



# Public Health Newsletter

A quarterly update from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Administration.



Welcome to the **MDHHS Public Health Newsletter**, a quarterly Michigan [public health](#) update for public health professionals, academics, health care providers and anyone interested in population health in the state of Michigan. (Issue 1.1, Distributed 02/28/2025).

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## STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN PROMOTES PUBLIC HEALTH

### The ‘Team Behind the Scenes’ public health campaign

The ‘Team Behind the Scenes’ campaign features Michigan’s local and state public health departments and all of the work our team members do to help Michigan residents lead healthier lives. This statewide campaign launched in November 2024 and will run for several months. The campaign includes TV commercials, video streaming ads, gas station TV ads, radio ads, social media content and more.

Watch the campaign videos and learn more about MDHHS and our local health departments at [Michigan.gov/publichealth](https://Michigan.gov/publichealth).



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## PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & UPDATES

### Candida auris

**Candida auris (C. auris)** fungal infections are spreading across Michigan. C. auris has the potential to be resistant to one or more antifungals and can spread easily from colonized or infected patients

to other patients through contaminated healthcare surfaces, medical equipment and health care personnel. Stay up to date on Michigan's current *C. auris* spread and resources:

- Visit the MDHHS [Healthcare-Associated Infections](#) webpage for weekly *C. auris* surveillance updates, screening guidance and more information.
- View the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [resources for laboratory and healthcare professionals](#).
- View the Environmental Protection Agency's [list of antimicrobial products effective against \*C. auris\*](#).
- You can also connect with the MDHHS **Multi-Drug-Resistant Organisms Containment Unit** for further assistance at [MDHHS-HAI@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-HAI@michigan.gov).

## Ending HIV Together: Michigan's Equitable Plan

MDHHS released their [comprehensive plan to reduce new HIV infections and advance health equity](#) by implementing new approaches and scaling up proven prevention and treatment strategies. Ending HIV Together: Michigan's Equitable Plan aims to **reduce new HIV infections by 90 percent by 2030**. The plan's key goals:



1. Increase the number of people tested for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) statewide.
2. Increase retention of people with HIV in ongoing care.
3. Increase pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) referrals among eligible people who test negative for HIV.
4. Increase capacity and implementation of activities for detecting and responding to HIV networks and outbreaks.

## First point-of-care hepatitis C RNA test approved

In June 2024, the Food and Drug Administration announced the [approval of the first point-of-care hepatitis C RNA test](#), granting Cepheid marketing authorization for the Xpert Hepatitis C test and GeneXpert Xpress system.

- The point-of-care test can detect hepatitis C RNA via finger prick and deliver results in one hour.
- Authorization of point-of-care hepatitis C testing enables a single-visit test-and-treat approach.
- The test is Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments waived.
- Multiple tests can be run simultaneously on the GeneXpert Xpress system, including COVID-19, flu and RSV and Mpox.



For more information, view the [CDC's Considerations for the Implementation of Point-of-Care Testing for the Diagnosis of Hepatitis C Virus Infection toolkit](#). Learn how MDHHS is supporting hepatitis C elimination through Michigan's [We Treat Hep C](#) initiative.



**IT'S TIME TO  
ELIMINATE  
HEPATITIS C.**  
*Test. Treat. Cure.*

## **Mpox update**

The United States saw its [first reported case of clade I mpox](#) in California on November 15, 2024 in an individual that had recently reported travel in areas of Eastern Africa experiencing clade I mpox transmission. The second case of clade I mpox was confirmed on January 14, 2025. The two clade I mpox cases are not linked and both cases involved individuals that had recently traveled from countries experiencing clade I mpox transmission.

Although the likelihood of a clade I mpox outbreak in the United States is still low, the CDC's recently updated guidance focuses on the potential of another mpox outbreak. Modeling suggests Wayne County is one of several areas more likely to experience a bigger outbreak in the event of clade I mpox introduction due to lower population-level immunity. Providers should pursue expedited clade-specific mpox testing for patients with clinical signs and symptoms consistent with mpox that have recently traveled in countries in Central or Eastern Africa.

For updated clinical guidance, including infection control guidance, counseling for travelers and vaccine guidance, go to [www.cdc.gov/mpox](http://www.cdc.gov/mpox).

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### NEW RESOURCES

[2024 AHA and American Red Cross \(ARC\) Guidelines for First Aid](#)

[2024 Guideline for the Primary Prevention of Stroke from the American Heart Association \(AHA\) and American Stroke Association \(ASA\)](#)

[2024 International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care](#)

[Health Equity Indicators for Cardiovascular Disease Toolkit](#)

[MDHHS Doula Registry](#)

[Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance \(MMMS\) Program dashboard](#)

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### COMMUNICATIONS

## Syphilis campaign

The MDHHS Bureau of HIV and STI Programs (BHSP) partnered with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to create [a syphilis campaign](#) aimed at increasing awareness and promoting prenatal testing. This included social media and mobile applications in the City of Detroit and Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Washtenaw and Genesee Counties.



Any provider can order printed posters for health care offices via the [STI/HIV Operations and Resource System \(SHOARS\)](#). Visit [Stop Syphilis](#) to learn more about Michigan's campaign.

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## TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

### Save the Date: Maternal Infant Health Summit, June 17-18, 2025, in Kalamazoo

Michigan's 8<sup>th</sup> annual [Maternal Infant Health Summit](#) will take place on June 17-18 in Kalamazoo. The event is hosted by the MDHHS [Division of Maternal & Infant Health](#) and offers opportunities for learning and collaboration for multidisciplinary healthcare providers and students, community birth workers, social workers, public health professionals, families and community members.

**Registration information** and details about **continuing education credits** will be shared at [mihealthsummit.com](#) once available.



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## RECOGNITION

### Michigan Million Hearts Hypertension Control Champions

We are pleased to announce seven new Michigan [Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Champions](#). These champions have all prioritized controlling hypertension and are delivering lifesaving care by helping 80% or more of their patients with hypertension get their blood pressure under control. If all health care organizations were able to perform at that level, hundreds of thousands of cardiovascular events would be prevented.

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- Megan Burgess, NP, McKenzie Rural Health Clinic, Sandusky, Michigan
- Kim Curell, PA, Croswell Clinic, Croswell, Michigan
- Matthew Gormley, MD, Croswell Clinic, Croswell, Michigan
- Nicole Krosnicki, NP, McKenzie Rural Health Clinic, Sandusky, Michigan
- Mike Lewis, NP, McKenzie Rural Health Clinic, Sandusky, Michigan
- James Sams, MD, Peck Medical Center, Sandusky, Michigan
- Brandy Trepkowski, NP, McKenzie Rural Health Clinic, Sandusky, Michigan



Please join us in congratulating the newest Hypertension Control Champions! To learn more, find a [Champion near you](#), read some of the [Hypertension Control Champions' success stories](#) or explore the [Hypertension Control Change Package](#).

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Thanks for reading the MDHHS Public Health Newsletter. For more information on state and local public health visit [Michigan.gov/publichealth](https://Michigan.gov/publichealth).

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