



Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators MALEHA

Representing Local Environmental Public Health Departments in Michigan

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Forum Report February 2019

For February, MALEHA's top three priorities are the statewide onsite sewage disposal code, cannabis products as they intersect local health department programs and updates to the food law/food code.

At our January MALEHA meeting, MALEHA took action toward being proactive in the discussion of a statewide onsite sewage code. To start the conversation, MALEHA members answered a short survey to gauge general thoughts about a statewide onsite sewage regulation, put together by Matt Bolang. Thirty three (of 45) LHD were represented in the survey. Of those that answered the survey, about 85% were supportive of some level of increased state involvement in the oversight and/or regulation of wastewater. We will continue discussing the topic at our February meeting. To prepare, MALEHA is updating our core principles document to further refine what we agree upon for a statewide onsite sewage disposal code. We also look forward to partnering with MALPH to form a joint committee on this topic. Once we have a solid foundation and vision, MALEHA plans to engage DEQ and other stakeholders to continue the conversation.

The MALEHA membership voted that we send a letter to MDHHS, LARA and MDARD to request a meeting to discuss how and where cannabis products intersect our agencies. Local health departments have received several inquiries about cannabis "clubs" popping up in restaurants, having cannabis as a food additive and how to address when there are conflicting regulations between local, state and federal guidelines. I am drafting that letter and expect to have it out in the next few days.

Finally, MALEHA is working with MDARD and other stakeholders on updates to the food law, which will adopt the 2017 FDA food code. This is an important process and we appreciate having open discussions on topics that impact all of our agencies. One meeting has been held and we are waiting to hear when a second meeting is scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Schweighoefer, February 1, 2019