



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media

From: Shelby Pasch, CMDHD Health Promotion Supervisor

RE: CMDHD Launching Exchange Central Mobile Unit

Release Date: April 20, 2023

CMDHD is Launching Mobile Disease Prevention Services on April 27, 2023

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is growing its safe syringe program, Exchange Central, by mobilizing harm reduction and infectious disease prevention services. **CMDHD's mobile unit will be at First Congregational Church in Harrison from 11:00am to 4:00pm on the fourth Thursday of each month, beginning on Thursday, April 27th.** In addition to sterile injection equipment, staff will be offering free HIV and hepatitis C testing to anyone. They will also offer overdose medication with on-the-spot training for how to give someone nasal Naloxone.

Syringe service programs (SSPs) are community-based prevention programs that provide linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and linkage to treatment for infectious diseases.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reports that since the onset of SSPs across the state in October 2018, there have been 6.2 million syringes given out and thousands of lives saved through Naloxone kit distribution. SSPs are proven to reduce harm and prevent the spread of diseases. They also help to keep people out of the hospital and keep healthcare costs down. These programs also keep police and other emergency responders safe from accidental needle stick injuries.

CMDHD serves many rural areas. By bringing mobile access to offer healthcare services to clients, CMDHD will better serve our communities. For more information about all that Exchange Central has to offer, call (989) 773-5921 ext. 1446. To get Narcan delivered through the mail for free, visit Next Distro at nextdistro.org.

Please visit us at our website www.cmdhd.org

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow [Central Michigan District Health Department](#) on Facebook.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).

Resources

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/drugcontrol/syringe-service-programs>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/index.html>