



# Central Michigan District Health Department

*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*



Steve Hall, RS, MS  
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director

To: Local Media Outlets

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: New Harm Reduction Vending Machine

Release Date: June 21, 2023

## **CMDHD Introduces New Harm Reduction Vending Machine**

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) has partnered with Michigan Therapeutic Consultants Behavioral Health Group in Mt. Pleasant to provide harm reduction supplies through a vending machine. The vending machine, located at 4273 Corporate Way in Mt. Pleasant, expands the reach of CMDHD's syringe service program, Exchange Central, beyond regular operating hours. The introduction of the vending machine ensures easier access to lifesaving supplies such as Narcan. Additionally, the machine offers other items for distribution, including fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, wound care kits, safe sex supplies, and menstrual hygiene supplies.

Syringe service programs like Exchange Central are community-based prevention programs that have proven to be effective. They offer a range of services such as providing access to and safe disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment, vaccination, infectious disease testing, and linkage to care for infectious disease treatment and substance use disorder treatment. Exchange Central staff also educate participants on safer administration methods, disease prevention, overdose prevention, wound care, and more. These programs are safe, effective, and cost saving, while also playing a crucial role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis and HIV. Importantly, they do not increase illegal drug use or crime.

The current opioid crisis in the nation, as stated by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), has resulted in increased substance use. The presence of fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, has contributed to a surge in overdoses and deaths. The rise in injection drug use has also led to a significant increase in viral hepatitis infections, posing a threat to the progress achieved in HIV prevention. Exchange Central serves as a vital access point for individuals seeking critical syringe services, infectious disease testing, and treatment programs.

**Please visit us online at [www.cmdhd.org](http://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](http://www.cmdhd.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

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



Proud member of the [Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance](#): 7 local health departments advocating for public health.