



# Huron County Health Department

2018~2019

Annual Report

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## VISION:

The Huron County Health Department will sustain partnerships with the community and other stakeholders to provide an innovative approach to health promotion and protection.



## MISSION:

We are dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of individuals in our service jurisdiction by providing a wide range of quality health, human and environmental services.

# Health Officer Report

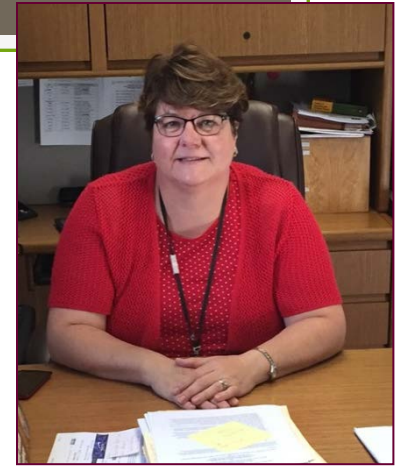
## Greetings from Our Health Officer!

Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting human health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. Public Health duties include ensuring health equity, research, evaluation, and data to assure availability of resources for those populations most at need. Public Health does not work in a silo, we work together with our community partners to best achieve our goals for a healthier community.

Here are just a few highlights over the past year:



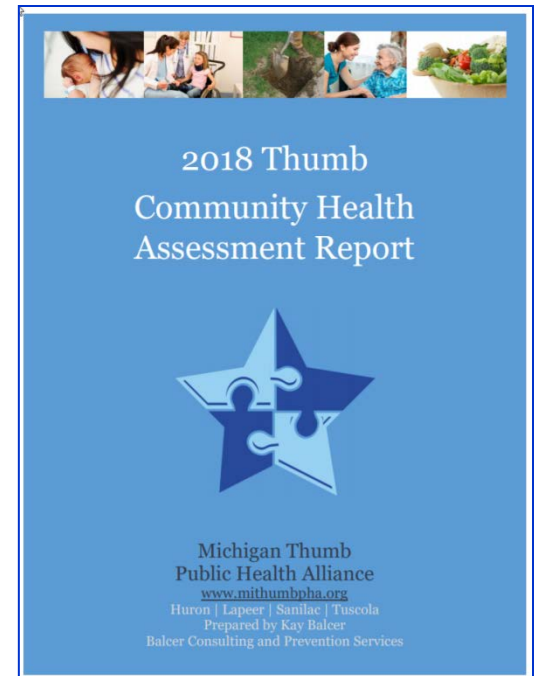
We continue to work with the MI Thumb Public Health Alliance. This is a cross jurisdictional project shared with Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer and Tuscola. The goal is to collaborate on projects and reduce costs, and looking for areas where we can reduce duplication of efforts.



Ann Hepfer, RN BS

One of the items we completed this past year was our Community Health Assessment and Community Health Profile. Working together and pooling our resources we developed a comprehensive plan for all four counties. You can find this document at <https://www.mithumbpha.org/documents>.

We secured a \$100,000 HRSA Network Planning grant. The purpose of the grant is to explore the feasibility of expanding our MI Thumb Public Health Alliance to include partners from all of the local hospitals, Mental Health, Human Development Commission and the four health departments.



We have been working with the Thumb Rural Health Network on Opioid Reduction Planning. This is also a collaborative project between the four counties. The goal is that the plan will meet the necessary requirements to apply for additional funding that would be used to implement the plan to reduce opioid and other substance abuse use in the four counties.



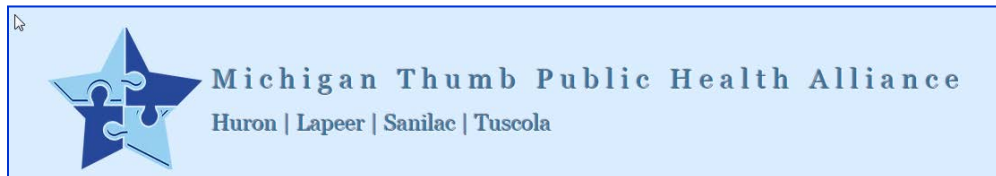
Huron County Health Department participates in the Perinatal Health Quality Assurance Collaborative for Region 6. The counties involved in this project are Sanilac, Lapeer, Tuscola, St. Clair, Shiawassee and Genesee. The goal is zero preventable deaths and zero



health disparities. There are many community partners on this project; those include parents, grandparents, Medicaid Health Plans, the county health departments, along with several other community based organizations from around the region.

For more information you can visit [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550\\_96967---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_96967---,00.html)

Our Mission at HCHD is that “we are dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of individuals in our service jurisdiction, by providing a wide range of quality health, human and environmental services”. We hope this report provides you with some insight into how we are meeting our mission and vision for our community. Please take a moment and check out our website at [www.hchd.us](http://www.hchd.us) or the MI Thumb Public Health Alliance website at <https://www.mithumbpha.org>.



# Huron County Board of Health

- Robert Witherspoon, Chairman, has been a member since April 1988. He is a retired farmer and former member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.
- In November of 2019, Mr. Witherspoon resigned from his position on our board due to declining health issues.
- He was committed to our county health board for over 31 years!
- A short time later on January 11, 2020 he passed away at the age of 89.
- His vast knowledge and history with community will be missed.



Robert Witherspoon - Chairperson

## Huron County Board of Health, cont.

- John Bodis, Chairperson, has been a member since 2011. He is retired from Law Enforcement, and a current member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.
- Carol Majeski, Vice-Chair, has been a member since November 2006. Mrs. Majeski is employed with McLaren Thumb Region Hospital in Bad Axe.
- Robert Siver, Secretary, has been a member since November 2006. Mr. Siver is currently employed as a Registered Nurse.
- Member Lisa Pridnia, has been with the Board since April 2009. She was employed by the Michigan Department of Community Health and was the former executive Director of the Thumb Rural Health Network. She is a member of the Human Development Commission Board and is a co-developer of the Farmers Market in Port Austin.
- We thank our board members for the tremendous support they continue to give HCHD. They lead busy lives - providing for their families, working jobs, but remain committed to our great county .



**John Bodis**  
Chairperson



**Carol Majeski**  
Vice-Chairperson



**Robert Siver**  
Secretary



**Lisa Pridnia**  
Member

# Farewell and Thanks!



*Dr. Russell Bush is seated on left.*

*Dr. Hamed became the Medical Director for Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Tuscola and District #2 Health Departments (covering Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties), following Dr. Bush's retirement in 2018.*

In the Fall of 2018 we said **Farewell** and **Thanks** to Dr. Russell Bush as our Medical Director for Huron County. He began serving our County in 2008. He continued to be the Deputy Medical Examiner for the County.



Mark Hamed MD, MBA, MPH



# Finance Division

The Finance Division performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, purchasing, payroll and financial reporting. The financial operation of this agency conforms to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
<b>State/Federal Grants</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>County Appropriations</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Expenditures (% of Budget)</b>			
<b>Health Services</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>

# Public Health Program Highlights

- An outbreak of pertussis occurred in the Amish Community in November 2018. This resulted in 5 confirmed and 2 probable cases identified. Members of the Amish Community were offered testing; 39 children and 14 parents chose to receive preventative treatment and education was provided to all members. Immunizations were provided during the pertussis outbreak and continue to be done on a regular bases for all routine vaccinations.
- Shingrix vaccine was very well received in the community. There was not adequate vaccine available to provide for all interested individuals; therefore, a wait list was developed. This remained in effect throughout the fiscal year.
- Staff reached out to the Foreign Exchange Programs to educate them that the host parent would need to bring the students in to the health department for immunizations (vs. the program rep) in order to educate the host family on the importance of vaccinations. As a result, we have seen an increase in the number of exchange students receiving vaccinations.



# Public Health Program Highlights, cont.



**Mitzi Koroleski, RN**  
**Health Services**  
**Director**



**Cindy Rochefort, RN**  
**Health Services**  
**Director**

- We have increased awareness for Hepatitis A by working with our local jails, Huron Behavioral Health and the general community including restaurants, dairy farms, gas stations and county parks. We provided port-a-potty companies and county parks with handwashing information and vinyl clings for Hepatitis A and handwashing. We had no further cases of acute Hepatitis A.
- The State's MI-WIC system had multiple issues which impacted services to our Women, Infant and Children (WIC) participants. From the end of April through July, the system experienced issues. The staff went above and beyond to maintain benefits to clients.
- The Abstinence Program requirements were changed to include a direct service learning component. Our staff worked with a group of students at Lakers school to provide direction and assistance with a community based project that they felt was important.

# Public Health Program Highlights, cont.

- We received State Opioid Response (SOR) Funds which were used to purchase medication disposal bags and puncture resistant gloves. These items were given to law enforcements agencies and we also collaborated with our Senior Meals on Wheels program for distribution to the senior population. The bags allowed for safer disposal of expired medications.
- We also received a medical marijuana grant whose goal was to increase awareness of keeping medical marijuana out of the hands of children. Lock boxes were purchased and flyers were sent out to Primary Care Providers, hospitals, counseling agencies, convenience stores, etc. to inform the public that they could pick up lockboxes for no charge at the health department. Billboards were done to increase awareness of this educational message.
- We worked with MDHHS in the Maternal Infant Health Improvement Plan (MIHIP) to hold Town Hall meetings. Because Huron County had a significant amount of mothers in attendance who also shared valuable input, MDHHS returned to hold Ambassador meeting with these participants.





# Public Health Program Highlights, cont.

- Our Maternal Infant Health Program had a visit with the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Forty (40) MIHP beneficiaries charts were requested for review. This resulted in only one billing error upon reviewing 5-10 visits per participant. The OIG was very pleased with our documentation. They typically recover \$10,000 per agency from errors identified through the audit; they recovered only \$83.72 from HCHD.
- Our Family Mentor program had a new home visitor who completed Parents as Teachers training, began Reggie's Rainbow Adventure, and raised over \$11,000 at the Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) Annual Roof Sit.



The Family Mentor program was discontinued as of September 30, 2019 due to the unavailability of funds to reapply.

# Public Health Statistics

A look at our Huron County numbers past, and present.

Communicable Disease	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Bacterial Meningitis	1	1	0	1	0
Campylobacter	10	17	11	9	7
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	0	0
Drug Resistant	1	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	1	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	1	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis C Chronic	12	6	13	12	6
Influenza	-	-	10	22	33
Meningitis - Aseptic	0	3	1	3	2
Pertussis	3	2	1	0	0
Salmonella	3	3	0	2	4
Shiga toxin E. coli non-0157	0	0	1	0	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	1	0
STEC, E. coli H & :0157	1	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumonia, invasive	2	1	1	4	2
Varicella (Chickenpox)	4	0	0	0	0

Immunizations...



are for everyone!

# Environmental Health Services

## ● Food Service Program

The Food Service Program's main objective is to enforce the Food Law of 2000 as amended and the 2009 Food Code. Enforcement of the Food Law and Food Code includes inspecting licensed food establishments and completing plan reviews. Foodborne illness in the U.S. is a major cause of personal distress, preventable death and avoidable economic burden.



**Tip MacGuire**  
**Environmental**  
**Health**  
**Director**



Huron County completed 417 inspections of Food Service Establishments this past year.

It is estimated that 6.5 to 33 million people become ill from microorganisms in food, resulting in as many as 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 needless deaths every year.

# Environmental Health Services, cont.

## ● On-Site Sewage Disposal

Huron County issued 105 on-site sewage system permits this year (commonly called septic systems) and are a significant component of the State's wastewater infrastructure.

On-site sewage systems can be an effective option for protecting health and the environment if properly designed, installed and managed. They can be a significant threat to public health and the environment if they are not.

The Environmental Health Division provides the regulatory oversight of the design, construction, performance and the operation of the on-site sewage systems. The estimated annual volume of on-site sewage in Michigan is 96 billion gallons (264 million gallons per day).

The enacted standards all seek to protect the safe treatment of domestic and other non-industrial wastewater in Huron County that is not served by municipal sewage treatment.





# Environmental Health Services, cont.

## ○ Private Groundwater Supplies



- The Private Groundwater program's main objective is to protect groundwater.
- Huron County issued 60 well permits this year.
- Safe drinking water is the most important element to sustain life.
- Groundwater is extracted from aquifers beneath the grounds surface using water wells.
- Michigan has more wells in service than any other state.
- The location, construction, testing and abandonment of water wells are regulated through the State Well Obstruction Code (Part 127, 1978 PA 368, as amended).
- These services help ensure that water wells remain a safe and reliable source of drinking water for future generations.

From the brief summaries of services provided by our EH Division, it is very easy to see that environmental health affects everyone, everyday. It starts with the water used in your coffee, the toilet you use during break and the burger you eat at lunch! Environmental Health is a major part of public health and that is why it is a mandated program which will always need to be funded.

# Environmental Health Services, cont.

- Beach Testing

Summer 2019 – Beach Testing:

- Number of Samples collected – 507
- Number of beach closures - 5

County beaches are tested beginning around Memorial Day, through about Labor Day. At each beach, the Beach Technician will take 3 samples and collect them in a small plastic jar. A total of 100 milliliters of water is collected in each jar for testing. Should a beach show a composite of the 3 samples exceeding 300 E.coli colonies per the 100 ml. of water, the beach is deemed unsafe for swimming and is closed. The beach must be retested until the bacteria counts improve to acceptable limits.

