



Health
Department



Macomb County Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



health.macombgov.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR



Andrew Cox
Director/Health Officer
Macomb County



Health
Department

**“I WANT TO
SHARE MY MOST
SINCERE THANKS,
GRATITUDE, AND
ADMIRATION
WITH ALL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYEES...”**

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) 2020 Annual Report.

It is safe to say that 2020 was a year unlike any of us have ever experienced, and I would say it is equally safe to say that we all hope that we never experience another year like it. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on virtually everything we do – how we live, how we work and how we learn. The list goes on.

2020 started out with normal health department operations. But as news of a new virus (SARS-CoV-2 – later named COVID-19) was announced in December 2019, and the first case of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States was announced at the end of January 2020, things changed. The first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan were announced on March 10, and the first confirmed case in Macomb County was announced on March 13. What followed was unlike anything we have experience in the past.

2020 ended with almost 64,000 positive COVID-19 cases and 1,609 deaths in Macomb County – and the COVID-19 pandemic was nowhere near over.

Being in public health clearly put MCHD on the front-lines of the local response to the pandemic and demanded an “all hands on deck” approach to the challenges we faced. As a result, we engaged the pandemic with a unified, integrated front. So rather than highlight individual divisional accomplishments, the 2020 Annual Report is presented based on timeframes that loosely serve as “phases” of the health department’s response to the pandemic throughout the year.

Finally, I want to share my most sincere thanks, gratitude, and admiration with all health department employees for your tireless efforts and commitment to serving the residents and workers of Macomb County. I am proud of the positive impact MCHD has had on the lives of Macomb County residents, and look forward to continued service to Macomb County in the future.



MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



MISSION

In partnership with the communities we serve, our mission is to protect and promote the health and well-being of all those who live, work and play in Macomb County.



VISION

Healthy people in healthy communities.



VALUES

- Integrity ▪ Quality of life ▪ Dedication ▪ Prevention ▪ Quality service for all
- Respect and dignity ▪ Confidentiality ▪ Collaboration ▪ Responsibility
- Innovation and Creativity ▪ Open Communication



ABOUT MACOMB COUNTY

With a population of over 868,000, Macomb County is the 3rd most populated county in the State of Michigan.

The County covers 483.7 square miles and is comprised of 27 local units of government. The county features more than 17,000 acres of parks and recreation, 155 miles of non-motorized trails, 32 miles of shoreline along Lake St. Clair and 81 miles of the Clinton River traversing the county.

- POPULATION¹
868,704
- MEDIAN AGE¹
40.8 YEARS OLD
- MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME¹
\$60,466

County Seat	Mount Clemens, MI
Population Density	1,799 persons per square mile
Age Groups ¹	Under 5 years - 5.5% 5-19 years - 17.8% 20-34 years - 19.4% 35-54 years - 26.4% 55-64 years - 14.3% 65+ years - 16.6%
Race/Ethnicity ¹	White - 81% Black - 11.7% Asian/Pacific Islander - 4% American Indian and Alaska Native - .3% Other - .6% Two or more races - 2.4%
Percent High School Graduate or Higher ¹	90.8%
Percent with income in past 12 months below poverty level ¹	10.6%
Leading Causes of Death ²	Heart Disease - 25.2% Cancer 21.1% Unintentional Injuries (Accidents) - 5.5% Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease - 5.6% Stroke - 4.6%
Percent no health insurance coverage ^{1,2}	5.2%
Percent pregnant women who received prenatal care during first trimester ^{1,2}	77.2%

¹ American Community Survey (2019)

^{1,2} Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics (2019)

TIMELINE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

2020 began with MCHD Divisional activities operating at full capacity with all service offerings.

- **Community Health Planning and Promotion**
Children's Special Health Care Services, Health Planning, Health Communities, Hearing and Vision Screening, and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program).
- **Disease Control**
Communicable Disease Surveillance, Foreign Travel and Health Information, HIV Counseling and Testing, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD), and Clinic Tuberculosis Control.
- **Family Health Services**
Family Planning, Immunizations, Maternal Child Health Outreach, Nurse Family Partnership, Public Health Nursing.
- **Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness**
Bathing Beach and Surface Water Quality, Community Health and Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Management and Risk Assessment, Food Service Sanitation, Groundwater Protection, Property Transfer Regulation, Septic System Waste Management, Public Swimming Pools, and Shelter Management.

But in January, the first confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 (later named COVID-19) in the United States was identified, and began to spread. On January 31, the United States declared a public health emergency to aid the nation's response to the virus. From January 21 through February 23, 2020, public health agencies detected 14 U.S. cases of COVID-19, all related to travel from China ⁽¹⁾. Things began to change.

(1) <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6922e1.htm>

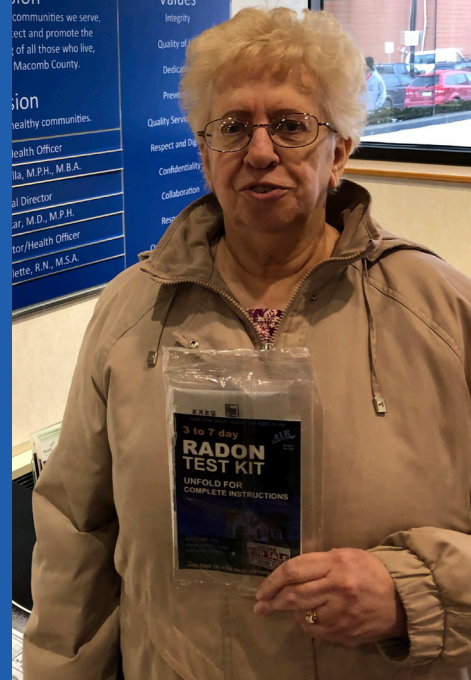
MCHD ACCOMPLISHMENTS JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020

Radon Action Month

To help promote Radon Action Month in Macomb County, the MCHD provided over 700 no-cost radon test kits to residents of Macomb County in the month of January.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Announced program expansion of Nurse-Family Partnership.



NEWS

JANUARY 2, 2020
Macomb County Health Department giving free testing kits to county residents for Radon Action Month

JANUARY 23, 2020
Macomb County Health Department confirms results of unknown matter that washed up on the shore of Lake St. Clair

FEBRUARY 13, 2020
Macomb County Health Department expands Nurse-Family Partnership for 2020



TIMELINE MARCH - MAY 2020

March – May of 2020 represents the beginning of the pandemic in Michigan and Macomb County. The first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan were announced on March 10, and the first confirmed case in Macomb County was announced on March 13. The first death from COVID-19 in Macomb County occurred on March 21. Most schools in Michigan were closed effective March 16, and Governor Whitmer issued a Stay At Home Order effective March 24.

Due to a significant shortage of testing resources, there were alarmingly high levels of test positivity in Macomb County in March and April (39.7% and 30.1% respectively). Positivity rates leveled-off in May at 6.8%. In total, there were 51,704 COVID-19 tests administered in this timeframe, with 9,318 positive tests – 18%. There were 836 confirmed deaths attributed to COVID-19.

This timeframe was also characterized by widespread transmission of COVID-19 and elevated case counts and deaths in Long Term Care Facilities and Homes for the Aged – especially among older residents with co-morbidities.



MCHD RESPONSE

Given the widespread needs of the community, MCHD activated an “all hands on deck” strategy to formulate its response to this public health emergency. Health Department staff were cross-trained in different public health disciplines to address current needs, and to anticipate future needs. For example, public health nurses were trained to staff the COVID-19 Helpline; staff that worked in Environmental Health supported Communicable Disease efforts by getting trained in case investigation and contact tracing.

MCHD ACCOMPLISHMENTS MARCH - MAY 2020

- Supported the Macomb County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) through the active participation of MCHD leadership staff. Comprised of leadership from numerous county departments, the EOC served as the overall lead in the Macomb County response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Established the Macomb County COVID-19 Helpline – a local resource to provide timely and reliable information on COVID-19 to the citizens of Macomb County concerned about testing, symptoms and exposure. The Helpline was originally staffed by eight public health nurses and one nurse leader, but as the pandemic progressed, there were approximately 40 employees trained to answer calls, including social workers and other professional staff. For the time period of March – May, 2020, the Helpline handled 7,451 inbound calls.
- Established a large-scale case investigation and contact tracing effort that was originally staffed by 15 public health professionals. As case numbers elevated, and case investigation requirements increased, trained staff was expanded to approximately 60 employees, including staff from Family Health Services, Environmental Health, and Community Health Planning and Promotion.
- Supported county efforts to acquire and equitably distribute PPE among county residents, community partners, and local businesses.
- Created a COVID-19 Needs Assessment that was used to identify and prioritize congregate living facilities including homeless shelters, senior housing and incarcerated populations for health department services related to COVID-19. In all, 426 facilities were contacted to assess their needs for infection control guidance, PPE and testing. As the Needs Assessment was completed, it served as a guide to prioritize and document actual service delivery.
- Coordinated strike teams that conducted COVID-19 testing at Long-Term Care facilities and Homes for the Aged, and adult foster homes.
- MCHD leadership established ongoing and regular communications with the Macomb Intermediate School District and its membership.
- Supported the Macomb County Joint Information Center (JIC) through the active participation of four MCHD staff members. Comprised of communications, public relations and outreach professionals from a numerous county departments, the JIC was responsible for keeping the public aware of the latest information and news on the pandemic through the use of online resources/ websites, press releases, social media, newsletters, responding to media inquiries, and partner outreach.
- Handled inbound complaints (phone calls, emails, and social media) from county residents and businesses related to local level infractions of Emergency Orders and CDC guidelines.

NEWS

MARCH 2, 2020

Macomb County Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Readiness Public Health Update

MARCH 13, 2020

Macomb County declares a State of Emergency due to COVID-19

MARCH 13, 2020

Macomb County Reports First Presumptive Positive COVID-19 Case

MARCH 14, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Helpline Open Seven Days a Week

MARCH 18, 2020

Macomb County learns of positive COVID-19 test for attorney who worked at the Macomb County Circuit Court

MARCH 21, 2020

Macomb County Records First COVID-19 Death

APRIL 28, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Urges County Residents to Answer the Phone

APRIL 29, 2020

Macomb County Receives Grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan for the Fight Against COVID-19

MAY 15, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Continues to Provide Much Needed Access to WIC Program

TIMELINE : JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2020

Governor Whitmer's Stay at Home Emergency Order was lifted on June 1, 2020. The availability of testing supplies was much improved and resulted in more widespread, accessible testing. Testing volumes in Macomb County increased to 199,398, with 11,000 positive cases during this time period – a 5.5% positivity rate. There were 147 confirmed deaths attributed to COVID-19, down significantly from 836 deaths in March - May. Throughout the summer, there was increased community spread of COVID-19 spurred by small-to-medium sized events including weddings, graduation parties, backyard barbeques, and other gatherings among families and friends.



MCHD RESPONSE

MCHD launched a large scale drive-thru COVID-19 testing site during the first week of June. As in the case of contact tracing, the drive-thru testing site was staffed by health department professionals who were re-assigned to COVID-19 testing from other divisions within the Health Department. In addition, MCHD supported and promoted numerous community-level testing events and activities. The increase in testing in Macomb County, and the accompanying escalation in the identification of positive cases resulted in significant increases in case investigation and contact tracing activities at MCHD.

Community outreach and messaging focused on adherence to State of Michigan Emergency Orders, CDC Guidelines, and associated mitigation strategies and planning.

MCHD ACCOMPLISHMENTS JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2020

- Ongoing support for the Macomb County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) through the active participation of MCHD leadership staff.
- Launched a large scale drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Mount Clemens. The site, which was staffed by as many as 15 Health Department personnel was administering an average of 304 tests per day during peak weeks during this time period.
- Case Investigation and contact tracing volumes remained high. Staff expansion continued to support these efforts with a total of 60+ trained staff.
- The Macomb County COVID-19 Helpline continued to receive high volumes of inbound calls from residents seeking information on testing, symptoms, and exposure. For the time period of June – September, 2020, the Helpline handled 23,326 inbound calls.
- MCHD leadership continued ongoing collaboration with the Macomb County Intermediate School District and its membership.
- Continued coordination of strike teams that conducted COVID-19 testing at Long-Term Care facilities and Homes for the Aged, and adult foster homes.
- Opened and staffed two new drive-thru flu immunization sites – one in that was located at the COVID-19 drive thru test site in Mount Clemens (operational on non-COVID-19 testing days), and another that was located at the health department’s Southeast Family Resource Center in St. Clair Shores.
- Maintained key Environmental Health services by focusing emergency and repair permits in our onsite offerings and conducting hybrid inspections (part risk-based inspections over the phone and part onsite engagement) of food service establishments.
- Ongoing support for the Macomb County Joint Information Center (JIC).
- Handled inbound complaints (phone calls, emails, and social media) from county residents and businesses related to local level infractions of Emergency Orders and CDC guidelines.

NEWS

JUNE 4, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Announces New Drive-Through Testing Site for COVID-19

JULY 2, 2020

Clinton Township Restaurant Closed After Three Employees Test Positive for COVID-19

AUGUST 12, 2020

Macomb County Health Department WIC Program Receives Gold Loving Support Award of Excellence from the USDA

AUGUST 26, 2020

Macomb Partnership for Overdose Prevention to Provide Free Naloxone

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Announces Free COVID-19 Testing Event in New Baltimore

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Macomb County Health Department announces two new flu immunization sites

TIMELINE : OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

As colder weather became more common, and people spent more time indoors, increased community spread of COVID-19 was rampant, and resulted in a second COVID-19 surge. This time period was characterized by high volumes of testing as illustrated by the long lines of automobiles at the health department's testing site on Rose St. in Mount Clemens – with early morning lines of cars stretching south to Groesbeck Hwy. These lines necessitated re-routing of testing traffic that started at the Verkuilen Building, and crossed Dunham to access the testing site on Rose St. In all, there were 315,435 tests administered in Macomb County during this time period with a total of 43,408 positive cases – a 13.8% positivity rate. There were 626 confirmed deaths attributed to COVID-19 – a sharp increase compared to the 147 deaths in June – September.

As 2020 drew to a close, Emergency Use Authorizations were granted to Pfizer and Moderna for the distribution for the long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine. It was clear that the Macomb County Health Department would serve a vital role in the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines in Macomb County. As 2020 drew to a close, vaccine was in short supply and was only made available to first responders and health care workers.



MCHD RESPONSE

MCHD continued operation of the drive-thru COVID-19 testing site as well as support for smaller community-level testing in surrounding cities and townships. In early November, to help respond to the need for increased testing, hours of operation at the testing site were expanded from M, W, F from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to M-F from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. In early December, in anticipation of colder weather, drive-thru testing operations were moved from the location on Rose St. in Mount Clemens to an indoor drive-thru test site on Gratiot in Clinton Township.

Community outreach and messaging continued to focus on adherence to State of Michigan Emergency Orders, CDC Guidelines, and associated mitigation strategies and planning.

Also during this timeframe, MCHD finalized plans to operationalize a large-scale COVID-19 vaccination site – location, resources needed, staffing requirements, technology, scheduling, and work-flow.



MCHD ACCOMPLISHMENTS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

- Ongoing support for the Macomb County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) through the active participation of MCHD leadership staff.
- Continued operation of the drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Mount Clemens. Hours of operation were expanded from a schedule that offered testing M, W, F from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to M-F 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The site, which was staffed by as many as 15 Health Department personnel was administering an average of 690 tests per day during peak weeks during this time period.
- Re-located COVID-19 testing operations from Rose St. in Mount Clemens to a new indoor drive-thru testing site on Gratiot in Clinton Township.
- Case Investigation and contact tracing volumes remained high. Staff expansion continued to support these efforts with a total of 60+ trained staff.
- Ongoing support for the Macomb County Joint Information Center (JIC).
- The Macomb County COVID-19 Helpline continued to receive high volumes of inbound calls. For the time period of October – December, 2020, the Helpline handled 23,327 inbound calls.
- MCHD leadership continued ongoing collaboration with the Macomb County Intermediate School District and its membership.
- Continued coordination of strike teams that conducted COVID-19 testing at Long-Term Care facilities and Homes for the Aged, and adult foster homes.
- Handled inbound complaints (phone calls, emails, and social media) from county residents and businesses related to local level infractions of Emergency Orders and CDC guidelines.
- Finalized plans to operationalize a large-scale COVID-19 vaccination site – location, resources needed, staffing requirements, technology, scheduling, and work-flow.

NEWS

OCTOBER 5, 2020

Macomb County Health Department and community partners launch county-wide health survey

OCTOBER 14, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Announces Saturday Flu Immunization Clinics

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Announces Free COVID-19 Testing Event in New Baltimore

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Expands COVID-19 Drive-Through Testing Availability

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Macomb County Health Department Announces Two Free COVID-19 Testing Event in Warren

DECEMBER 11, 2020

Macomb County Health Department relocates COVID-19 drive-through test site, prepares for new vaccine



MACOMB COUNTY
**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Departamento de Salud

دائرة الصحة

CONTACT US

The Macomb County Health Department has six service locations. Not all programs and services are available at all locations.

For up-to-date information, call 586-469-5235, or visit health.macombgov.org

Central Health Center

43525 Elizabeth Road
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
586-469-5235

Medical Examiner's Office

43585 Elizabeth Road
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
586-469-5214

Southeast Family Resource Center

25401 Harper Avenue
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
586-466-6800

Southwest Health Center

27690 Van Dyke, Suite B
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-8090

Thompson Family Resource Center

11370 Hupp Avenue
Warren, MI 48089
586-466-6975

VerKuilen Building – WIC

21885 Dunham Road
Clinton Township, MI 48036
586-469-5471



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