Clinton County Health Department
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“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

Health Information Line: (518) 565-4490  Web: www.clintonhealth.org

Environmental Health & Safety Division  Coordinator: John Kanoza  Phone: (518) 565-4870  Fax: (518) 565-4472

Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
"Healthy Neighborhoods May Be Coming To Your Neighborhood"
(April 1, 2014)

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program of the Clinton County Health Department will be conducting Health and Safety surveys throughout the Town of Mooers during the months of April, May, and June. These brief in-home surveys are designed to identify health and safety concerns. Home safety products such as fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, first aid kits, water bottles, flashlights, asthma safety materials and child safety products may be provided by the Healthy Neighborhoods Program to program eligible families.

During the home visit, education is provided regarding fire and burn safety, carbon monoxide poisoning prevention, lead poisoning prevention, asthma, injury prevention and many other health and safety topics. Information and referrals are also provided regarding available community resources for which a family may be eligible. Participation in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program is free for all Clinton County Residents! Don’t miss this opportunity to participate!

If you would like more information about Healthy Neighborhoods or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Healthy Neighborhoods at (518) 565-4870 or visit us on the web at www.clintonhealth.org.

Endorsed by: Jerie Reid
Director of Public Health
Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
"Drinking Water Wells"
April 4, 2014

With warming weather and melting snow resulting in spring runoff, private (individual home) well owners should ensure their drinking water is safe for families and pets. "Wells may be contaminated with waterborne pathogens (germs) that can cause serious illness," stated Judy Ross, Senior Sanitarian with the Clinton County Health Department Environmental Health and Safety Division. For families on a community water supply this is less of a concern because of regulations and ongoing water testing and monitoring for possible contaminants.

Wells can be contaminated by many sources including fuel oil or other chemical products such as from home oil tanks, agricultural activities, and surface water sources. It is recommended that homeowners check and maintain their wells on a regular basis and sample at least annually. Spring is the ideal time for routine water sampling because problems may be detected that are not obvious during other seasons.

Water quality testing is important for periodic evaluation of well water quality. It is recommended to test well waters for coliform bacteria every year and to periodically re-test water quality for other well-specific constituents of concern. All samples should be analyzed by a certified laboratory. A current listing may be accessed at http://www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html OR by contacting the Health Department.

After a contaminated well has been properly disinfected and the chlorine has been flushed out of the water system, the water should be tested to confirm that contamination has been removed. If chlorine odors persist, you may have to do additional flushing or wait several days before testing to be sure that all the chlorine has been flushed from the water system.

Until testing shows that the water is free of contamination, you should continue to use bottled water or disinfect water for drinking and food preparation. You may wish to consider retesting the well water again after several weeks. If flooding and groundwater contamination is extensive, your well may be susceptible to recontamination for some time.

The Health Department can provide further guidance and advice on private well safety by going to the Health Department website at www.clintonhealth.org or contacting 565-4870. The website contains instructions for the following:

- Visual Assessment of a well
- Proper Well Maintenance
- Proper Steps for Disinfecting a Well (Shock Treatment)
- Disinfecting Water for Home Use
- Well Sampling

Endorsed by: Jerie Reid
Director of Public Health

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Clinton County Health Department

Press Release
"Easter Egg Safety"
April 4, 2014

With spring finally approaching, many families will enjoy decorating Easter eggs during the holiday season. “The Health Department would like to remind everyone about egg safety” stated Richard Munn, Public Health Sanitarian. The following precautions are recommended to reduce the risk of Salmonella infection which can be a very serious illness.

• Only purchase eggs that are stored under refrigeration. Raw eggs in the shell will keep for about 3 weeks if stored properly.

• At home, keep eggs refrigerated below 40 degrees - use a refrigerator thermometer to be sure.

• Discard cracked or dirty eggs.

• When cooking, decorating and displaying eggs, the total time out of refrigeration should be less than two hours. Any eggs out of refrigeration longer than 2 hours should be discarded.

• Keep in mind, the outside as well as the inside of raw shell eggs can be contaminated. Wash hands and all food contact surface areas (e.g., counter tops, utensils, dishes, and cutting boards) with soap and water after contact with raw eggs.

• Since children are especially at risk, they should, if possible, avoid contact with raw eggs altogether.

• For those who wish to blow out Easter eggs, the the following extra precautions are recommended.

A. Use in-shell pasturized eggs if they are available.

B. The pointed tools used to puncture the eggs (for example nails or heavy pins) should be clean and thoroughly washed after use.

C. Where possible, the eggs should be blown using aids in order to avoid direct contact with the mouth. For example, thin straws, shell of pen or shaft of an eye dropper are suitable to blow eggs.

D. Before blown eggs are decorated, they should be cleaned on the inside and outside using warm water and soap in order to remove egg residue. Splashed yolk and white should be be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

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E. When finished, carefully wash hands. If you plan to use the raw eggs you have blown out of their shells, cook and eat them right away - don't try to store them.

- A safe alternative to blowing out eggs is to decorate hard boiled eggs.
- If you plan to eat the decorated hard boiled eggs, make sure any dyes and decorations used are food safe.
- Hard boiled eggs must be stored under refrigeration and used within 1 week.

For more information contact the Environmental Health and Safety Division at 565-4870 or visit us on the web at www.clintonhealth.org.

Endorsed by: [Signature]

Jeri Reid
Director of Public Health
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Endorsed by: Jerie Reid
Director of Public Health
Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
Community Partnership Award
May 13, 2014

On April 30, 2014, the Clinton County Health Department presented Maria Hayes and her staff at the CVPH Alice T. Miner Center for Children and Women, a Community Partner Award. The support and encouragement to the Health Department and to patient's families for participating and supporting efforts to immunize family members of newborns to receive Tdap vaccine is an important step to help curb pertussis in our community.

Endorsed by: 

Jerie Reid
Director of Public Health
Clinton County Named Semifinalist in National “Way to Wellville” Competition

One of 16 Communities Selected by Esther Dyson-backed Nonprofit

Clinton County has been selected as one of 16 semifinalists in The Way to Wellville, a national competition to find five communities to compete over five years for the greatest improvement in five measures of health. The initiative is sponsored by HICcup (www.hiccup.co), a nonprofit founded by angel investor Esther Dyson to encourage community-led innovation that results in healthier people and places.

HICcup’s six-person advisory board selected the 16 semifinalists from a highly competitive field of 42 community applications received from 24 states. Semifinalist communities will now submit full proposals by June 27 detailing their vision and plans for the next five years.

“It sounds trite, but it is extremely difficult to choose,” said Ms. Dyson. “The number and quality of applications is a testament to the exceptional places and dedicated leaders eager to make a difference in the health of their communities.”

The Clinton County Health Department recognized this opportunity to continue the work that has been facilitated by the members of the Action for Health Consortium for close to ten years. This dedicated group of local public health advocates have been champions of public health prevention, working towards building healthier communities for our residents” stated Jerie Reid, Director of the Clinton County Health Department.

After reviewing semifinalist proposals, the HICcup advisory board will select a smaller number of finalist communities for site visits in July and early August. The selection will culminate in mid-August with the announcement of five Wellville communities to compete in the five-year contest. The Wellville Five will attend the Next Step to Wellville conference, September 16-18, 2014, in Tampa, Florida, to kick off the five-year effort.
The five communities that earn a spot in the five-year contest will receive support from HICCup and a network of partners in the areas of health data/measurement, consumer- and community-based health solutions, and innovative health financing strategies. The effort will measure the impact of coordinated, community-wide initiatives, while creating new models and markets for the production of health.

“The idea behind The Way to Wellville is not just to make a measurable difference in five places, but to design and deliver a comprehensive approach to health that can be replicated broadly,” said Rick Brush, CEO of HICCup. “Together with our Wellville partners, five communities will point the way to better health and financial sustainability.”

The 16 semifinalists for The Way to Wellville contest are:
- Athens County, OH
- Clatsop County, OR
- Clinton County, NY
- Columbus, IN
- Garden City, KS
- Greater Muskegon, MI
- Jackson, TN
- Lake County, CA
- Lynchburg, VA
- Niagara Falls, NY
- Oxford County, ME
- Scranton, PA
- Spartanburg, SC
- Starkville, MS
- Wilkes County, NC
- Winona, MN

About HICCup
HICCup stands for Health Initiative Coordinating Council. It is a nonprofit supported since mid-2013 through charitable contributions from Esther Dyson, in-kind resources, and extensive field research and development among a growing group of guiding organizations, partners and communities. HICCup is fiscally sponsored by New Venture Fund (www.newventurefund.org). Additional partners, funders and collaborators are encouraged to visit www.HICCup.co and contact rick@hiccup.co.

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New York will once again be taking part in a nationally coordinated effort to halt the spread of raccoon rabies in 14 states. A new oral racabies vaccine (ORV) called ONRAB will be field tested for a third year in Essex and Clinton counties in the Empire State as part of a study that also includes parts of northern Vermont and New Hampshire. Additionally, field trials in portions of Erie, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Niagara, St. Lawrence, and Wyoming counties will occur for the second year in 2014. These sites were selected in part because of ongoing collaborations with Quebec and Ontario, Canada in the fight against racabies to protect human and animal health and reduce significant cost associated with living with racabies across broad geographic areas. Air and hand distribution of baits will take place in New York from August 12-31, 2014.

Rabies continues to remain a public health concern in Clinton, as well as Essex and Franklin counties. In 2013, Clinton County tested a total of 143 animals of which 7 tested positive for rabies. Animals testing positive for racabies were: 1 brown bat, 1 gray fox, 4 raccoons and 1 skunk. A combined total of 482 animal bite and non-bite investigations were conducted requiring 24 people to receive post-exposure treatment for racabies. For the first seven months of 2014, 93 animals from Clinton County have been tested for racabies, none have tested positive. Rabies post exposure treatment was recommended for 9 people during the same timeframe due to exposure to animals that escaped or were not available to test.

Rabies is a serious public health concern because if left untreated it is invariably fatal. Nationwide, costs associated with detection, prevention and control of racabies conservatively exceed $300 million annually. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, greater than 90 percent of reported racabies cases in the United States are in wildlife. The cooperative USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services National Racabies Management Program (NRMP) was established in 1997 to prevent the further spread of wildlife racabies in the United States by containing and eventually eliminating the virus in terrestrial mammals. The majority of the NRMP efforts are focused on controlling raccoon racabies, which continues to account for most of the reported wildlife racabies cases in the U.S. Raccoon racabies occurs in all states east of the established ORV zone that extends from Maine to northeastern Ohio to southwestern Alabama. Continued access to oral vaccine and bait options that are effective in all target wildlife species remains critical to long term success.

During 2011, the NRMP worked with other Federal, State and local partners to conduct the first raccoon ORV field trial in the U.S. in over 20 years. This field trial was designed to test the safety and immunogenicity of the oral human adenovirus-racabies glycopolypeptide recombinant vaccine ONRAB (Artemis Technologies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), which has been successfully integrated into comprehensive racabies control programs that resulted in elimination of raccoon racabies from Canada. Encouraging results from the U.S. trial in West Virginia represented a major milestone that led to expanded trials in 4 additional states (NH, NY, OH, VT, WV) in 2012-2013 that are being replicated in 2014. Data from these trials could lead to licensing of this vaccine for broader, more aggressive management of raccoon racabies by the NRMP and partners, with the goal of eliminating the variant of the racabies virus that cycle in raccoons.

The ONRAB bait consists of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) blister pack, containing the vaccine. To make the baits attractive, the blister packs are coated with a sweet attractant that includes vegetable-based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavor, and dark-green food-grade dye. Humans and pets cannot get racabies...
from contact with the bait. However, people who encounter baits directly are asked to leave the bait undisturbed. Should contact with bait occur, immediately rinse the contact area with warm water and soap and contact your local health department at 565-4870. Please do not attempt to remove an oral vaccine bait from your dog’s mouth. The bait will not harm the dog. If you have additional questions related to the field trial please contact the Wildlife Services office in Castleton, NY at (518) 477-4837.

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Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
"Skunk Tests Positive for Rabies in the Town of Altona"
October 14, 2014

A skunk has tested positive for rabies in the Town of Altona. This is the first confirmed rabid animal in Clinton County for 2014 out of one hundred and seventeen specimens tested. The skunk was tested as a ‘surveillance’ specimen in conjunction with the Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccination program. There was no exposure reported to any people or domestic animals. Director of Public Health, Jerie Reid stated, “This is a reminder that rabies is still present in wild animals in our area and residents need to take precautions.” Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects the nervous system and is 100 percent fatal once symptoms develop.

Residents should take the following steps to protect themselves and their pets against rabies:

- Use caution around all wild animals especially raccoons, skunks and foxes. Talk to children now about not approaching wildlife, and to immediately tell a parent or adult if they see a wild animal.
- Have pets vaccinated against rabies immediately. New York State law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age. Vaccination is also recommended for livestock with frequent human contact.
- Report all animal bites to your local health department. It is very important that follow up is done on the biting animal to protect the health of the person bitten. If the biting animal is not available, the person bitten may need rabies vaccinations to prevent the disease.
- Report all contact with bats, including finding a bat in the same room with a sleeping person, to your local health department.
- Spaying and neutering your pets decreases undesirable behavior, like aggression and roaming and reduces the number of unwanted animals that may not be properly cared for or regularly vaccinated.
- Secure all garbage in containers that will prevent access by wild animals.
- Do not feed wildlife or stray animals and discourage them from seeking food near your home. Feed pets indoors, leaving food outside will attract strays or wildlife.
- To prevent the spread of rabies, no one should transport or relocate trapped wild animals.
- Puppies, kittens and other small pets should not be left outside alone (even in a fenced area).
- If your pet fights with a wild animal, put gloves on before you handle the pet. Call your veterinarian or the local Health Department for advice.
- If an unvaccinated pet comes in contact with a rabid or suspected rabid animal, the pet must be quarantined for six months or euthanized.
- Vaccinated pets that come in contact with a rabid or suspected rabid animal must be given a booster rabies vaccination within five days of the contact.

The two final pet vaccination clinics for the year are scheduled for October 14th at the Rouses Point Fire Station and October 16th at the Beekmantown Fire Station.

For more information on rabies, contact the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870 or online at www.clintonhealth.org.

Endorsed by: Jerie Reid, Director of Public Health

http://www.facebook.com/ClintonHealth
Flu Protection Reminder
It’s simple, it’s available at all local drug stores or most provider offices, it helps keep you healthy and it’s the right thing to do. In other words, GET YOUR FLU SHOT! Staying healthy in the North Country is once again being made easier by reminding people that getting a flu shot, pneumonia shot (if eligible), eating right, getting exercise, and drinking water all help. The flu vaccine composition is the same strains for the fourth year running. This results in excellent uptake of the vaccine because the body’s immune system recognizes it and builds strong resistance.

Every year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized. For some, flu can place them at higher risk to be much sicker if infected. These people include young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions — such as heart, lung or kidney disease, nervous system disorders, or a weakened immune system. Flu vaccination is especially important for these people and anyone in close contact with them. Flu vaccine is the best protection against flu and its complications.

Enterovirus D-68 Update
Enterovirus D-68 continues to circulate throughout New York State. It has been indentified in forty states through the country. This particular strain is in the “cold, non-polio” family virus family and the greatest groups at risk for enterovirus D-68 are those under 21 years of age. It is a known virus, and when circulating tends to appear in clusters. Those at greatest risk are those with existing respiratory health issues like asthma.

Recently, the virus long suspected to be in the region, was identified and laboratory confirmed in two cases in Clinton County. This comes as no surprise to local health departments who monitor illness in our communities ongoing or to CVPH where care was provided. Those affected have recovered and are doing well. Local health officials, along with the health care facilities where they were hospitalized, expect to continue seeing infection.

Health Care Provider Mask Regulation
For the second year, the New York State Health Department, is fully implementing the “mask” requirement for direct care health service and provider staff if they are unable (health risk) or unwilling to receive a flu shot. CVPH Medical Center will begin to implement the regulation on November 1st, 2014. Please do not be alarmed if you see staff at the hospital with wearing masks outside of areas consider “normal”. The Clinton County Health Department will begin regulation implementation once the NYSDOH acting Commissioner of Health deems flu to be widespread in New York State.

Endorsed by:
Jerie Reid
Director of Public Health

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