.

Sanitation Permits

Homeowners

Whether homeowners are installing a new septic system or replacing an existing one, our team will assist with every step. We help ensure your septic system is designed and installed correctly to prevent water pollution and protect public health.

Home Loans

Home Buyers

Buying or selling a home? We offer well and septic system inspections to ensure everything is in order before the sale is finalized.

DHS Inspections

Adult Foster Care, Daycare Centers, Children's Camps

Inspections are conducted to ensure a safe and healthy environment for individuals in these care settings.



VAN BUREN / CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Van Buren County Office
Environmental Health Services
240 South Street
Lawrence, MO 64504
(269) 621-3143
Check payable to VBCDHD

Cass County Office
Environmental Health Services
302 S. First Street
Douglas, MO 64601
(269) 782-0564
Check payable to VBCDHD

APPLICATION FOR WELL/SEPTIC PROJECT OR INSPECTION

Application for: Residential Business **ALL PERMITS GOOD FOR ONE YEAR**

Sewer System - New Construction* \$300 Well Permit - New Construction* \$100 Home loan - water & septic** \$200
 Septic System - Replacement \$300 Well Permit - Replacement** \$200 Home loan - well & water \$200
 Sefitic - Hookup to Existing** \$100 Well - Hook up to Existing* \$100 Home loan - septic only** \$100
 Septic - Tank Only \$300 Well - Renewal** \$100 Home water test \$30
 Septic - Recharge** \$100 Well Permit - Type II \$100 Short term rental - water & septic** \$200
 * Includes notices of warning & no receipt charge. Well Permit - Type II Alteration \$500 Short term rental - septic only** \$170
 ** Includes applicable fee for document by document.

Address of property: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____ Parcel #: _____
 Township: _____ Subdivision: _____ Lot #: _____ of _____
 Is this a single family dwelling? Yes No. If No, indicate dwelling type or business name: _____
 Number of Bedrooms: _____ Number of Occupants: _____ Number of Bathrooms: _____
 Is there a garbage grinder in the kitchen sink? Yes No
 Is municipal sewer available? Yes No Is municipal water available? Yes No

Applicant: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Work/Cell Phone (_____) _____ Work/Cell Phone (_____) _____
 Home Phone (_____) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____
 Email: _____ Email: _____

NOTE: Prior to the placement performing any site evaluation that involves disturbing the ground surface, i.e., auger borings, drilling, etc., the property owner must contact MISS DQI to ensure identify any and all underground utilities. If the property owner fails to notify MISS DQI, the local public health department assumes no liability for the extent of any damages resulting and the property owner shall bear all costs of repairs.

NOTE: A Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Permit is required when any soil is disturbed within 500' of any water bodies, i.e. lake, stream, creek, river, etc.) by conducting (269) 678-0341 (Van Buren County) or (269) 646-5841 (Cass County) extension 4 (Cass County).

Applicant Name: _____ Signature: _____

State Application Received	Health Department Use Only	Parcel Number	Permit Number

Application for Well/Septic Project or Inspection



Why We Do It

Public Health Goals

- Protecting Drinking Water/Groundwater, Disease Prevention, Environmental Protection are some of the major public health goals for Environmental Health.

Safe and Sustainable

- Ensure Safe Sustainable Water Supply and stopping the spread of disease at a community level.

Maintenance and Education

- At an individual level, providing guidance on maintenance, education, and recommendations to extend the life of the well and septic system.



How We Deliver



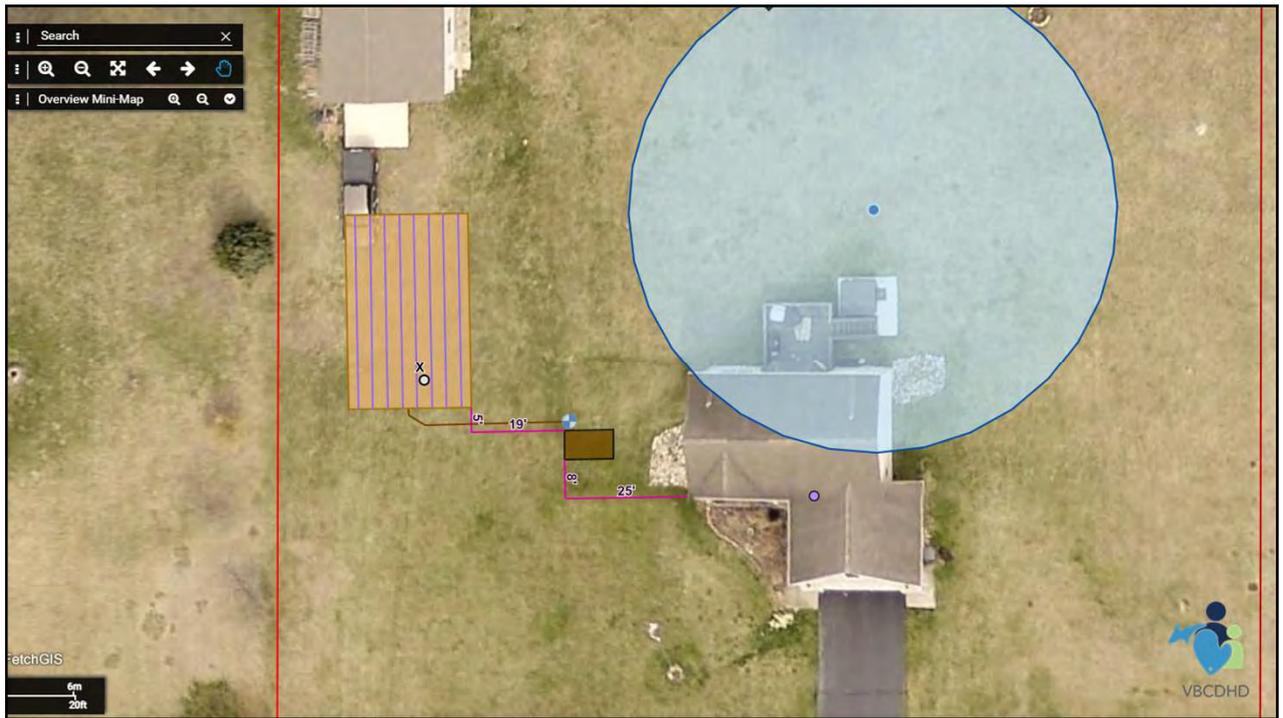
Office, Site Visits,
Phone/Email
Conversations, In
Person Meetings

FetchGIS Software,
Hand Tools (Soil
Auger, Soil Probe,
Shovel, etc.),
VBCASSDHD
Environmental Health
Code, Michigan
Water Well
Construction and
Pump Installation
Code

Each Sanitarian is
responsible for
scheduling
appointments
as necessary

Sanitarians will often
perform "Drop in"
site visits for initial
visit





Everyday Challenges



Fostering understanding of the importance of permitting process.

Communicating with Community Partners.



Absorption Field Installation

Winter Soil Boring



Failed Septic Tank



Failed Septic System



—
Questions?

