

# PROVIDER UPDATE

*News from your local Health Department*

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### CD Report for 2024

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## Hepatitis C

According to the CDC, “nearly half of people with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection status, and approximately 75%–85% of people with hepatitis C don’t have symptoms. Without testing, they can unknowingly transmit the virus to others.”

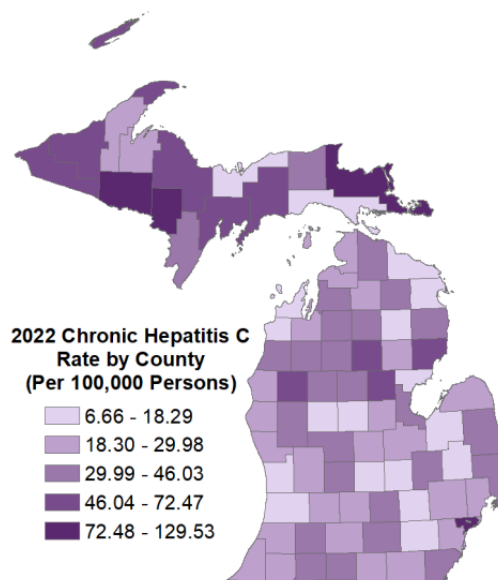
As a healthcare provider, your role is pivotal in combating Hepatitis C (HCV) in our community. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends routine screening for HCV in all adults aged 18 and older, and in pregnant women during each pregnancy.

Early detection and treatment are essential to prevent liver damage, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. New direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatments are highly effective, with cure rates exceeding 95%. Encourage your patients to get tested and, if positive, treat or refer them to specialized care as soon as possible. Together, we can make significant strides toward eliminating Hepatitis C in Michigan.

For more information, see these websites:

- [MDHHS Hepatitis C](#)
- [2022 Hepatitis B and C Annual Surveillance Report](#)
- [CDC Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C](#)

## Chronic Hepatitis C Rate Maps by County



## Bat and Animal Bites

The arrival of summer increases the risk of bat and other wild animal encounters, leading to potential rabies exposures. Educate your patients about the importance of avoiding direct contact with bats and other wild animals. Here are some key points to share with your patients:

- **Avoid Direct Contact:** Never handle bats or other wild animals with bare hands. Use gloves or tools to avoid bites and scratches.
- **Capture for Testing:** If a patient reports a bat bite or potential exposure (finds a bat in a room with a sleeping person or nonverbal child), advise them to capture it safely for rabies testing if possible. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides guidelines on how to capture a bat safely in their [Rabies Exposure Manual](#).
- **Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** is a critical intervention that can prevent the onset of this fatal disease, but is very expensive and not always necessary.

- **Rabies Exposure Assessment:** Conduct a thorough risk assessment for rabies exposure. Factors to consider include the type of exposure, the species of animal involved, and the availability of the animal for testing. [The MDHHS Rabies Assessment](#) can help in deciding if PEP is necessary.
- **Rabies Vaccination:** Ensure your patients understand the importance of completing the full PEP regimen if recommended. The PEP series includes a dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and four doses of rabies vaccine administered over 14 days.
- **Education and Prevention:** Educate patients about securing their homes to prevent bats from entering living spaces. Remind them to keep up-to-date on rabies vaccinations for pets.

## Temporary Food Permits

As local events and festivals ramp up, it's crucial to remind your patients and community members about the importance of obtaining temporary food permits. A temporary food permit is a special permit for a food service establishment to operate at a fixed location for a temporary period not to exceed 2 weeks.

These permits ensure that food vendors adhere to proper safety standards, reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses. Our health department provides guidance, education, and inspections to maintain high food safety standards. Encourage event organizers and vendors to apply for permits and follow proper food handling procedures to protect public health. Suspected cases of [foodborne illness outbreaks](#) should be reported to the local health department for investigation.



## Campground Inspections



With camping season in full swing, our health department is actively conducting routine inspections of local campgrounds to ensure compliance with safety and sanitation standards. These inspections are vital in preventing the spread of diseases and ensuring a safe environment for campers. If your patients inquire about the safety of campgrounds, reassure them that our inspections help maintain clean and safe facilities.

Additionally, remind them that temporary campgrounds require a permit and must adhere to specific guidelines to operate legally. Details about the application process and requirements can be found on our [Temporary Campground Application](#). If you or your patients have any concerns regarding campground conditions, please report them to our office for prompt action.

# Vaccine Preventable Disease Update

On July 12, MDHHS reported the sixth case of Measles in 2024 in a child from Macomb County. There is no known international travel associated with the case. Providers should continue to maintain a high index of suspicion in nonimmune persons presenting with febrile rash illness, especially if history is consistent with possible exposure from travel. For more information on measles contact the health department or [MDHHS Measles website](#).

Other regions of Michigan have experienced outbreaks of Mumps and [Pertussis](#) this summer. The best way to prevent Mumps is by assuring that individuals have received 2 doses of MMR Vaccine or have other evidence of immunity. In individuals with acute parotitis, [mumps can be confirmed](#) with PCR testing of a buccal mucosa swab along with serology testing. Testing can be arranged through the MDHHS State Lab.



## RSV Vaccine for Adults – Recent ACIP Changes

ACIP recommendations for the use of RSV Vaccine in older adults were updated after the June 2024 meeting, where the committee reviewed safety and efficacy data including post licensure data. The new recommendations include:

- All adults aged 75 years and older should receive a single dose of RSV vaccination.
- All adults 60-74 with certain chronic medical conditions that increase their risk of severe RSV disease should receive a single dose of RSV vaccine.
- Adults aged 60-74 without risk factors are no longer recommended to receive RSV vaccine.

Qualifying conditions, as discussed in [ACIP clinical considerations](#), include lung disease like COPD, heart failure or CAD, advanced kidney disease, diabetes with end-organ damage, severe obesity (BMI>40), immunocompromised from disease or medications, Liver or hematologic disorders, frailty, or residence in a skilled care facility.

## Back to School Immunization

As we approach the new school year, it's essential to ensure children are up-to-date on their vaccines. Vaccinating before the first day of school protects against serious diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough.

Encourage parents to visit [Vaccinate Your Family](#) for comprehensive information on required vaccines and local resources. This website provides easy-to-read vaccine schedules, answers to common questions, and tools to help families stay on track with immunizations.





# Home Visiting Programs

## Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)

The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) is Michigan's largest home visiting program, providing vital support to Medicaid enrolled pregnant women and infants up to 18 months old. MIHP services are designed to promote healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy infant development.

Key components of MIHP include:

- Home Visits: Conducted by a team of healthcare professionals, including nurses, social workers, and dietitians, providing personalized care and education.
- Health Assessments: Regular assessments to monitor the health and development of both mother and baby.
- Care Coordination: Assistance in connecting families with community resources, healthcare providers, and other support services.
- Education and Counseling: Information on pregnancy, childbirth, infant care, nutrition, and breastfeeding support.

MIHP aims to reduce infant mortality rates, improve maternal health, and ensure infants get a healthy start in life. If you know of any pregnant women or new mothers who could benefit from MIHP services, encourage them to enroll. For more information, visit [our MIHP website](#).



## Healthy Futures

Healthy Futures is a collaborative initiative that was begun over 20 years ago as a partnership between Munson Medical center and local health departments. This free service has grown to include 31 counties in Northern Michigan.

Healthy Futures provides support during pregnancy and after birth to parents of infants.

Services offered include informational newsletters, texts, referrals to local resources and connection with a registered nurse. A home visit after delivery is also offered for additional support.

Key initiatives of Healthy Futures include:

- Health Education: Providing resources and trustworthy information to empower individuals and communities to make informed health decisions.
- Access to Health Care: Encouraging regular health screenings and vaccinations to prevent illnesses and promote early detection.
- Post Partum Home Visit: Support to help families meet their infant feeding goals, review infant growth and development and answer other common questions parents have when they get home with their infant.
- Community Partnerships: Referrals to local resources and collaborating with local organizations to address social determinants of health and create supportive environments.

This program brings together healthcare providers, hospitals, and residents to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce health disparities. By fostering partnerships and leveraging resources, Healthy Futures aims to create sustainable improvements in health outcomes for pregnant residents and infants in 31 counties across northern Lower Michigan. To learn more about Healthy Futures and how you can get involved, visit [Healthy Futures](#) or contact our health department. Together, we can build a healthier future for our community.



January 1st- June 30th, 2024

# 2024 Communicable Disease Report

for

Health Departments of  
Benzie-Leelanau, District No. 4,  
and Northwest Michigan

## Counties Include:

Benzie  
Leelanau  
Alpena  
Cheboygan  
Montmorency  
Presque Isle  
Antrim  
Charlevoix  
Emmet  
Otsego

Disease	BLDHD Total	DHD 4 Total	HDNW Total
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	107	431	661
Campylobacter	5	5	12
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	1
Giardiasis	3	5	7
Norovirus	1	1	0
Salmonellosis	5	3	5
Shigatoxin-producing Escherichia coli --(STEC)	0	1	0
Shigellosis	0	1	2
Yersinia enteritis	3	0	2
Influenza	89	133	287
Meningitis - Aseptic	4	0	1
Meningitis - Bacterial Other	1	0	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	5	6	6
Blastomycosis	0	1	0
CPO	0	0	1
Candida auris	1	0	0
Histoplasmosis	0	3	1
Legionellosis	0	0	1
Streptococcal Dis, Inv, Grp A	3	8	2
Unusual Outbreak or Occurrence	1	1	14
Vibriosis - Non Cholera	1	0	0
Rabies Animal	0	1	0
Rabies: Potential Exposure & PEP	1	25	30
Chlamydia (Genital)	20	37	66
Gonorrhea	0	10	6
Latent Tuberculosis Infection	1	4	1
Nontuberculous Mycobacterium	0	1	0
H. influenzae Disease - Inv.	1	1	0
Shingles	0	1	0
VZ Infection, Unspecified	0	1	1
Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasma phagocytophilum	5	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	1	0
Lyme Disease	13	2	6
Malaria	1	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	1	0
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	0	2
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0	1
Hepatitis C, Chronic	3	12	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>5359</b>



Dr. Joshua Meyerson serves as the Medical Director for three local health departments in northern Michigan: Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, and District Health Department No. 4. His duties also include leading two grant-funded, school-linked Child and Adolescent Health Centers in underserved rural school districts.