**For Immediate Release**

**November 21, 2017**

**Tri-County Health Departments and Hospitals Partner to Improve Local Health**

Local health organizations, including the Barry-Eaton District Health Department, are gearing up for Healthy! Capital Counties 2018, a community-wide assessment of health compiled to encourage collaborative, data-driven decision-making and policies.

The assessment is conducted every three years, as mandated by the Affordable Care Act. Over the course of the next ten months, the assessment will evaluate data that directly measures aspects of health, such as that pulled from vital records or health surveys, and data that describes how people feel about their health and what they need to be healthy, such as that gathered during community focus groups. Together, this information will create a complete picture of the current state of community health in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties.

“Partnering with all of the health departments and hospital systems in the tri-county area allows us to pool our resources,” said Colette Scrimger, Health Officer of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. “By working together as a community, we can more effectively have a positive impact on the health of our residents and sustain programs and services that will help our communities thrive.”

Healthy! Capital Counties partners include: Barry-Eaton District Health Department, Ingham County Health Department, Mid-Michigan District Health Department, Eaton Rapids Medical Center, Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, McLaren-Greater Lansing, and Sparrow Health System. The 2018 assessment will be the third report produced by the Healthy! Capital Counties consortium.

The 2018 project will kick off with a stakeholder meeting on November 30, 2017 at 9 a.m. at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. The public is welcome to attend. For more information about Healthy! Capital Counties or to register to attend the upcoming meeting, visit <http://www.healthycapitalcounties.org>.

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