



HealthLine

(A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department)

**Message from the Health Commissioner
Dr. Terry Holman, DVM, RS:**

Food Code Changes effective March 1st

Recently the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture notified all local health departments that there will be changes to the State of Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code that will become effective March 1, 2016.

Improvement to the code include requiring all level 3 and 4 food facilities (restaurants and grocery stores that prepare food) have at least one manager that has Level Two Certification in Food Protection within one year of the effective date of the rule. We feel this training will be very beneficial to the operators in helping them prepare food safely to the public.

Also, operations will have to have written procedures for employees to follow when responding to vomiting or diarrheal events. If an incident occurs, it is very important that the operators know what to do to properly clean and disinfect the area.

Mechanical dishwashers that use hot water to sanitize will have to measure and record temperature to ensure proper sanitizing of equipment and utensils.



For additional information:

For a complete list of food code changes or additional information, please visit our website at www.darkecountyhealth.org or contact food program inspector, Megan Kaiser, SIT, **937-548-4196 ext. 206.**

In the news:

Dr. Holman has been appointed by the Governor's office to be on the Dangerous Animal Board.

***The Health Department is now on Facebook & Twitter.
Please "Like us" to receive up to date messages.***

New Immunization Requirements for Ohio

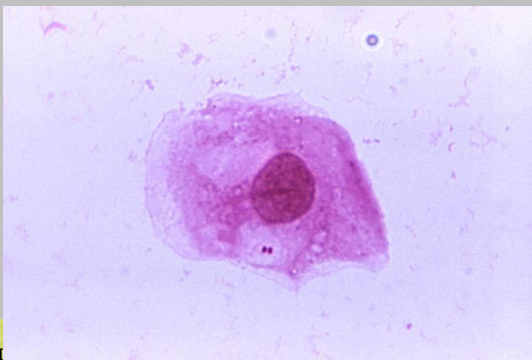
There are new Meningococcal immunization requirements beginning with the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Those entering 7th grade should receive a dose and those entering 12th grade will also need a dose.

Meningococcal meningitis infects the protective membranes covering the spinal cord, known as the meninges, and can be fatal within a few hours. Symptoms of meningitis include a stiff neck, fever, and headache, which can appear three to seven days after exposure to the bacteria.

“Meningitis can quickly strike young victims and result in multiple amputations or death within hours.” Bill sponsor Sen. Cliff Hite, a Findlay Republican, said. “Sadly, my family learned through tragedy that the best treatment for meningitis is often prevention.”



Sue Rismiller, RN,
Immunization Coordinator



Picture of Neisseria meningitidis
Source: CDC website

Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays Only

**Hours: 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
and 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Clinics are walk-in with no appointments needed. Checks and Medicaid cards are accepted.

Call 937-548-4196, extension 224, with questions or concerns.

Staff Highlight:

Sue Rismiller, RN, is a graduate of Edison Community College with an Associate Degree in nursing. She has been employed with the Health Department from 1987 to 1990, 1993 to 2003, and 2013 to the present. She is currently the Immunization Coordinator.

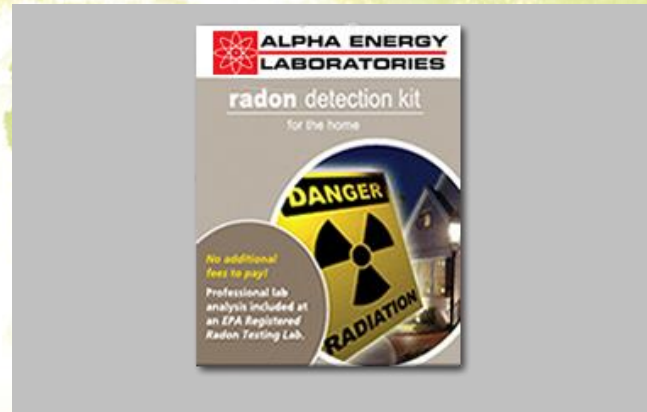
Free Radon Test Kits Available

The Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments, is offering free radon test kits for Miami Valley homeowners to check their homes for elevated radon levels.

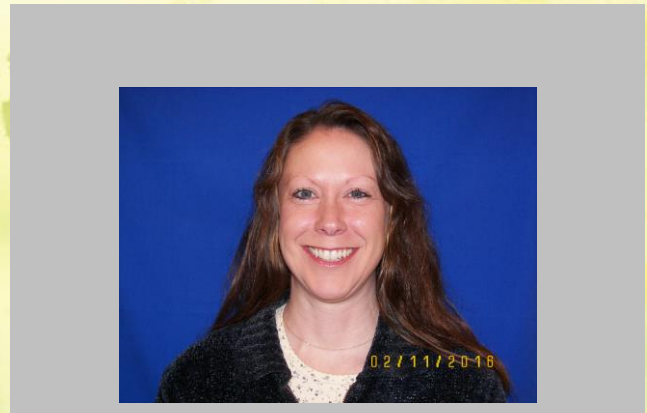
Radon is a colorless, odorless soil gas that can build up in homes and may pose an increased risk of lung cancer to occupants. The Ohio Department of Health estimates about half of Ohio families live in homes with elevated radon levels. Testing is the only way to know if elevated levels exist in a home. The Darke County Health Department recommends all homes be tested, regardless of age, location, or construction type. Elevated radon levels can be corrected with the installation of a ventilation system to direct the gas outdoors.

Homeowners interested in reducing their family's lung cancer risk can pick up a coupon at the Darke County Health Department that they can mail in for a free test kit.

More radon information is available by visiting www.rapca.org, www.epa.gov/radon, or <http://radon.utoledo.edu>



Picture of Radon Test Kit



*Ginger Gehret, RS, MS
New Environmental Director*

Darke County Health Department Announces New Environmental Director

Ginger Gehret is the new Environmental Director for the Health Department. She is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Masters in Agricultural Resource Economics and a Bachelor in Forest Resources Management. In addition to being the Environmental Director, she will maintain the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data for the Health Department.

Annual Report Issued

The Darke County Health Department issues its annual report March 1st of each year.

This report will be available on the Darke County Health Department's website at www.darkecountyhealth.org. or available for pick up at the Health Department.

The report list all statistics collected by the Health Department for the year along with information regarding the different programs available at the Health Department.



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