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H1N1 VIRUS AT PANDEMIC LEVELS: MICHIGAN PREPARES FOR WORST

As flu season approaches, concerns over the H1N1 influenza virus are mounting. This particular strain of influenza has reached pandemic status, and federal health officials are warning that the United States could see about 30,000 deaths as a result of H1N1 infections. In comparison, common strains of influenza that infect U.S. citizens annually also account for about 30,000-35,000 deaths annually. The distinction is in who is likely to be most impacted by the H1N1 strain. Early indicators show H1N1 appears to have no preference when it comes to age. Healthy young and middle-aged adults are as likely to be infected as seniors and children. Deaths from H1N1 are likely to come from those who are infected that also have another significant health concern, such as a compromised immune system or a respiratory disease or illness.

The federal government and the state of Michigan are both working to ensure citizens are well educated about H1N1 so that effects of the virus are minimized.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has developed a department-specific plan called the *Pandemic Influenza Safe Work Practice Guide*. This plan identifies all of the steps to be taken if there is an outbreak at a given worksite.

The plan focuses on three actions:

- Keep it out. Ensure people who have the H1N1 virus do not enter the worksite and come in close contact with uninfected workers and prisoners. This may result in employees who are exhibiting symptoms being sent home, as well as members of the public, including visitors, being turned away.
- Isolate it within the worksite. In a prison setting, a prisoner, or prisoners who are infected may be quarantined to control the spread of the disease. If an outbreak occurs within a facility, an entire area that is shown to be infected may be quarantined. At a public worksite, infected workers would be directed to stay home until their risk of infecting others has subsided.

H1N1 Virus Signs and Symptoms

- Fever of 100° F or greater
- Fatigue - sometimes to the extreme
- Coughing, sneezing, runny nose
- Body aches and chills
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting



F.Y.I. is a Publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications.



- Isolate the worksite. This action would be taken when the entire prison is likely to be infected or at risk of infection. There would be no facility transfers, the public would be restricted from visiting the facility, and employees who were ill would be directed to stay home and seek necessary medical attention.

In general, if you have symptoms, avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness, especially people at increased risk of severe illness from influenza. You should frequently wash your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your nose, mouth, or eyes. Cough or sneeze into a tissue and wash your hands afterward.

If you are sick, you may be ill for a week or longer (up to 20 days in some cases). You are considered contagious from one day prior to symptoms until at least seven days after symptoms appear. You should stay home and keep away from others as much as possible, including avoiding travel and not going to work or school, for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medications) except to get medical care or for other necessities. A fever is considered a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or 37.8° Celsius or greater.

If you have a pre-existing health condition, especially involving your respiratory or immune systems, being infected with the H1N1 virus could create a life-threatening condition. Your health care provider may be able to prescribe medications that mitigate the symptoms and reduce the duration of the infection.

For more information on influenza viruses, please visit the following Web sites:

<http://www.flu.gov>
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>
www.michigan.gov/flu
www.cdc.gov/flu
www.pandemicflu.gov
www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation
www.ostp.gov/cs/pcast

ANNUAL FLU CLINICS COMING TO A WORKSITE NEAR YOU

The State of Michigan is offering flu immunization clinics at worksites throughout the state. The Working on Wellness (WOW) Web site has a list of all state worksites hosting flu shot clinics:

www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854_24290_24417-153536--,00.html

Many sites allow all State employees to participate in their clinics. Many sites are by appointment ONLY.



State health insurance carriers will cover 100% of the cost of the flu shot: BCBSM PPO, BCN, Priority Health, HAP, Health Plus of Michigan, PHP Mid-MI and McLaren Health Plan. Therefore, service will be provided at no charge to employees. TWO EXCEPTIONS: Employees with Grand Valley Health Plan and Total Health Care HMOs will need to go to their primary physician to receive the flu shot. There may be a co-pay fee.

NO CARD - NO SHOT! Employees must bring a copy of their state health insurance card - NOT 'Vision' or 'Magellan' health cards - to a clinic to receive a flu shot at no charge. Otherwise, the fee for the flu shot is \$28, payable by check to MVN&H.

The "seasonal" flu shot offered at State worksites DOES NOT protect against the (novel H1N1) flu virus. The H1N1 flu shot will NOT be given at state worksite clinics. If interested in receiving the H1N1 flu shot, please contact your primary physician to see if you are eligible. For updates on H1N1 visit:

www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854_24290_24417-153536--,00.html

OR

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.



RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS & BETTER CITIZENS

The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is constantly evolving. As more services and programming come online, the Michigan Department of Corrections and our state and community partners continue to share the successes of the program. *Re-Entry Roundtable* is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes about the new way of doing business in the MDOC.

STATE BAR SYMPOSIUM: "BALANCING OUR PRIORITIES: CAN WE SAFELY SPEND LESS ON CORRECTIONS"

Faced with an ever-deepening fiscal crisis, Michigan is searching for ways to reduce the budget of the Department of Corrections. Legislators are divided between those who want to reduce the prison population and those who want to privatize prison services. Community-based programs intended to reduce crime are in need of more funding.

Last year, the Prisons & Corrections Section of the State Bar of Michigan and four other organizations sponsored a well-received, half-day symposium in Lansing that addressed these questions. The Section is now presenting an updated and expanded version at a location convenient for those in Southeast Michigan's Inn at St. John's. The symposium is open to any member of the criminal justice community and should be of interest to defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole staff, treatment personnel, community service providers, and members of law enforcement.

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth

Cost: \$45 for Section members; \$65 for non-Section members (with membership included). Breakfast and lunch are included.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Links to the registration form, agenda, and program announcement can also be found on the [Prisons & Corrections Section](#) web page and at the program Web site at:

<http://www.balancingourpriorities.org/>.

LSJ EDITORS EXAMINE PRISON SPENDING WITH AN AIM TO REDUCE IT BY \$500 MILLION

A recent three-day editorial by the Lansing State journal provided some insight into the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative and Michigan's efforts to control our prison population safely while reducing costs and reinvesting in areas Michigan's citizens want to see funded.

The editorial provided several viewpoints, some of the successes and roadblocks to future success. While the editorial may have raised more questions than answers, it provides a substantive platform for future discussion of the direction of Michigan's prison system.

To read more, visit the Lansing State Journal's Web site by clicking on the image below.





STATE EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN



2009 SECC UNDERWAY

The 2009 State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC), “**Pathway to Giving,**” will run from September 14, 2009 through October 16, 2009. The 2009 campaign brings with it a sense of excitement and enthusiasm as we look for alternative ways to give during a struggling economy. As a State employee, you have the opportunity to participate through contributions, volunteerism, and advocacy, and in doing so, can positively impact the citizens in need of our help in Michigan.

If you already contribute to the campaign, please consider increasing your pledge. Those of you not currently participating in payroll deduction, please take the time to review the list of participating agencies. You may find your favorite charity listed, and by completing an online payroll deduction form, you will save time and reduce administrative costs for your charity. A single dollar per pay period will make a difference.

In lieu of a monetary contribution, State employees have the opportunity to utilize their community service hours to make an impact; whether you mentor a child, volunteer at a food bank, or provide respite care for families in need, there are many creative ways to give.

Volunteers are issuing informational materials to all Department employees. In an effort to be friendlier to the environment, we will be distributing less printed material this year and will be encouraging employee donations online at <http://www.michigan.gov/selfserv> or by calling the MI HR Service Center at (877) 766-6447. Your facility/office volunteers are available to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can help you. If your volunteer is unavailable, feel free to contact the Department’s Coordinator - Christine Navarro at 517-373-3695 - and she will assist you.



Many worksites are having fun-filled challenges like fun-themed casual days, penny challenges, bake sales, breakfasts, car washes, raffles, and pink flamingo office visits. What ever you do, it goes to some very deserving charities who help the less fortunate throughout our state.

Please take a few moments to learn more about the State Employees Charitable Campaign at <http://www.misecc.org>. Whether you choose to donate your time and/or money locally, statewide, nationally or worldwide, you will find an SECC participating agency that will put you on the “**Pathway to Giving.**”





NEOGOV WILL STREAMLINE STATE HIRING PROCESS

The Civil Service Commission is pleased to announce a new online employment application and selection system hosted by NEOGOV that will streamline the state's hiring process, saving time and money. NEOGOV is currently being successfully used by many other states and public sector employers.

As of Monday, September 14, 2009, the State's current vacancy posting system has changed and all state agencies transition to NEOGOV. You will find the link to the new hosted site in the same location as the current posting system on the Michigan Civil Service Commission Web site, www.michigan.gov/mdcs.

The Civil Service Commission encourages you to visit NEOGOV now at <http://www.neogov.com/> to get background information about the online tool that is now available to you when applying for state jobs. Among the many benefits of the system, it allows you to save and store multiple applications and keep transcripts and other relevant documentation in one place. This eliminates the need for you to repeatedly upload and attach the same materials when you apply for each vacancy. Additionally, you will receive an automated response when you apply for a vacancy so you will know that your application has been received.

This new electronic online application tool will be both convenient and easy to use. The Civil Service Commission invites you to visit their web site and take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and "How to Apply" information available in the new Career Tools section today.



CLOSURES AND CONSOLIDATIONS CONTINUE

The Michigan Department of Corrections has completed a consolidation action within three correctional complexes.

- Gus Harrison Correctional Facility and Parr Highway Correctional Facility are now consolidated into Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.
- Chippewa and Straits correctional facilities have been consolidated into Chippewa Correctional Facility.
- Carson City Correctional Facility and Boyer Road Correctional Facility have been consolidated into Carson City Correctional Facility.

These consolidations provide greater staffing flexibility, enhance shared services, and reduce redundancy within the facilities.

Earlier this summer the upper peninsula experienced the closure of Hiawatha Correctional Facility and three camps, Cusino, Kitwen, and Ottawa.

Effective September 19, Camp White Lake will close, leaving only camp Lehman and two prisons, Muskegon Correctional Facility and Standish Maximum Correctional Facility as those facilities identified for closure that remain open.

There continues to be speculation regarding the two prisons, including negotiations with Pennsylvania to bring prisoners from their overcrowded system to Michigan. The federal government continues to explore the possibility of using Standish as a detention facility for foreign detainees.



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



Why does college football make people insane? I don't mean in the clinical sense, rather in the, "You just lost your mind. Why are you on the roof of our home waving the <insert favorite college team> banner and singing the fight song for all the neighbors to hear" sense. Why do millions of Americans sit in the stands or in front of the television each weekend cheering fanatically for their team and hoping to experience the sheer unbridled euphoria of another victory? What drives that passion and why is it so difficult to harness and apply to other aspects of our lives?

After watching two heart-stopping, gut-wrenching, head-thumping football games last Saturday, I wondered aloud what makes me do it? Why am I drawn into the madness? I could ignore it. I had many other things I could be doing, but I didn't. In fact, anything interrupting my focus on these two games was akin to disturbing a hornets nest - if you didn't run away very quickly, you were going to get stung repeatedly until you stopped being a threat.

I couldn't focus on dinner, I was banished to the "man cave," and my children practically had to wear hearing protection - in part due to my screaming but more likely because of the choice words spewing from my mouth they shouldn't be hearing at such a formative age. I get that. I just don't fully understand the uncontrolled emotion and passion for the sport, but I know how it begins.

The fanaticism of college football fans begins with being indoctrination into a cult. The cult contains all of the other diehard fans. Usually the person responsible for the indoctrination is your dad, but sometimes a brother, or close friend. In my case, it started at age six by watching the television with the volume down and listening to some lunatic (Bob Ufer) on the radio scream about another "Meechigan" touchdown while honking an alarmingly irritating bike horn. Then came the sense of winning tradition, the clothing, the car magnets, the hated rivals, and finally a cloaked ride in the trunk of an old Buick to the corner of Main and Stadium in Ann Arbor where I swore allegiance to the cult at the foot of Michigan Stadium. The power of the cult was so strong, I told my parents if I didn't get into Michigan, I wasn't going to college. It plays out like this in many households.

People hold onto their beliefs with a near-religious fervor. Once indoctrinated into the cult, there is little chance of getting someone out. I have many Spartan cult friends I tried to rescue and de-program, but none has left their cult. There are very few traitors in rival football cults. Our passion is a good thing in some ways. It shows we have strong beliefs and are willing to stand up for them.

My question again is, why? And how do we take that passion and apply it to other aspects of our lives? And should we? Maybe those questions don't matter. Maybe we simply relish the abdication of all responsibilities in an effort to wallow in a pit of total football gluttony each Saturday afternoon when the days get cooler, the air gets crisp, and leaves get crunchy.

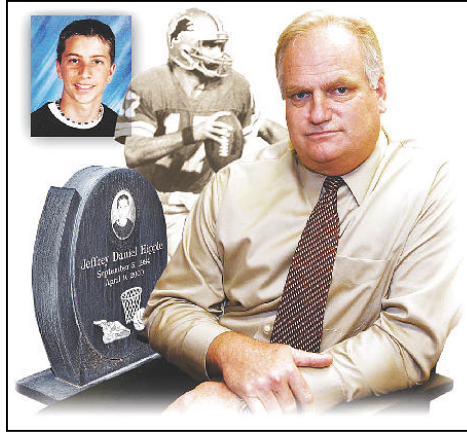
Maybe it's a chance for each of us to take a break from the reality of our lives and join millions of others in a great American tradition of tailgating, grilling, playing catch, sitting in the stands, or screaming at the television while we decree our 7-year-old son or daughter as the newest member of our fanatical football cult. What do you think?



SON'S SUICIDE DRIVES FORMER NFL QB TO SHARE A POWERFUL MESSAGE



Eric Hipple, former quarterback for the Detroit Lions in the 1980's was the guest speaker at the Institutional Training Officer (ITO) Region III meeting on August 27, 2009. He joined Rosanne Leland, Work/Life Services Coordinator, to view and discuss the staff suicide awareness video: "Staff Suicide: Disarming a Silent Killer" with the Institutional Training Officers. This video will be part of the P.A. 415 Training in 2010 on staff awareness and prevention.



Hipple is intimately familiar with the effects of suicide on families and workgroups. Eric's 15-year-old son committed suicide without warning and sent his family into chaos. Hipple went through a series of difficulties including a short stay in the Oakland County Jail, where a fellow inmate challenged him to see life differently. Since that moment, Hipple has used his son's unfortunate death as a platform to reach out to others about suicide. Now the Outreach Coordinator for the University of Michigan, he travels nationwide to educate teens and adults about recognizing and understanding depression and possible suicide risks, and promotes efforts to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health services. Eric also wrote a book about his experience titled, "Real Men Do Cry."

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

RETIRED WARDEN SHARES HER NEW BOOK



Please join others interested in correctional philosophy for "An Evening with Tekla Dennison Miller," on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sozo Coffee Roasting & Espresso Bar, 576 North State Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846.

Tekla Dennison Miller is a retired prison warden who managed two prisons simultaneously (a men's maximum and a multi-level women's) outside Detroit, Michigan. Her published memoir, *The Warden Wore Pink*, is about her twenty-year career in corrections.

Ms. Miller is a social activist, writer and national speaker focusing on women's issues, and juvenile and criminal justice reform. The *Warden Wore Pink* is in its third printing. A second memoir, *A Bowl of Cherries*, was released in January 2003 and her first novel, *Life Sentences*, was released in 2005.

Inevitable Sentences was released this year and picks up the story where *Life Sentences* left off. Come meet with the author, Tekla Miller, hear her read from her work and discuss her professional life in corrections and her life as a writer. Ms. Miller will have books on hand for purchase and she will be happy to sign her books.





LIFESAVERS RECOGNIZED



Officer Saves a Life at the Hospital - Officer Patrick Daniels of Lakeland Correctional Facility was assigned hospital duty supervising a prisoner recently. As he was exiting the hospital at the end of his shift, he noticed a patient slumped over in his bed. Assessing the situation, he determined the patient was not breathing and he notified the nursing staff. They provided CPR and saved the man's life. Daniels' actions were recognized by hospital staff, although he refused to take credit for simply doing what anyone else would do.

Choking Prisoner Saved by Alert Officer - Handlon Correctional Facility's Thomas Scognamiglio recently saved a prisoner who was choking in the chow hall. Seeing the prisoner in distress, Officer Scognamiglio responded by performing abdominal thrusts until the object was dislodged.



Officer Rescues Man from Burning Van - In June 2008, Officer Kenneth Gibson of Ryan Correctional Facility saw a man yelling for help from a van parked alongside the freeway. Approaching the vehicle, Gibson noticed it was on fire. The man said he couldn't move and his legs may be broken. Gibson and two other men pulled the injured man from van right before it became engulfed in flames. EMS provided first aid upon arriving at the scene.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

DISABILITY CONFERENCE COMING TO LANSING

October is disability awareness month. To increase awareness, the **Alliance of State Employees with Disabilities (ASED)** is hosting a free learning opportunity **Thursday, October 8 at the Library of Michigan** to support full workforce participation by employees with disabilities. The mini-conference format gives attendees the option to participate in the sections that most interest them.

The event reviews changes in the disability community, its reflection in the workforce, and strategies for full participation. The expected audience includes employees with disabilities, managers, advocates, and professional staff who support state employees with disabilities.

For details, visit ASED online at: <http://michiganased.org/2009conference.htm>

WHV EMPLOYEES TO HAVE REUNION CRUISE

The Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility is having their first annual Detroit River Cruise on October 24, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. until the cruise ends. It will be a fun-filled evening with great stories and reconnections. All MDOC friends and family are invited! The cost is \$55 and includes dinner, dancing, and Hors d'oeuvres. Contact Mary Smith at (734) 434-9252 for more information.

