

Michigan Rural Health Clinic Monthly Bulletin



Volume 3, Issue 9:
October 2022



A Few Words From Jill:

Welcome to the October issue of the RHC Newsletter!

It's getting to be that time of year when we need to prepare to keep not only ourselves safe and healthy during flu season, but helping our rural neighbors do the same.

Our friends at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are urging Michiganders to get their flu vaccine as soon as possible to protect themselves and their communities from flu this season.

Getting a flu vaccine is critical because flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will likely be spreading simultaneously. Did you know residents can get their COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as their flu vaccine?

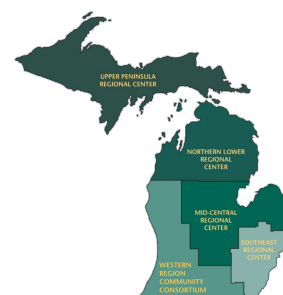
According to the CDC, those who are at higher risk for contracting flu are also at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. Vaccinations for both COVID-19 and the flu are safe, effective strategies to protect ourselves, our families and our communities from illness.

Also this season, CDC has adopted new recommendations for older adults. Adults aged 65 years and older are recommended to receive one of the following if available: high-dose influenza vaccine, adjuvanted influenza vaccine, or recombinant influenza vaccine, over standard-dose influenza vaccine. If none of the recommended vaccines are available, any age-appropriate vaccine should be used and the opportunity to be vaccinated should not be missed.

Flu vaccines are available now at local health departments, physician offices and pharmacies around the state. Find a location near you using the [Vaccine Finder](#). Visit Michigan.gov/flu for more information or visit IVaccinate.org to find answers to your vaccine questions.

Remember, we can all do our part this flu season. Stay safe!

Thanks,
Jill



UPCOMING MiHIA/AHEC Mid Central Michigan Webinar: - Population Health: Steps to Improve Equity - October 14!

We are excited to share an upcoming webinar and registration details with you on population health and the role equity plays in patient health. Population health is emerging as a valuable and desired capability for health professionals.

Focusing on population health with a lens of equity helps to improve the clinical outcomes of specific groups, foster better patient outcomes, and lower costs for delivering services and care. These interprofessional sessions will share valuable content in a discussion format, with audience questions and further resources.

Both sessions are eligible for Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and you can find out more information on that below!

Who Should Attend: Webinars are for all health-related professionals including students and practicing professionals (physicians, physician assistants, nursing staff, public health professionals, social workers, etc.).

[Click Here to Register for the October 14th webinar!](#)



Announcing The American Heart Association's Teaching Gardens Network Grant Program

Application is now open for the 2022-23 Teaching Garden Grant Program.

Teaching gardens work better when we all work together. We're proud to partner with CAULIPOWER to sponsor the American Heart Association's Teaching Garden Network. Together we will award 50 of \$2500 organizations to help their garden space thrive.

Application deadline: Oct. 28, 2022, 11:59 PT. Recipients will be announced in January 2023.

Once I am on the application site what do I need to do?

1. First click on the link found under "Create Your Account."
2. Once your account is created, sign-in to your account on the main page which will bring you to the community grants home page.
3. Next, click on "Teaching Gardens Network Grant" on the left side of the screen. The Teaching Gardens Network Grant application page should open.
4. Complete all the fields and then click submit to submit your application.

[Review Grant Rubric \(PDF\)](#)

House Passes Bipartisan Telehealth Policy Extension for Two Years



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is providing the attached CDC Health Alert Network (CDC_HAN_474) message to promote healthcare provider and public health awareness of recent documented increases in severe respiratory illness requiring hospitalization in children.

Healthcare providers should **consider EV-D68** as a possible cause of acute, severe respiratory illness in children, and be aware of the potential for an associated increase in AFM cases over the upcoming weeks.

[Download the CDC
HAN 474](#)

[Download the CDC
AFM Job Aid](#)

NEW from RHIhub:

Rural Health Literacy and Rural Community Health Tool Kits



The Rural Health Literacy Toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing programs to improve health literacy in rural communities across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural health literacy programs.

[Click to view the Rural
Health Literacy Toolkit!](#)

The Rural Community Health Toolkit provides rural communities with the information, resources, and materials they need to develop a community health program in a rural community.

Each of the toolkit's six modules contains information that communities can apply to develop a rural health program, regardless of the specific health topic the program addresses.

[Click to view the Rural Community Health Toolkit!](#)

Michigan Proposing Updates to Medicaid Telehealth Policy

According to our partners at Health Services Associates, current policies are still in effect until the COVID PHE ends.

The current termination date is 10/15/2022, however, a 60 day notice will be communicated before the end so it will likely be extended again.

Summary of proposed changes:

1. Video/audio will still be covered for all services (not just mental health as Medicare is planning), see links in the bulletin for specific CPT code lists
2. Telehealth modifier will change from GT to 95
3. POS will be where the service was/provider located which would be 72 for the office, but due to the UB 04 format there really is no POS
4. AUDIO only is NOT covered, you'd bill the audio only codes (99441-99443 and 98966-98968) but they will not generate a payment, no T1015 would go with these codes, so no payment.



[Click Here to View Proposed Policy Draft](#)

RHC October News & Updates

Here are some of the topics impacting the RHC community in Michigan this month. Click on these links to read more:

- **MICHIGAN MONKEYPOX RESOURCES - UPDATED!**
- **NEW:** Preparing for Medicaid/CHIP Unwinding
- **ONGOING:** RHC CTM Reporting Reminders (\$100k funding) (September 2022 due October 30th)
- **RESOURCE:** Answer the call: 988 Lifeline Suicide & Crisis Network Jobs
- **ONGOING:** HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates and Resources

A reminder that COVID-19 is still having an impact on our rural neighbors and those providing care and solutions. Please click on the links below for important information regarding the latest on vaccines, boosters, testing, and other recommendations:

- **UPDATED:** [COVID-19 Treatment Panels Releases Updated Guidelines](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [RHC Vaccine Confidence News and Information - UPDATED](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [COVID-19 Impact on Emergency Preparedness for RHCs](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [The Implications of Long COVID for Rural Communities](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS Medicaid Policy Bulletins](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS L-Letters Guidance](#)
- **ONGOING:** [Understanding the Federal COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates: Practical Considerations for Covered Employers](#)

Click Here For
**RURAL MICHIGAN
COVID-19
RESOURCES** 

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