

Division of Community and Public Health Update
Statewide Public Health Meeting
August 28-29, 2018

Rat Poison in Synthetic Marijuana

Missouri has had several reported cases of coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoid use since CDC issued a health alert on this topic on May 25, 2018. The Bureau of Communicable Disease Control has ensured follow up for these cases, which is centered on determining the source of contaminated product. Local public health agencies (LPHAs) may be asked if they would like to interview cases residing within their jurisdiction that are willing to participate in the completion of a standard survey. Help to complete these surveys is available from BCDP staff, if requested by the LPHA.

Treatment for this type of poisoning involves long term Vitamin K administration, which can be expensive and requires case management by a healthcare professional. Assistance programs may be available to patients through the manufacturer (Valeant). If there is a delay in patients receiving medication through an assistance program, BCDP may be able to provide Vitamin K on a limited basis as a payor of last resort. LPHAs may contact their District Epidemiology staff for questions on this topic directly or by calling the Bureau at 573-751-6113.

TB Pharmacy

Mizzou Pharmacy has graciously agreed to assume responsibility as the TB Pharmacy for the Missouri TB Elimination Program as of August 24 with **no increase** in price from the previous contract. All medication orders and refill requests are to be submitted using processes and forms previously used with Red Cross, Inc., the previous contractor. The new contact information for the Mizzou Pharmacy is:

FAX: 573-884-3504
ADDRESS: MIZZOU PHARMACY-HITT STREET
1020 HITT ST, ROOM 1001
COLUMBIA, MO 65212

DCPH Staffing Updates

As many of you know, we have had several changes in staffing leadership at the Division of Community and Public Health over the last several months. A brief summary of new staff changes is listed below and a comprehensive listing of Division leadership, Section Administrators, and Bureau Chiefs is attached for your convenience.

Ken Palermo has joined DCPH as a Deputy Division Director. Ken was previously the Section Administrator for the Section for Disease Prevention.

Sharmini Rogers has joined DCPH as the Section Administrator for the Section for Healthy Families and Youth. Sharmini was previously the Bureau Chief for Genetics and Healthy Childhood.

Alicia McGirl, the Immunizations Bureau Chief resigned from her position in August. We are currently interviewing for this vacancy.

Dr. Robert Hamm resigned from his position in July. Dr. Hamm assisted us with Public Health Emergency Preparedness and bioterrorism issues. He is continuing with DHSS in a limited capacity as we work to fill this function.

DCPH has initiated the process to recruit for a Director for the Center for Local Public Health Services. If anyone is interested in this position, please watch for the announcement and how to apply.

Missouri Public Health Conference

Unleashing the Power of Public Health Conference will be held September 25-27. DHSS staff will be presenting breakout sessions on Community Health Workers, Food Safety and laboratory testing, Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), Communicable Disease Outbreaks, and CHIP HSI optimization and federal reauthorization. The agenda for the conference contains a number of other sessions and presenters and is filled with fantastic content that is both timely and relevant to all we do. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend.

eWIC Transition

The USDA has mandated the implementation of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) for all states that operate the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program. DHSS has completed the contract process and a contractor (Custom Data Processing) has been selected. A kick-off meeting was held Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 930 Wildwood in Jefferson City with Custom Data Processing, the USDA, state WIC staff, and local agencies that will be in the pilot area.