



# 2019 Annual Report

*Protect. Preserve. Promote.*

# Welcome

*Livingston County Commissioners, Residents & Partners*

On behalf of the Livingston County Health Department, I am honored to present to the Board of Commissioners and the community, our 2019 Annual Report. The role of local health departments are often not understood and go unseen. I strongly believe we are the best kept secret in keeping Livingston County residents safe from environmental hazards and healthy from infectious diseases and improved lifestyles. We strive to make our presence known so the community sees us as the trusted leader and partner to ensure and promote improved public health outcomes. You will find many examples of our commitment to protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Livingston County within this report. This commitment could not be done without the dedication of each and every team member within the department, for which I am truly grateful.

In good health,

Dianne McCormick  
Health Officer



## Program Statistics

### Personal & Preventive Health Services



- 402 sexually transmitted disease cases investigated
- 16 HIV/AIDS Rapid Tests performed
- 281 Tuberculin skin tests administered
- 615 families supported by Children's Special Health Care Services
- 1,362 children needed further evaluation after 16,922 hearing and vision screenings
- 1,847 immunizations to 1,129 children & adults
- 1,684 WIC clients served
- 351 animal bites reported and investigated

### Environmental Health



- 1,250 food service inspections completed
- 62 food service complaints investigated
- 524 well permits issued
- 432 septic system permits issued
- 67 public swimming pools regulated
- 15 public beaches regulated
- 87 general complaints investigated
- 391 non-community public water supplies regulated
- 25 campgrounds inspected

### Emergency Preparedness



- 582 hours donated by MRC (= \$14,800 in volunteer hours)
- 6 MRC responded to Shiawasee Tornado Response
- 3 emergency responses
- 478 youth trained in emergency preparedness
- 44 individuals trained in CPR/First Aid
- 42 individuals trained in Stop the Bleed
- 230 youth trained in Anytime CPR
- 18 community outreach trainings provided
- 5 MRC participated in Heroes Round Table
- 2 tabletop exercises and 2 full-scale exercises held

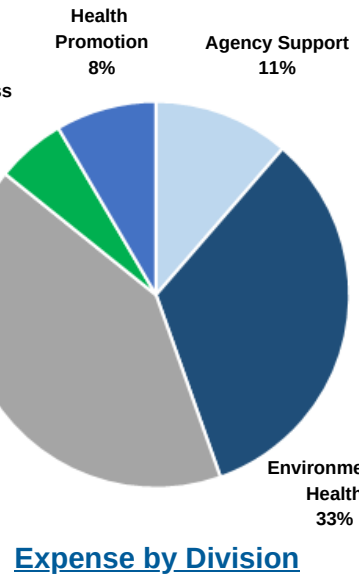
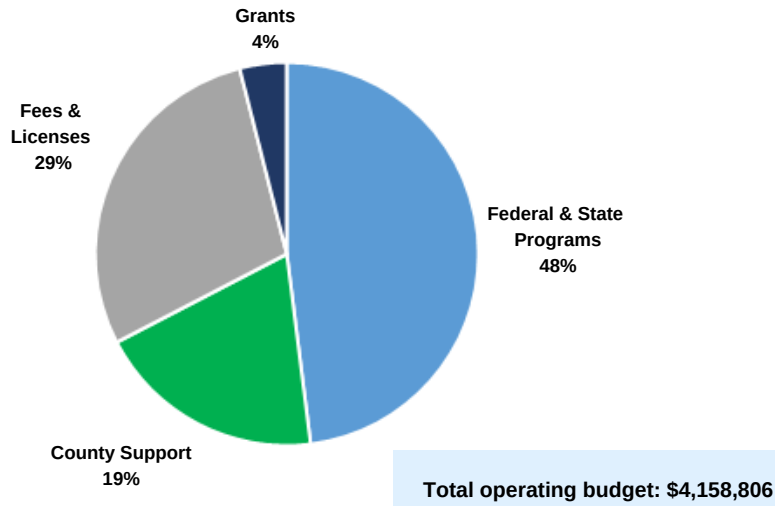
### Health Promotion



- 175 Prescription for Health program participants
- 22 press releases sent to local media
- 12 employee newsletters
- 1 professional conference presentation
- 6 community events attended as an exhibitor
- 1 ADA accessible community event held to promote trail use
- 7 Livingston County employers provided stipends through the Worksite Wellness program
- 346 new LCHD Facebook page "likes"

# Financial Overview

## Revenues by Source



# PFAS Update

After the discovery of elevated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in fish and surface water within the Huron River system late in 2018, and the subsequent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) “Do Not Eat” fish advisory, there continues to be additional investigation into what is contributing PFAS within the watershed. These efforts are led by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) staff and include the collection of fish as well as surface water samples from both the main river system and associated tributaries. The good news is that the major contributors that were discharging to the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) have been identified and installed treatment to greatly reduce PFAS discharges from the plant and into the river system. Although the fish advisory remains in place, there are signs that the amount PFAS in fish and surface water is improving.

In July, U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin brought more attention to this issue. She invited State and local officials on a tour of the chain of lakes area in Hamburg Township to get a better understanding of how PFAS impacts this recreational resource and hosted a public information meeting at Pinckney High School.

Also in 2019, two groundwater contamination sites related to PFAS were identified, including Diamond Chrome Plating in the City of Howell and the former Thermofil plant in Green Oak Township. EGLE also identified several agricultural fields where biosolids from the Wixom WWTP were used and collected soil and groundwater samples. There is no current impact to drinking water for these sites. LCHD collaborates with EGLE and MDHHS to determine any public health risks and assists in the collection of water samples from area drinking water wells.



# Diamond Chrome Response



In November, LCHD was notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that elevated levels of Trichloroethylene (TCE) were detected in the outdoor air above health limits. The source of the TCE was determined to be Diamond Chrome Plating (DCP) in Howell. After consultation with MDHHS, LCHD issued a public health order for DCP to immediately cease any TCE emissions from their facility.

LCHD collaborated with MDHHS and EGLE to quickly notify the area residents by going door to door with information related to the incident and to coordinate a public meeting at Parker Middle School with over 300 people in attendance. Representatives from all the agencies provided information to concerned residents and held a question and answer period.

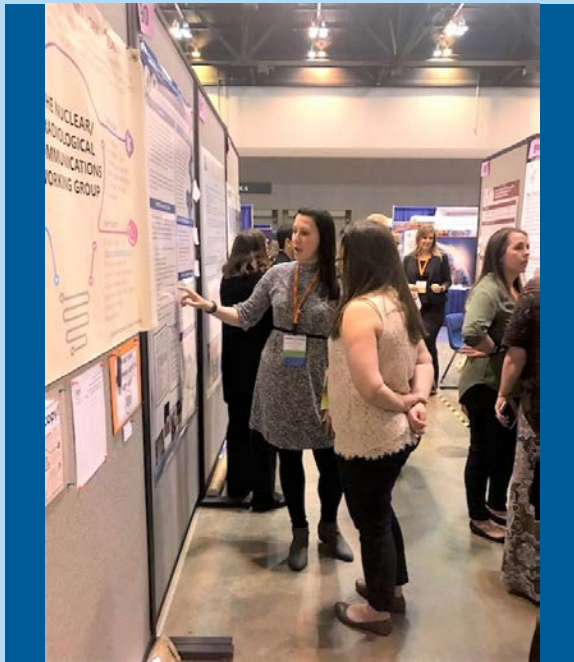
Since the incident, DCP made changes to their operations to stop the use of TCE. Preliminary air quality monitoring showed levels of TCE well below the acceptable health levels. LCHD continues to be involved with MDHHS and EGLE on additional environmental compliance issues and further air monitoring. For current information about this issue, visit: [www.michigan.gov/diamondchrome](http://www.michigan.gov/diamondchrome).



LCHD, MDHHS and EGLE facilitate a public meeting to provide information regarding Diamond Chrome Plating and TCE to concerned residents.

# Swine Flu Response

In the summer of 2019, Livingston County experienced a second variant influenza outbreak in swine at the Fowlerville Family Fair. The LCHD Public Health Emergency Coordination Center (PHECC) partially activated the emergency response team. However, while the incident was similar to the 2018 outbreak this response was much smaller. There was no confirmed animal to human transmission and the spread of the illness was contained to one pig pen at the fair. LCHD worked with state and local partners to communicate with and provide information and education to our community. LCHD is using experience gained from this response to plan for future incidents.



Lindsay Gestro, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, presenting on the Swine Flu Response at the Preparedness Summit in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Old Mc Livingston Had Some Swine Flu E-I-E-I-Uh-Oh!**  
Livingston County Health Department  
2800 East Grand River Avenue, Suite 102, Howell, Michigan 48845

**Summary**  
In the summer of 2019, the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) in Michigan experienced a swine flu outbreak when an influenza variant strain spread from pigs to humans at a local fair. The incident quickly evolved into a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response. LCHD coordinated with state and local partners to contain the outbreak and prevent further human contact with the pigs. The strategy reduced the public response to the influenza case.

**Partnerships**  
Having partnerships established pre-event ensured a strong and collaborative response throughout the duration of the incident and in turn, allowed for the faster decision-making regarding information development and release to the community and fair exhibitors, and general staff education. Through these partnerships, LCHD was able to contact all exhibitors and have a digital survey to collect data from exhibitors to identify individuals who displayed symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) or other exposure to the ill pigs.

**MDHHS Swine Flu Toolkit**  
Throughout the incident, LCHD utilized a Swine Flu Toolkit developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The toolkit provided a comprehensive overview of the response and included, and was used with partners to provide the following:

- Swine Variant Influenza Guidance for Healthcare and Public Health Providers
- Novel Influenza A Case Report Form
- Swine Influenza Survey Template
- Action Steps for Human Infection with Swine Variant Influenza
- Template Letter to Swine Exhibitor After an Influenza Variant Influenza Outbreak
- Template Letter to Swine Exhibitor After an Influenza Variant Influenza Outbreak
- Template Press Release for After a Human Variant Influenza Outbreak
- Template for Swine Influenza Talking Points

**Swine Flu Response Steps**

- All Market Pigs (all on exhibit and off)
- 20 Swine Flu (ILI) Reported from Farm
- Called Farm on possible reporting ILI come on Day 1
- Confirmed ILI specimen
- Confirmed health to come from (NIC) on Day 2
- Total of 8 cases in 2 counties
- No secondary human cases identified
- Only identified on Day 5

**Public Information Challenges**

- Media did not understand why the fair remained open and thought exhibitors were spreading the flu across the entire fairground
- Media and the public did not understand that the pigs going to slaughter after the fair was part of the process of showing market spread of disease
- Press releases stated local and transported to state when the incident spread to other jurisdictions. Comments were made if the report that LCHD was pushing comments to the state to take care of the reporting because the Health Department could handle it.

**Lessons Learned**

- Many local healthcare providers did not have readily available to collect respiratory specimens. Some were equipped, some didn't have any and over 1000 were ILI season.
- Communication and information sharing with reporters and super was delayed because results were not collected for all (H7N1) compliance were through survey collection and not every always correct.
- Through multiple telephone calls, LCHD contacted health information include some animal response agencies once it became a human news and a case of the illness spread to human health.
- Engaging partners was not just a voice over the phone and instead, have fair board members and who is conducting meetings. LCHD had many questions about the fair process that should have been known before the outbreak started.
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# Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)



In late September, MDHHS began reporting an increased number of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cases in both humans and animals across the state. Although there were no human cases confirmed in Livingston County, a positive 3-year-old unvaccinated horse was identified in Hamburg Township which indicated that the types of mosquitoes that transmit EEE were present in Livingston County. Due to the severity of EEE illness and the increase in cases and human deaths across the state, LCHD, based on guidance and support from the state, agreed that aerial spraying would take place in portions of Hamburg and Green Oak Townships near the area where the horse was identified to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission to the public. LCHD staff from environmental health, emergency preparedness, health promotion, and personal and preventive health services worked together in order to provide accurate and timely information to the public throughout this response.

# Communicable Disease Highlight



The Public Health system depends upon reports of communicable diseases to monitor the health of the community and to provide the basis for preventive actions. Reporting of diseases is required by physicians, laboratories, schools, and daycares for both diagnosed and suspected cases of communicable disease. Public health officials in Livingston County collaborate to perform disease surveillance, case and outbreak investigation, contact tracing, education, treatment, and immunization for over 70 reportable communicable diseases. These public health strategies are used to understand disease transmission and implement county-level interventions to reduce the spread of communicable diseases in Livingston County.

The LCHD releases a quarterly Communicable Disease Update newsletter that includes local and state trends in communicable disease activity. The CD Update is additionally distributed to county physicians and other identified agencies to provide information on current communicable diseases, as well as information to assist providers in diagnosing, treating, and reporting these diseases. The Communicable Disease Update newsletter is available to the public and can be found in the Publications section of the LCHD website: <https://bit.ly/2YGTljV>.

## The top Communicable Diseases in Livingston County from 2015-2019:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE GROUP	COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Foodborne	Campylobacter	27	34	23	22	33
	Salmonellosis	23	28	18	21	15
	Shiga Toxin-producing Escherichia coli	3	6	5	5	4
Influenza	Influenza	172	266	569	932	470
Legionnaires	Legionellosis	7	7	10	8	13
Meningitis	Asceptic Meningitis	15	11	8	15	11
	Bacterial and Other Meningitis	1	3	3	2	2
Rabies	Animal Bites and Bat Exposures	270	353	334	329	351
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Including Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis	408	405	439	426	392
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	15	16	30	28	15
	Shingles	19	28	40	41	46
	Chronic Hepatitis C	98	66	64	57	39

# Promoting Healthy Living

Chronic disease prevention continues to be an important focus in Livingston County. In 2019, a grant funded program called Worksite Wellness provided seven Livingston County businesses with stipends to invest in wellness programs aimed at improving the health of their workforce. Two of the Livingston County sites, Cleary University and Livingston Educational Service Agency Education Center, were awarded Healthy Michigan Worksite Awards by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The employers demonstrated a commitment to developing and promoting a culture of health for all employees. LCHD looks forward to continuing chronic disease prevention efforts in Livingston County.



Courtney Rynkiewicz, Health Promotion Specialist, discussing how to "fight off germs" with children at a community event held by the Livingston Educational Service Agency.



## Healthcare Transportation

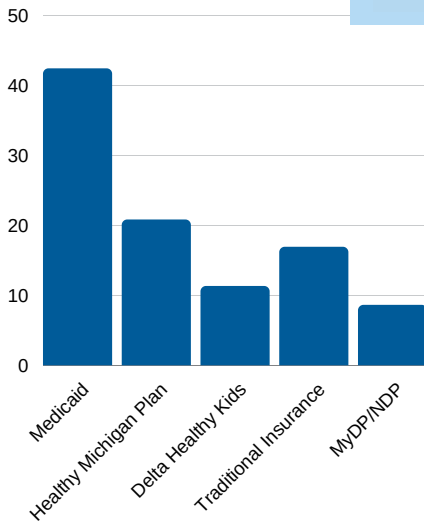
In 2019, Livingston County took a major step towards improving health equity for residents through a collaborative partnership to increase access to needed resources and healthcare services. LCHD's 2015-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) identified healthcare integration and transportation as high-priority issues for improving the health and well-being of Livingston County residents. The CHIP process established a Healthcare Integration workgroup that includes representatives from the three major health systems, Livingston Essential Transportation Service (LETS), and LCHD. LETS launched a new healthcare focused transportation service in fall 2019 thanks to a 3-year, \$318,000 funding commitment from Ascension Providence Hospital, Michigan Medicine and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. This provides an opportunity for Livingston County residents to have greater access and mobility in their lives. Adequate, reliable and affordable transportation means better access to services and is a vital part of the foundation for a healthy community.

# My Community Dental Center

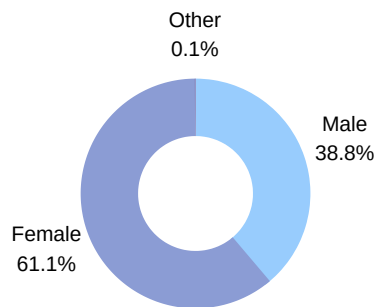
The partnership between LCHD and MCDC was formed to address the need for dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents throughout Livingston County. MCDC provides services on behalf of LCHD, with the mission to improve the lives of patients and enhance community health by setting the highest standard of oral health care. At MCDC, it is all about the people- they strive to provide each patient with pleasant and stress-free dental care at a cost they can afford.



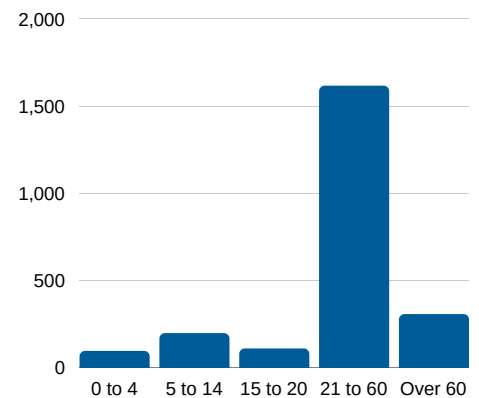
served 2,327 patients with 5,219 office visits in 2019.



Patients by Insurance



Patients by Gender



Patients by Age





# LIVINGSTON COUNTY Health Department

## Our Mission

Livingston County Health Department will protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Livingston County.

## Our Vision

Livingston County will be a safe and healthy community where all people realize their fullest health potential and live enriched and productive lives.

**Dianne McCormick**

Health Officer

**Dr. Juan Marquez**

Medical Director

**Matt Bolang**

Deputy Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health

**Elaine Brown**

Deputy Health Officer/Director of Personal & Preventive Health



**[www.LCHD.org](http://www.LCHD.org)**

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