

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole

November 20, 2018 - 3:00 p.m.
Conference room- Central Dispatch

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Consideration of additional items
- V. Public Comment
(3 minute time limit per speaker – please state name/organization)
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - A.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Departmental Reports
 - 1. Health Department
 - 2. Animal Care and Control
 - 3. Emergency Management
 - 4. Central
 - 5.
 - B.
- VIII. Reports of Officers, Board and Standing Committees
 - A. Chairperson
 - B. Commissioners
 - C. County Administrator
- IX. Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committees
- X. Closed Session
- XI. Adjournment

Ionia County Health Department

To: Ionia County Board of Commissioners

From: Ken Bowen, REHS, MS

CC: Janae Cooper, Stephanie Fox, K. Rubie, Dr. Lowhim, Post HD

Date: August, September, October 2018

Re: Agency Report for November 20, 2018 Board of Health meeting

Noteworthy Items, Updates, Accomplishments:

COMMUNITY HEALTH- Deb Thalison, MA, BA, RSST, SAP, ICCJP, CCS, CPC

In August Deb Thalison provided the following substance abuse prevention and community health activities/events;

- Met with new Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative (ICSAI) coalition workgroup members. Provided an overview of the history of the ICSAI and current events and services provided through the ICSAI.
- Presented at the B Safe Drivers Training class with new teen drivers on the dangers of drinking and driving on two separate occasions (23 students).
- In preparation for upcoming FY 2019 school year, prepared materials for a total of (19) Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence classrooms.
- Verified and updated programming data in the Michigan Prevention Data System (MPDS).
- Worked on monthly and end of year reports.

In September Deb Thalison provided the following substance abuse prevention and community health activities/events;

- Facilitated a sub-group meeting for the ICSAI Coalition. A total of 4 members participated in the planning meeting.
- Attended the Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) full board meeting via conference call.
- Facilitated the September ICSAI coalition workgroup meeting. A total of 12 members attended.
- Participated in the annual Hope for Sobriety board meeting.
- Attended the two-day 19th annual Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Conference.
- Provided information and packets for the B Safe Drivers Training class with new teen drivers on the dangers of drinking and driving (25 students).
- Attended the MSHN quarterly provider meeting that was held in Saginaw, MI.
- Started new Too Good for Drug Programs in Belding and Saranac schools. There are eight (8) classes of 5th grade students between the two schools for a total of (212) students. This is the second year providing the program to Belding Woodview Elementary students. This is the fourth year providing the program to Saranac Elementary students.
- Provided a booth at Ionia First Responder day, distributing information about programs provided by Ionia County Health Department.
- Attended the September MALPH Health Education & Promotion Forum meeting via conference call.
- Verified and updated monthly programming data in MPDS.
- Completed and sent in end of year reports and other required documents to MSHN.

In October Deb Thalison provided the following substance abuse prevention and community health activities/events;

- Provided a total of (25) 1-hour sessions of Too Good for Drugs to Belding Woodview 5th Grade students.

- Met with Ken Baker from Soaring Above Teen Center to provide an overview of the ICSAI coalition.
- Provided a total of (12) 1-hour sessions of Too Good for Drugs to Saranac Elementary 5th Grade students.
- Presented at the October B Safe Driving School to new teen drivers on dangers of drinking and driving (17 students).
- Presented to youth at the Soaring Above teen Center on current services provided to youth in our community and in schools in Ionia County.
- Attended the bi-monthly MSHN Oversight Policy Board Meeting.
- Began preparations and scheduling for Too Good for Drugs 3rd grade programs.
- Submitted bi-annual Additional Units Report (AUR) to MSHN.
- Participated in Marketplace online training to assist community members in applying for health insurance.
- Verified and updated monthly programming data in MPDS.
- I was recognized by Health Communications with an excellent service award for training over 100 people in the TIPS program. To date I have trained 113 people over the last 2 ½ years.

PERSONAL HEALTH- Peggy Shaul-Norman, RN, MSN, MBA

- Fluoride Varnish was applied to 291 Medicaid Children 0 to 3 years of age to prevent dental caries.
- HIV Testing: Started offering the Quick Test in November 2017 – 42 tests were performed for FY 18 and 1 person tested positive for HIV and referred for confirmatory testing at the hospital and appropriate care elsewhere.
- A total of 575 blood lead tests were done in FY18. Thirty-five children tested positive for lead (above 5ug/dL) during FY 18. Any child that tests above the 5ug/dL CDC guidelines, require follow-up with phone calls and letters from the Communicable Disease (CD) nurse to assure periodic testing is done as well as care from their primary care physician. Four children tested above 20ug/dL and required more frequent and intense case management from the ICHD nursing staff, including health education, home visits, environmental changes, dietary counseling as well as physician follow-up.
- FY18 Safe Sleep and Breastfeeding initiatives are completed. The overarching goal of safe sleep is to prevent infant deaths due to an unsafe sleep environment. There were no sleep-related infant deaths in Ionia County for FY2018. Breastfeeding initiation rates increased from 78% to 79% and rate of duration of breastfeeding to 6 months of age increased from 15.53% to 19.61%. Having both a full-time Peer Counselor and an IBCLC nursing expert has helped to increase the duration rates. The Breastfeeding Project to increase the number of workplace breastfeeding programs or to augment any existing programs resulted in 6 employers in Ionia County improving their programs and 1 business initiating a breastfeeding at work program. Future plans regarding improving maternal health and increasing breastfeeding are to develop birthing classes at ICHD. This is a much needed program in Ionia County as women must travel to Grand Rapids or Lansing to receive this service. Plans are being formulated with a start date in January of 2019.
- Immunizations: Billing now occurs for Medicaid, Medicare parts B and D, and Blue Cross. The new Shingles preventative vaccine (Shingrix) is available. Hepatitis A vaccine is still available and follow-up clinics for those needing the second dose continue. 197 doses of Hepatitis vaccine were given in FY 18.
- WIC enrollment remains stable at approximately 1550 clients. Efforts to increase enrollment were not extremely successful. The reason for a state wide decrease in WIC enrollment is felt to be primarily the result of an improved economy. The Management Evaluation for WIC State of Michigan certification is planned for February 2019.
- Hearing and Vision programs are busy screening preschool and school age children throughout Ionia County. The final ruling regarding FBI background checks and fingerprinting for technicians has been determined. Technicians, due to their limited time in a school, will be treated as volunteers and therefore are not required to have the FBI background check. Technicians are required to have an additional school employee that has completed the extensive background check to be present while screening is being performed. Schools have been very cooperative and no problems have been reported.
- Communicable Disease: a total of 56 bat/human encounters were reported to ICHD this past fiscal year. That equates to 81 people exposed, 42 bats being tested by the Michigan State Laboratories, and 17 people required to receive rabies prophylaxis. One bat tested positive for rabies. Not all bats were submitted for a variety of reasons, e.g., not caught or were so damaged by home owners in the process of trying to catch that they were unable to be tested.

- Maternal Infant Health Program caseloads remained at about 60 patients at any given point in time. During FY 18, 45 pregnant women and 87 infants were served. Twelve women took part in the SCRIPT smoking cessation program to reduce their risk of early delivery and low-birth-weight babies.
- Children's Special Health Care Services has increased their case load from 260 to 298 with the additional nursing hours allotted to the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH- Ken Bowen, REHS, MS

- Gave two career presentations for the Culinary Arts students at Heartlands
- Attended the Annual Advisory Board dinner and meeting at Heartlands
- Attended the Annual Standardized Food Trainers Conference in Roscommon
- Inspected the food booths at the annual Chili Dawg Challenge in Downtown Ionia
- Responded to positive coliform bacteria tests for multiple public water supplies
- Held a Certified Food Manager class for local food establishment operators
- Norovirus educational materials sent to all foodservice establishments, daycares, and Adult Foster Care homes
- Plan review and pre-opening for the new body art shop in Ionia
- Responded to two PFAS detections at local water supplies

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (PHP) – Chad Shaw

For the months of August, September, and October we had multiple events occur throughout the county in which we were able to test our response capabilities. We have had ongoing responses to vapor intrusions as well as PFAS type chemicals in specific Ionia County water systems. These responses required continual communication with state entities and community members. Also in October we had an elevated Ecoli level in Jordan Lake which required community outreach to members living along the lake. As we enter November and December we enter the beginning of flu season which entails continual monitoring to ensure we steer clear of a widespread outbreak.

Action items for August/September/October 2018 Board of Commissioners' meeting:

- 1) Request approval of agency Payroll and Accounts Payable for the month of August 2018 in the amount of \$95,289.27
- 2) Request approval of agency Payroll and Accounts Payable for the month of September 2018 in the amount of \$101,862.36
- 3) Request approval of agency Payroll and Accounts Payable for the month of October 2018 in the amount of \$95,720.94
- 4) Request approval to add a fee for high dose influenza vaccine (Sept 11, 2018)
- 5) Request approval of the Service Agreement between Ionia County Sheriff's Office and Arbor Circle (Sept 11, 2018)
- 6) Request approval of the Health-related Academic Program Affiliation Agreement between Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents and Ionia County Health Department (September 11, 2018)
- 7) Request approval of the BCN Advantage Amendment to the Provider Group Affiliation Agreement between Blue Care Network of Michigan, Blue Care of Michigan, Inc, BCN Service Company and Ionia County Health Department. (October 9, 2018)
- 8) Request approval of the FY18/19 Prevention Services Contractual Agreement between Mid-State Health Network and Ionia County Health Department (October 9, 2018)
- 9) Request approval to renew the agreement between Kent County Health Department and Ionia County Health Department for Regional Perinatal Care System Quality Improvement Initiative (October 9, 2018)

Attachments:

- 1) Synopsis Agency Financials YTD
- 2) Agency Trending Payable and Payroll
- 3) Agency Key Indicators
- 4) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Human encounters with bats up in area" (August 24, 2018)
- 5) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "PFAS chemicals confirmed in Orleans" (September 18, 2018)
- 6) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Orleans water not a health concern" (September 19, 2018)
- 7) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Health Dept. offers stronger flu shot" (September 20, 2018)
- 8) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Sewage spill empties into Jordan Lake" (October 5, 2018)
- 9) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Health warning lifted at Jordan Lake on Friday" (October 6, 2018)
- 10) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Health Department hosting needle disposal day" (October 13, 2018)
- 11) Ad in Ionia County Shoppers Guide "Are you having a hard time making ends meet?" (October 20, 2018)
- 12) Article from Ionia Sentinel Standard "Ionia school employee has meningitis" (October 25, 2018)

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

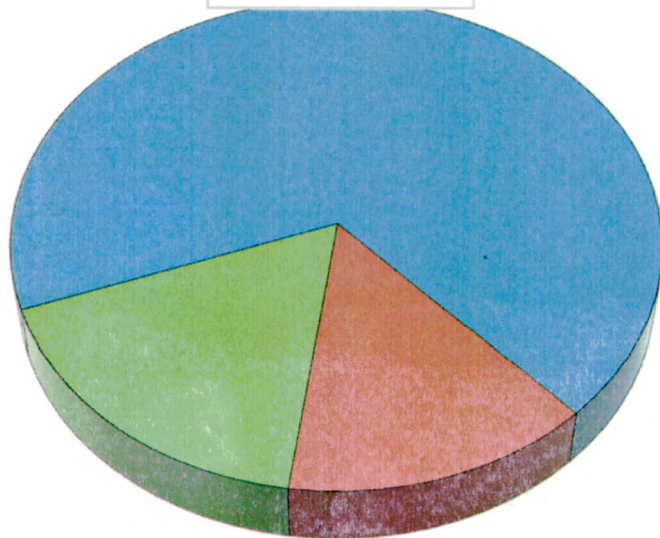
Ionia County Health Department

October 2018		Period 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018	
REVENUE CATEGORY	2018 Budget	REVENUES YEAR-TO-DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
Federal/State	1,428,446	1,161,836	81.3%
Fees & Collections	296,966	306,830	103.3%
Other Revenue	359,424	766	0.2%
TOTAL FUNDING	2,084,836	1,469,432	70.5%

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2018 Budget	EXPENDITURES YEAR-TO-DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
Wages & Fringes	1,338,149	1,091,538	81.6%
Supplies	261,657	224,991	86.0%
Travel	39,094	27,403	70.1%
Other Expenses	445,936	340,944	76.5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,084,836	1,684,876	80.8%

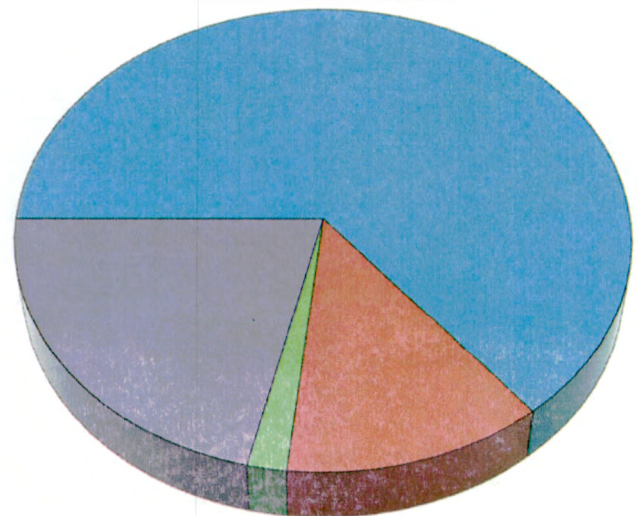
Management	3.00		0.0%
Support	8.06		0.0%
Professional	10.10		0.0%
Total FTE's	21.16	0.00	0.0%

Revenue Budget



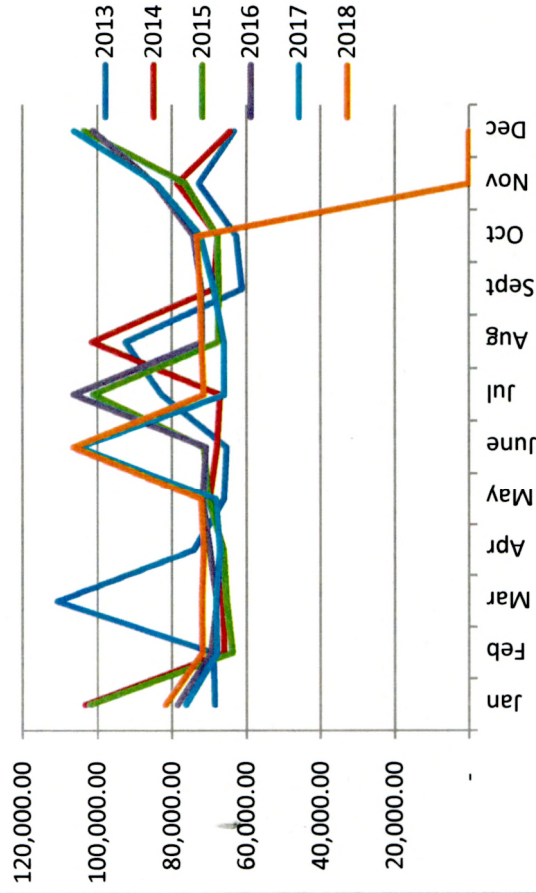
■ Federal/State ■ Fees & Collections ■ Other Revenue

Expense Budget

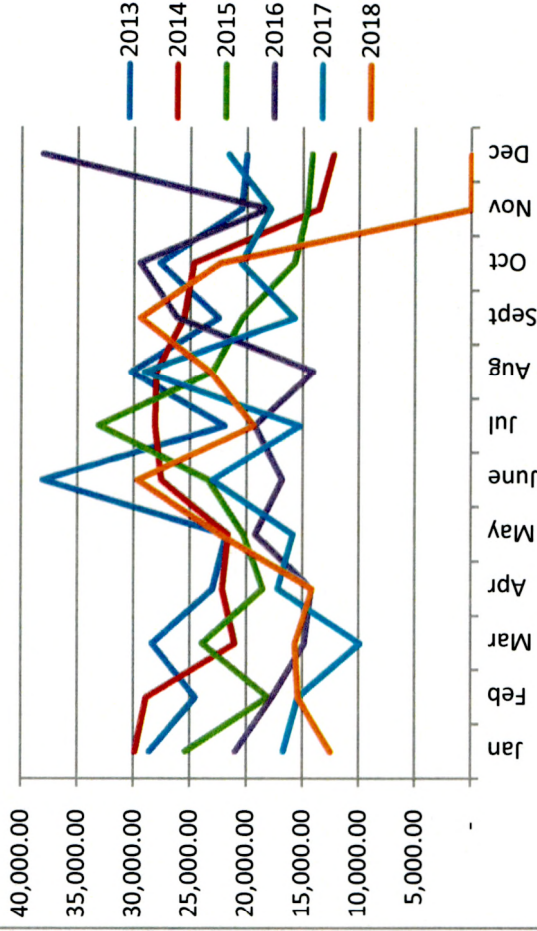


■ Wages & Fringes ■ Supplies ■ Travel ■ Other Expenses

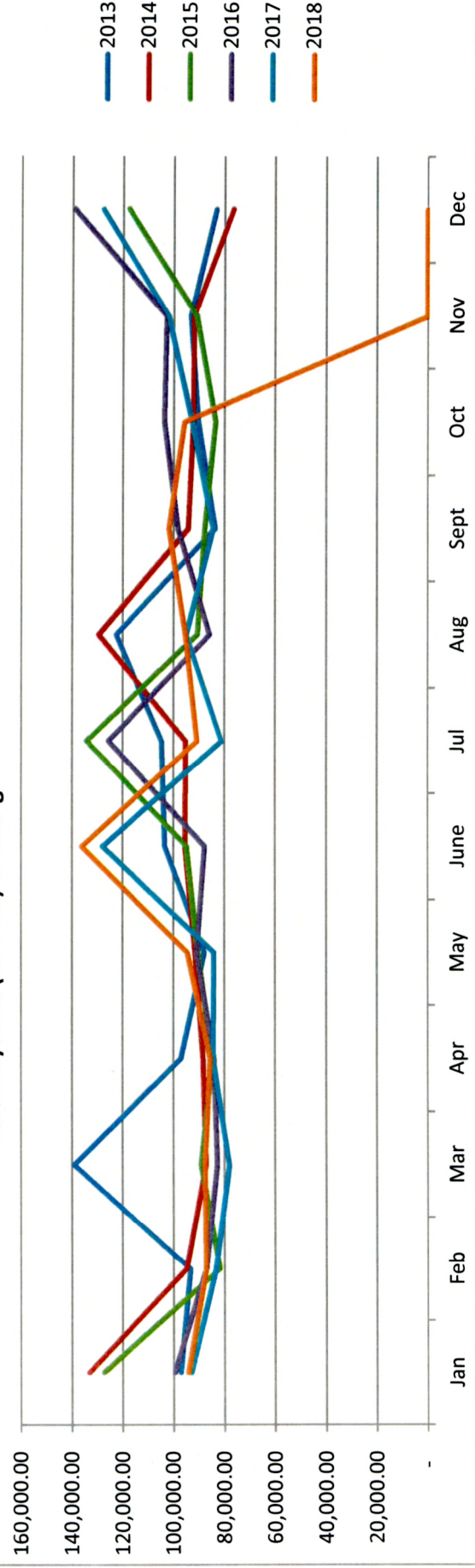
Payroll Trending



Payables Trending



Total Payables (AP + PR) Trending



2018 Public Health Activities

All numbers are based on count as of date this report is completed. Some numbers may change.

	August-18	September-18	October-18	YTD 2018	Total 2017
PERSONAL HEALTH					
Hearing	39	141	770	2649	3341
Vision	7	204	1029	3684	4255
WIC	1365	1368	N/A	12445	16109
Animal Bites	73	21	22	243	173
CD Cases (includes STD)	42	17	36	230	520
Immunizations (includes Flu)	425	420	645	3285	3227
Maternal Infant Health Program Home Visits	44	53	52	526	496
Active Lead Cases	39	39	33	346	N/A
COMMUNITY HEALTH					
Autopsies	3	3	N/A	30	39
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH					
Complaints Received (ALL)	16	9	5	82	83
Complaints Closed (ALL)	9	6	10	67	73
Food Complaint Investigations	1	2	2	12	5
Routine Food Inspections	19	39	24	290	333
Plans Received	0	0	0	6	12
Temporary Food Inspections	20	8	8	62	82
DHS Inspections	3	4	5	33	33
Campgrounds-Fixed	0	0	0	8	8
Campgrounds-Temporary	2	1	0	4	5
Swimming Pool Inspections	0	0	0	10	11
Loan Evaluations	5	7	8	81	96
Radon Test Kits	4	9	7	127	150
Septic Permits Issued	17	8	15	130	134
Septic Permits Finals	19	16	19	104	118
Land Evaluations	11	8	15	110	78
Septage Inspections (Site/Truck)	0	0	0	1	2
Water Samples Taken	23	29	42	308	341
Well Permits Issued	23	23	16	158	150
Well Permits Final	7	10	8	68	108
Sanitary Survey	0	0	0	15	23
Campground Inspection (All)	2	1	0	12	13
Methamphetamine Investigations	0	0	0	1	4

N/A data not available at time of report

Human encounters with bats up in area

No bats have tested positive for rabies since June

By Mitchell Boatman
616-546-4209

IONIA — If you've recently found a bat in your home in Ionia County, you're not alone.

According to a report presented to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners this week, 22 bats were brought

into the county health department between May and July.

And that total continues to grow in August.

"It's ongoing," said Ionia County Health Officer Ken Bowen. "We had a number of bats brought in (Aug. 20), in fact. Normal would be a few bats. We typically don't get anywhere near this many."

Of the 22 bats brought in, some have tested positive for rabies, and about a dozen people have gone through

the process of rabies prophylaxis (PEP) treatments after coming in close contact with them.

No bats have tested positive for rabies in Ionia County since June, according to Bowen. There have been no reports of people contracting rabies from contact with them.

"It's all been preventive," Bowen said of humans receiving PEP treatments after having contact with bats. "I don't have the exact

number, but not all of (the bats) have tested positive."

Rabid bats have been a problem across the state in 2018. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 22 rabid bats have been found statewide as of June 28, up from just nine at that point in 2017.

Rabies can be fatal for humans, and quick medical attention is crucial. Early

SEE BATS, PAGE A3



Virginia Tech PhD student Sam Freeze preparing to release an Eastern red female bat in Prince William Forest Park in Quantico, Va. [CAL CARY/THE WASHINGTON POST]

BATS

Continued from Page A1

symptoms include fever, headaches and fatigue. If you come into contact with a bat, consult a physician. Bat bites are much more subtle than those of other animals, and can occur without the person noticing.

Bats are usually more active from May through September, searching for food and rearing their young in the warm weather.

Still, this doesn't explain the large increase in human encounters with bats, and positive rabies tests for bats this summer.

"It's unusual, but we have not been able to identify any particular cause for it," Bowen said.

Bowen added that it's too early to tell if this is a fluke year or the start of a new trend.

"I can't tell if this is going

to be a new normal," he said. "If this were to happen again next year it would be a real cause for concern. Right now, we have to treat it as though it's an oddity."

The Ionia County Health Department has instructions for capturing a bat on its website. It's important to wear leather gloves and avoid direct contact.

Use a plastic container or box to trap the bat, slide a piece of cardboard or lid over the opening to keep the bat inside, and tape the box or container shut.

"We recommend that you capture the bat as safely as possible, and then call our office so we can consult with you about what the next steps might be," Bowen said.

Be sure to store a captured bat in a cool place, but do not freeze it. It is recommended that bats be caught alive, because their brains cannot be tested for rabies if damaged.

PFAS chemicals confirmed in Orleans

Officials will address groundwater issue at a Tuesday meeting at township hall

By Steve Gunn
@hollandsentinel.com
616-546-4209

a few months ago.

Local health officials say the levels of contamination are "not an immediate or urgent health concern."

ORLEANS TWP. — A second well water sample taken from the EightCAP office site in Orleans Township has confirmed what the first sample said.

There are low levels of potentially-hazardous PFAS chemical compounds in the water at slightly higher levels than were found during a previous test taken

results, and what they could mean for other township residents. Residents who live near site of the positive tests — EightCAP's Ionia County Outreach Office at 5827 Orleans Rd. — are encouraged to attend the meeting, according to Ken Bowen, the health officer at the Ionia County Health Department. All residents are welcome to attend.

The compounds were detected in a second sample of well water taken in early September from the EightCAP site. EightCAP is a non-profit agency that

offers Head Start classes for young children, as well as several other human service programs.

The initial tests results, released just before the second sample was taken, showed the compound PFBS at 180ppt, while the latest results showed an increase to 200ppt.

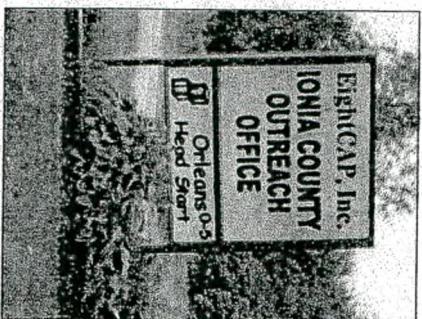
The initial results showed the compound PFHxA at 2ppt, while the new results showed a higher level at 3 ppt.

PFBS and PFHxA have the potential to be harmful to humans, but the

federal government has not attached any type of health advisory to those compounds because there not enough is known about them.

Neither water test at the EightCAP site showed detectable levels of the compounds PFOS and PFOA, the two types of PFAS compounds for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency has established non-regulatory Lifetime Health Advisory levels.

SEE PFAS, PAGE A2



The groundwater that tested positive for PFAS compounds was at the EightCAP office at 5827 Orleans Road. [ERIN DIETZER/SENTINEL-STANDARD]

PFAS

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Bowen said the levels of contamination at the EightCAP site are not considered a health risk, but added that officials are determined to find out why they are present in the water.

"(The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) has concluded that these levels of PFBS are not an immediate or urgent health concern," Bowen said. "That said, PFBS should not be in area groundwater and we want to know why it is there. MDEQ and County where the groundwater is scheduled to be tested for PFAS compounds, as part of a statewide health initiative. Results from four test sites have come back, and the other three have been negative," Bowen said.

Individuals concerned about exposure to PFAS should contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Toxicology Hotline at 800-648-6942. Anyone seeking direct one-on-one assistance or referral to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality network of technical staff should call 800-662-9278 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

"My recommendation would be to sample, but if possible to wait and see if the state will step in first," Bowen said. "If people prefer not to wait we can provide them wise to wait."

But he also said it may be possible to wait and see if the state will step in first, Bowen said. "If people prefer not to wait we can provide them

"My recommendation would be to sample, but if possible to wait and see if the state will step in first. If people prefer not to wait we can provide them with information on sampling. Taking the samples is a complicated process, but we expect a 'do-it-yourself' guide from the state very soon."

Ken Bowen, Ionia County Health Department

They can also send an email to deq-assist@michigan.gov.

Orleans water not a health concern

State, local health officials said residents can use carbon filters or have water tested

By Steve Gannon
@hollandsentinel.com
616-546-4209

ORLEANS TOWNSHIP

— This is the bottom line, based on what local and state health officials know so far:

investigation to try to determine where the contamination is coming from, and have no answers so far.

The well water at the EightCAP outreach office in Orleans Township, while contaminated with low levels of PFAS compounds, is safe.

Officials have conducted a computer-based

But there doesn't seem to be cause for alarm at this point.

"Based on the available information, the contamination in the EightCAP water supply is not a public health concern," Bill Farrell, a toxicologist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, told an audience of

several dozen residents on Tuesday night at Orleans Township Hall.

When asked what concerned residents should do to feel comfortable with their drinking water, officials said they have several options.

"It depends on your risk level, and what you are comfortable with," said

Abigail Hendershott, a district manager for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "If I were a young pregnant woman, or I had small children at home, I'd put a filter on the drinking water source. Otherwise you can always get your drinking

SEE WATER, PAGE A2

WATER

Continued from Page A1

water tested."

Ken Bowen, health officer for the Ionia County Health Department, said officials are always wary of labeling anything as completely safe, only to have new information pop up later to the contrary.

"If it were up to me, I would test my water," said Bowen, who added that the process can be costly (between \$300-\$500), but the state may come up with a do-it-yourself water test kit in the near future. "That being said, at this level (of PFAS compounds), it's not a concern right now."

Officials from the three agencies made a presentation at the regular monthly Orleans Township board meeting, one day after the results of a second test of well water at the EightCAP site at 5827 Orleans Road confirmed the presence of PFAS compounds.

The results showed a slightly higher level of the potentially-harmful compounds than the results from the first test, which were released in August.

The compounds that were found were PFBS and PFHxA, which are currently considered the lesser of the PFAS compounds that are being tested for at drinking water sources statewide. The federal government has not attached any type of health advisory to those compounds because there is a lack of information about them.

Neither water test at

the EightCAP site showed detectable levels of the compounds PFOS and PFOA, the two types of PFAS compounds for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency has established non-regulatory lifetime health advisory levels.

Officials told their Orleans Township audience that PFAS are commonly-used chemical compounds that have many uses, and can be found at various types of sites, including fire-fighting training facilities, military bases, airports, landfills, chemical facilities and many more.

They said PFAS are very stable compounds that do not break down, and will remain present forever. They said high levels of PFAs in drinking water can potentially lead to health problems over the course of years. They said pretty much everyone has been exposed to the compounds and have some levels in their blood.

They said 75 percent of the drinking water sources in the state will be tested for the presence of PFAs by the time the exhaustive state effort is concluded. They noted that 39 sites have or will be tested in Ionia County, and results from three of four sites have come back negative.

Aaron Assmann, another official from the DEQ, told the residents at the meeting that he has been investigating possible sources of the groundwater contamination at the EightCAP site, but has come to no conclusions.

He said his computer-based search has revealed the presence of several old underground gasoline storage tanks, including several confirmed leakers, but they are too far away from the site to be possible sources.

"There was not a solid, silver-bullet source that I found," said Assmann, who works out of Grand Rapids. "If you have any information (about other possible sources), please pass it on to us, because we're happy to learn more."

Several concerned residents at the meeting suggested possible sources, including the nearby Pitsch Sanitary Landfill in Belding, former gas stations in the area that have underground tanks, and sewage lagoons that are emptied into a creek twice a year (after the water is tested).

Officials said they would continue to search for a source, as new leads become available.

"If we have something constructive to investigate, yes," said Hendershott, who added that leachate from landfills across the state will soon be tested, as part of the statewide effort to check for PFAS compounds.

Some studies have shown certain types of PFAS may "affect the developing fetus and child including possible changes in growth, learning, and behavior; decrease fertility; interfere with the body's natural hormones, increase cholesterol, affect the immune system, and increase cancer risk," according to a press release from the DEQ.

Health Dept. offers stronger flu shot

Special dose offers more protection for older people

By Mitchell Boatman
616-546-4209

IONIA — With flu season approaching, the Ionia County Health Department is stocking up on vaccines.

And this year, there will be a new option available for older residents, who can be particularly susceptible to the flu and its dangers.

In addition to the Vaccines for Children options and regular flu shots for adults, the health department is offering a higher dose vaccine this fall for those age 65 and older.

The vaccine has been around for a few years, but officials hope its availability through the health department will allow more older people to know about it and have access to it.

"The high dose flu vaccine has more antigen in it than the regular vaccine," said health department immunizations nurse Jamie Bevington. "It gives a better immune response. It's recommended to be given to people 65 and older."

"Once we get older, our immune systems don't work as well, so by giving them the higher dose, it's supposed to boost the immunity better."

"I highly recommend it. We want everybody to get the flu shot — people of all ages — but those of us who are younger have healthier systems. We need to protect the elderly and the very young."

The health department picked up the vaccine because, as of a few months ago, it can now bill Medicare for the shots.

SEE SHOTS, PAGE A2

SHOTS

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Bevington said she hopes people take advantage of the new option, but the supply is limited.

"We've got 30 doses, which isn't a lot," Bevington said. "We're able to get more, but didn't want to get more and then have it go bad by people not coming in."

The health department

will still be offering VFC shots for kids 18-and-under and regular dosage shots for adults aged 19-64, although the later has not arrived yet.

"We're still limited in what we're able to give," Bevington said. "Flu vaccine doesn't come out until September, so we just received our (first) shipment. We don't have our vaccine for people who have insurance or are 19 and older. We should be getting the rest in shortly."

The fee for the high dose flu vaccine will be \$61.

Last year's flu season was worse than many previous years in Ionia County with nearly 3,000 cases reported to the health department, according to Bevington.

"Last year was more prominent," she said. "The vaccine was not as effective as in previous years. It goes up and down and varies from year to year, depending on strains of flu prominent in the community."

Sewage spill empties into Jordan Lake

People advised to avoid contact with water due to high E-coli levels

By Steve Gunn
@hollandsentinel.com
616-546-4209

LAKE ODESSA — The

Ionian County Health Department has issued a warning against human contact with Jordan Lake in Lake Odessa, following a wastewater

of the human body, can cause severe diarrhea and various complications.

Officials have been testing the E-coli level in Jordan Lake since the spill, and it remained very high as of Thursday.

The measurement that is considered safe is any number below 300, according to Ken Bowen, the public health officer at the health department. The three

tests that have been done so far have measured levels at 5,800, 6,000 and 7,100, according to Bowen.

"The reason why we are recommending no body contact with the water," Bowen said. "We will continue testing until it's considered safe."

When asked if eating fish from the lake is safe, Bowen said, "I wouldn't tell people not to fish, but we're

recommending no body contact with the water."

The overflow, caused by heavy rain, occurred at a wastewater pump station and resulted in approximately 8,200 gallons of sewage to spill into the creek that empties into the north side of the lake, near the Veteran's Memorial.

The overflow occurred from about 2:30 a.m. until a little after 5 a.m., according

to information provided by the Lakewood Wastewater Authority.

The wastewater authority will post updates of the situation on its website (Lakewoodwastewater.org) and on the door of its building at 839 Fourth St. in Lake Odessa. Residents seeking more information can call the wastewater authority at 616-374-3265.

Health warning lifted at Jordan Lake on Friday

E. coli levels in the lake returned to normal

Sentinel-Standard Staff

LAKE ODESSA — The Ionia County Health Department lifted the public health warning on Sentinel-Standard staff Jordan Lake at 3 p.m. Friday.

Residents are safe to resume

normal activities in the lake.

The ICHD put the warning in effect on Thursday, Oct. 4, due to elevated levels of E. coli bacteria in the lake and a creek feeding into it.

The health department advised against any body contact with the water due to E. coli levels that tested up to 7,000 - more than 20 times the safe

level of 300. However, the latest tests by the Lakewood Wastewater Authority showed a return to safe levels and the ban was lifted on Friday. The levels of the bacteria are safe for full body contact.

The elevated levels were due to an overflow of the wastewater system early Tuesday morning, caused by heavy rain in the area.

Approximately 8,200 gallons of raw sewage dumped into a creek that flows into Jordan Lake.

The overflow occurred at a wastewater pump station from around 2:30-5 a.m.

E. coli is a bacteria found in the digestive tract. Certain strains of the bacteria can cause severe diarrhea, stomach cramping and vomiting.

Frontpage - Sentinel Standard Oct 6, 2018 weekend

Health Department hosting needle disposal day

Event is free, no questions will be asked about how needles were used

By Mitchell Boatman
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616-522-6043

IONIA — The Ionia County Health Department is hosting a free sharps disposal day next week to dispose of used needles and syringes.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the health department, 175 E. Adams St. in Ionia.

Ken Bowen, Health Officer at the ICHD, says the event is an effort to cut down on accidents and the spread of disease. Drug abusers who employ used needles can be susceptible to HIV and other life-threatening conditions.

"The purpose is to prevent reuse of needles, and accidental sticks when they are just thrown in the garbage," Bowen said. "It helps prevent the spread of

bloodborne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis."

Needles can be dropped off with no need to disclose what they were used for.

"Needles and syringes will be disposed of free of charge, no questions asked," Bowen said.

The use of needles is common in society - for both legal and illegal purposes.

"Diabetes is quite common, but there are other health issues that require injections," Bowen said. "Heroin use is much more common than it used to be, as a result of

the opioid epidemic. This is a national trend, not just Ionia County."

While the ICHD won't ask what the needles were used for, there are several criteria that must be met for officials to accept the sharps.

The needles must be capped and stored in plastic containers, such as a milk and laundry detergent jugs. Items from doctor's offices, dentist's offices and similar businesses will not be accepted.

Bowen said the idea for the disposal day stemmed

from a large amount of calls asking for disposal options.

"We get a lot of calls from individuals looking to safely dispose of needles," he said. "There are not many options in Ionia County. There may be future take-back events, depending on the response."

Bowen added that the ICHD held an event like this once before, last winter. He said employees were able to fill "a couple of large boxes" that day.

For more information, call the Ionia County Health Department at 616-527-5341.

IONIACOUNTYSHOPPERSGUIDE.com - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

ARE YOU HAVING A HARD TIME MAKING ENDS MEET?

Your family may be eligible for WIC food benefits.
If you have children under the age of 5, are pregnant AND your income is below the following guidelines.

Income Guidelines Effective June 13, 2018



Size of Unit	Yearly
1	\$22,459
2	\$30,451
3	\$38,443
4	\$46,435
5	\$54,427
6	\$62,419
7	\$70,411



Please contact the Ionia County WIC Program at (616) 527-5337

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ionia school employee has meningitis

Officials stress that it's a less severe strain, and students were probably not infected

By Steve Gunn and Mitchell Boatman
news@sentinel-standard.com

IONIA — A letter was sent home with all Ionia Public School students on Wednesday afternoon, alerting parents that a school employee has been diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. But school officials stressed that the

school employee," wrote Denise Wireman, the Ionia school district nurse, in the letter sent home to parents.

"We have been in contact with the Ionia County Health Department to evaluate the risk to students. It has been confirmed that the organism causing the meningitis is H. Influenzae, and it is not Neisseria meningitidis, which is much more severe.

"The Ionia County Health Department is not

recommending any precautionary measures or antibiotics, other than to be aware of the disease. Please be assured that the district will continue to work with the Ionia County Health Department to ensure that any and all appropriate measures are taken to ensure the health and safety of staff and students."

School officials said they couldn't identify the sick employee, or say what job that person holds in the

district, due to privacy laws. Superintendent Ron Wilson said it's his understanding that the employee is not hospitalized.

Wilson said the Ionia County Health Department advised the school to contact students or other people who have been in direct contact with the sick employee. But district officials decided to notify the parents of all students, just as a precaution.

"Given the way social media works, we felt we

should let people know," Wilson said.

Wilson said the district has also been contacting the parents of kids who have been home sick, to make sure they are not experiencing any symptoms of meningitis.

The letter from the school nurse said "meningitis is an infection of the fluid of a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Meningitis is caused

SEE MENINGITIS, PAGE A2

MENINGITIS

Continued from Page A1

by a viral or bacterial infection. It is important to know which type of bacteria is causing the meningitis because antibiotics can prevent some types from spreading and infecting other people."

The letter said the signs and symptoms of meningitis include "severe headache, stiff neck or back, fever, and vomiting. These symptoms may develop over several hours or may take several days. Other symptoms may include discomfort looking into bright lights and confusion. The disease is spread through direct contact with an infected person's oral or nasal secretions, meaning saliva or mucus. Only a health care provider can diagnose meningitis. Children or adults exhibiting



Bowen

added that it would still be smart for them to watch out for possible symptoms.

"I would say that there's no reason to believe that any students would have contracted the disease from the employee, but it's possible," he said. "I would advise parents to review the symptoms on the CDC website and, if they're concerned, call their doctor or call the Health Department during business hours."

"That doesn't mean it's not something to be concerned about," Bowen said. "Any strain of bacterial meningitis is cause for concern."

There is a vaccine for the Hib, which is available at the Ionia County Health Department and most medical providers, Bowen said.

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html> for

should be in the school

Ionia County Committee of the Whole Meeting 11/20/2018

Emergency Management Report

ALICE Trainings:

- 1) All school Staff (except Saranac Elementary) have been trained.
- 2) Saranac High School student body has been trained
- 3) St. Joseph student body has been trained
- 4) Many other places such as banks, business and churches have been trained
- 5) Ionia County hosting an ALICE instructor training in February.

Courthouse Exercise:

- 1) Staff was trained in ALICE prior to exercise
- 2) Exercise was held and several problems were identified
- 3) Working on After Action Report and Improvement Plan
- 4) Was well received by staff

Citizen Corps Program:

- 1) Local program remains active in Ionia/Montcalm counties
- 2) 852 volunteer hours for CERT/MRC
- 3) Region 6 purchased new CPR manikins for active programs
- 4) Region 6 doing a bleeding control project.
- 5) RACES (Ham Radio) has been active with a couple of bike races.

Project Status:

- 1) Wrapping up CPR manikin regional project
- 2) Sims project in progress having trouble getting approval on sims pistols
- 3) CelleBrite phone forensics project in progress-submitted to state
- 4) Courthouse Camera Project in progress –estimates received
- 5) Chemical Analyzer repair project in progress –submitted for AAF review
- 6) Started planning for FY19 Projects.

Rescue Task Force:

- 1) Lt. Bucholtz and I forming RTF
- 2) Will be looking at funding sources
- 3) Several Fire Departments on board with RTF concept

Respectfully,

Sgt. William S. Hoskins

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
Committee-of-the-Whole
Central Dispatch Report – November 20, 2018

UPDATE: PFN 911 FIBER PROJECT:

As of this report a total of 11 of 19 Local Exchange Carriers (LEC) have been cut over onto the new PFN 9-1-1 fiber. The cutovers are handled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week; one or two carriers per day. No cutover will take place next week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Five additional LECs are scheduled over the following three weeks. Yet to be scheduled are AT&T and Frontier the current 9-1-1 call providers. We expect the last two will be placed on a tentative schedule in the very near future.

DISPATCHER HIRING PROCESS:

All testing and interviews have been completed. A total of 28 individuals applied. All were invited to take the general knowledge test. One applicant went through testing last year and opted to use last year's general knowledge and dispatch specific test scores.

25 participated in the general knowledge with one no show and one applicant dropped out prior to this test. All 25 applicants were invited back for the dispatch specific test. 17 applicants participated in the dispatch specific test; the remainder decided not to pursue this position for various reasons.

The top seven people (based upon a combined score from both tests) were invited to an oral board interview on Friday, November 9th. As a result, one candidate has been invited back for a final interview and will be given a conditional offer of employment subject to successful completion of a physical, vision and hearing examinations, drug screen, pre-employment psychological examination and background investigation.

Assuming the candidate successfully passes the employment prerequisites an offer of probationary employment will be given. I expect this person will be on the job and entering the training phase by the beginning of December. With this hiring, we will once again be at full dispatch strength in numbers, and hopefully by mid-May the new hire will be released from training. We feel we have a strong pool of candidates with the remaining six so we should be in very good shape in the event another opening occurs over the next year.

SECURITY CAMERAS – DOOR ACCESS UPGRADE:

The project to upgrade and add security cameras and add card access to two more exterior doors approved at the September 11, 2018 Board of County Commissioners meeting is scheduled for installation/completion on Thursday, November 29th.