



# HealthLine

(A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department)

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

GREENVILLE, OH- To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Darke County Health Department along with CDC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 23-29.

This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," underscores the importance of testing your home, testing your child, learning about drinking water, and learning how to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects.

Nearly half a million children living in the United States have elevated blood lead levels that may cause significant damage to their health, estimates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The estimate is based on children with a blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter or higher using data from national surveys conducted in 2007-2008 and 2009-2010.

Major sources of lead exposure to U.S. children include lead-based paint (homes built before 1978) and lead-contaminated dust in deteriorating buildings. Children can also be exposed to lead from additional sources including contaminated drinking water, take-home exposures from a workplace, and lead in soil. Darke County is considered to be a high risk county due to the age of homes within the county.



Despite the continued presence of lead in the environment, lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

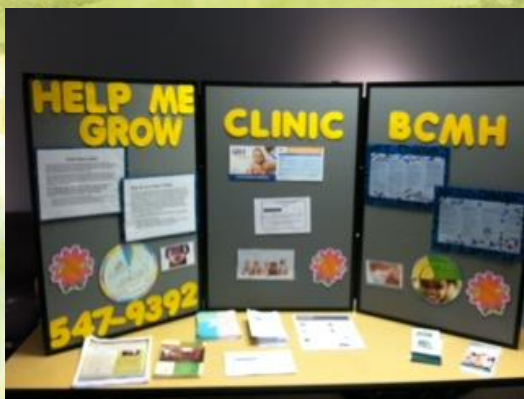
1. **Get Your Home Tested.** Screening tests are available in local retail stores or visit [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) for a list of certified inspectors. Before you buy an older home, ask for a lead inspection by a certified inspector.
2. **Get Your Child Tested.** Even if your young children seem healthy, ask your doctor to test them for lead.
3. **Learn About Drinking Water.** Water pipes in some older homes may contain lead solder where lead may leach out into the water. If interested in having your water tested contact your health department (fee applies).
4. **Understand the Facts!** Your local health department can provide you with helpful information about preventing childhood lead poisoning or you may also call 1-800-424-LEAD

*The Health Department is now on Facebook & Twitter.  
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### **Staff Highlight:**

**Jody Hocker**, is a graduate of Greenville High School. She has been working with the Health Department since 2010 as the Account Clerk/Administrative Assistant. She prepares payroll and fiscal reports as well as assists with administrative duties throughout the department. Previously she was the Deputy Registrar from 1999 to 2007 where she prepared birth and death certificates.



### **Health Fairs**

The Health Department participated at the following Health Fairs: Midmark on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Darke County Fairgrounds on October 11<sup>th</sup> and at Romer's on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Protect yourself from the flu: get vaccinated.**

The flu vaccine is currently available at the Darke County General Health District. Our walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m-10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m-5:00 p.m. Or call 937-548-4196 ext. 224 to make an appointment. We accept most insurance, so please bring your insurance card.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. For more information visit **Flu.gov**

Everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine, each year. This recommendation has been in place since February 24, 2010, when the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted for "universal" flu vaccination in the U.S. to expand protection against the flu to more people.

While everyone six months and older should get a flu vaccine each year, it's especially important for some people to get vaccinated. Those people include the following:

- People who are at high risk of developing serious complications (like pneumonia) if they get sick with the flu.
- People who have certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
- Pregnant women.
- People younger than five years, especially those younger than two, and people 65 years and older.
- Household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes and chronic lung disease.
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than six months old.
- Healthcare personnel.



**Ginger Magoto & Megan Keller**  
Inspecting at the fair

### The Great Darke County Fair

The sanitarians at the health department performed approximately 357 food inspections and field consultations at the fair. Of these inspections, 137 were standard inspections, 20 were re-inspections, and 200 were field consultations which mainly consisted of re-checks on refrigeration units to ensure they were holding proper temperature due to the high humidity.

### The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

After January 4, 2014 the Reduction in Lead in Drinking Water Act took effect. This act prohibited the use and introduction into commerce pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures that did not meet this new standard. The standard reduced the amount of lead allowable within these potable water components.

The law does not apply to pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures used for non-potable water use. Therefore, when installing components for potable water or drinking water, it is important to look for the proper certification stamp on these products to ensure that they meet the new standard. For additional information, please see Joe Nugent at the Health Department.



*Joe Nugent, CPI*

### Staff Highlight:

**Joe Nugent** is the plumbing inspector. He has been employed with the Health Department since 2012. Prior to coming to the Health Department, Mr. Nugent worked as a plumber for sixteen years. Previously he taught at the MVCTC as the adult education plumbing instructor and holds a certificate from the Department of Education in Engineering and Industrial Trades.

## New Proposed Fees

The Darke County Board of Health establishes fees for the community services and programs that are provided. These fees are authorized by Senate Bill 136 and House Bill 700 and Section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fees are formulated in accordance with the cost methodology prescribed in Section 3701-36-14 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The Health Department cannot charge more than the costs to implement the programs when setting fees.

The fees will be reviewed for the second and third readings at the Board of Health meetings held at the Darke County Health Department, 300 Garst Ave. Greenville. The meetings will be held at 9am on Tuesday, November 15 and Tuesday, December 6, 2016. The public is welcome to attend.

## Bed Bug Workshop

Tuesday, November 1, 2016  
10 am – 12:30 pm

Darke County Parks  
Shawnee Prairie Reserve  
4267 St. Rt. 502

Presentation by:

Dr. Susan Jones, Household and Structural Pest Specialist, the Ohio State University

For more information contact Ginger Magoto, Darke County Health Department  
937-548-4196 ext. 233

