

Michigan's Infection Control – Educational Collaborative for Better Health Outcome (MI-ECHO)



CONTRIBUTOR: Matt Bolang, Director/Health Officer, Livingston County Health Department

CATEGORY: Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC)

Livingston County Health Department (MI) is a participant in the ELC funded MI-ECHO program through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The program empowers participants to provide and strengthen infection prevention practices, containment strategies, and prevention plans in congregate care settings.



The “What”

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Infection Prevention Resource and Assessment Team (IPRAT) used Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) funding to establish an educational collaborative for health improved outcomes, the MI-ECHO program. IPRAT partners and collaborates with Local Health Departments (LHDs), Long Term Care facilities (LTCs), and other congregate settings to provide and strengthen infection prevention practices, containment strategies, and prevention plans. Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) is one of the LHDs who participated in the program through MI-ECHO.

Building LCHD infection prevention expertise and capacity will strengthen collaborative relationships with congregate care settings, expedite response to facility concerns in a trusted capacity, and lead to better health outcomes for some of Livingston County's most vulnerable residents.

LCHD regularly works with congregate care facilities to respond to respiratory outbreaks, multidrug resistant organisms (e.g., *Candida auris*, Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales), *Legionella*, Pertussis, invasive Group A strep, enhanced barrier precautions, and cleaning and disinfection practices.



More stories are available at stories.cste.org

SUBMITTED JUNE 2023

The training is a valuable local community asset to our congregate care facilities to ensure best practices are followed and outbreaks are quickly identified and contained.

The “So What”

Through the MI-ECHO program, two LCHD staff (an epidemiologist and a Public Health Nurse) are receiving training to understand essential elements of infection prevention program infrastructure; identify gaps in infection prevention programs and utilizing available resources to close these gaps; and apply sound evidence-based models when making recommendations for improvement.


LCHD also identified the benefit of having this expertise on staff and the effect it has had on our entire communicable disease (CD) team. This training has helped LCHD bolster its community disease surveillance and CD investigation in non-congregate settings as well.



The “Now What”

Future ongoing ELC funding will allow LCHD to complete and continue training to be a valuable local community asset to our congregate care facilities to ensure best practices are followed and outbreaks are quickly identified and contained. In addition to outbreak response, LCHD is planning to provide education and training to long term care facilities which hopefully will prevent outbreaks, and in particular for those involving multi-drug resistant organisms.

Key contributors to this project include Lynn Hermann and Kristen Flory, Livingston County Health Department.

 Funding source: This work was supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement #NU38OT000297. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CDC.