



# HealthLine

(A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department)

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

## Agricultural Exemptions

As more and more farms are being purchased and operated away from home, many of our agricultural barns are seeing a need for restroom facilities. With bio-security threats, more barns need hand sinks and showers installed. Although there are exemptions for agricultural barns in some instances in regards to zoning, construction, and some plumbing, there are no exemptions for obtaining the proper permits that are required through the local health department.

Any building with a sink used for handwashing, human consumption or use, such as dishwashing, a toilet or a shower, is under the jurisdiction of the local health department. This includes the installation of a septic system, an approved potable water source, and plumbing. This is also the case with any installation of a toilet or a shower. A plumbing permit must be obtained by a registered plumber in Darke County. If the barn is commercial, a commercial plumber must do the work. If water will be used for animals only, then a plumbing permit is not required. Proper handling of the waste is still required.



Any water usage for humans must come from an approved, potable water source. Therefore, the well serving the barn must be a private water well and a water sample will need to confirm the water is safe. The well must meet all private water well requirements, including distances. In some cases, the well may be required to be an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) well.

All wastewater from a handwashing sink, toilet, or shower must go to an approved sewage treatment system or sanitary sewage system. Human sewage and excreta is not allowed to mix with animal waste and cannot go to the same system approved for animals. Soil testing must be done to determine what system will work best for the conditions. A holding tank can only be installed in circumstances where no other options exist and can only be permitted through the OEPA.

Because of distance requirements and soil testing, it is best to visit the local health department prior to building if you plan to install a hand sink, restroom, or shower facility.

For additional information, visit:  
[www.darkecountyhealth.org](http://www.darkecountyhealth.org)

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



*Casey Shipp, RN*

### **Staff Highlight**

#### ***New employee: Public Health Nurse***

Hello everyone, my name is Casey Shipp and I am the new Public Health Nurse. I will be working with families in the community and working with the Children with Medical Handicaps Program. I graduated from Versailles High School. We reside in Greenville. I have been a registered nurse for almost 4 years and received my Associates Degree at Edison Community College then went on to pursue my Bachelor's degree in Nursing at Ohio University. I have been married for 4 years to my wonderful husband Cory Shipp and we have 3 beautiful children, a daughter and 2 sons. I enjoy being with my family, crafting, and the outdoors. I am very excited to be part of the Darke County General Health District. I am looking forward to being active in the community and helping families.

#### **Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays**

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

Clinics are walk-in with no appointments needed. Most insurances are accepted.

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

## **Flu Season is Near... Know the Facts!**

### ***What is the difference between a cold and the flu?***

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Both illnesses have similar symptoms making it difficult to tell the difference. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. In general the flu is worse than the common cold and symptoms are more intense. The flu can have very serious complications, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections or hospitalization.

### ***How can you tell the difference between a cold and the flu?***

Both the flu and common cold can cause fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, body aches, headaches. And fatigue. Cold symptoms are generally milder than flu symptoms. Tests can be done within the first few days of an illness to determine if a person has the flu.

### ***Why should I get the flu shot?***

The flu shot can help protect you from getting the flu. People who are very young, pregnant, elderly or have a weak immune system can become extremely ill from the flu. These people sometimes cannot get the flu shot, and rely on the people around them to stay healthy. Even if you are not at a high risk of severe complications, the flu shot will not only protect you, but also the people who cannot receive the flu shot themselves.



## Another Successful Year at the Darke County Fair

The fair was a success! We completed 153 food inspections along with 24 re-inspections. We also had 71 field consultations and 1 office consultation. There was one stand without a license so they came and purchased a temporary food permit. We took a new approach with how we did inspections this year, splitting up different areas among Sanitarians. This worked out much better and we were finished with all inspections by the third day. Megan spent most of the remaining week at the Fair to check temperatures and to answer questions.

We completed 649 campground inspections. There were 30 violations but all were fixed by Monday. Our display in the wildlife tent showcased the new mosquito surveillance and control program.



*Richard Borgman, CPI*

### **Staff Highlight**

#### ***New employee: Plumbing Inspector***

Welcome Richard (Rick) Borgman! Rick is a Certified Plumbing Inspector and Plans Examiner. Rick has over 25 years experience in the commercial and industrial construction industry. Rick is married with two children. The family enjoys sports and other outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and hiking.

## Darke County Revises School Policy.

The Darke County Board of Health held a second public hearing and adoption of the School Environmental Health and Safety Inspection Methodology on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Darke County General Health Department. The public hearing was in regards to how the Health Department will be performing future inspections for the general safety and environment of the schools. The policy can be found on our website at <http://darkecountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Darke-County-School-Policy.pdf>. For more information please email Laura Schwieterman at [laura.schwieterman@darkecountyhealth.org](mailto:laura.schwieterman@darkecountyhealth.org)



*Grace Winhoven, SIT*

### **Staff Highlight**

#### ***New employee: Environmental Sanitarian / Mosquito Specialist***

Grace Winhoven, SIT is a Darke County native, and has been working for the Health Department since the start of the summer. She recently graduated from Cornell University, where she studied insects, mosquitoes and public health. Grace is responsible for the new mosquito control and surveillance program, and helps with new houses, new septic systems and new wells. When not at work, Grace enjoys reading, writing and gardening.

### Help Me Grow

Did you know that the Health Department has a program that helps with parenting? Parenting is the hardest and most important job in the world.

The program is known as Help Me Grow.

Home visitors can provide caring support and reliable information on the topics that matter to new parents. Whether it's how to soothe a crying baby, how to manage sleep or how to deal with the stresses of parenting, the Help Me Grow Home Visitors are there for a little added support. While listening to needs and concerns, they empower parents to make their own decisions about what they feel is best for themselves and their baby.

### 2018 Draft Fees

The Darke County Board of Health establishes fees for our services. These fees are authorized by Senate Bill 136 and House Bill 700 Section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code. These fees will be reviewed for the second and third final readings at the Board of Health meetings held at the Darke County Health Department, 300 Garst Ave. Greenville. The meetings are: Tuesday, November 14, 2016 at 9am. Tuesday, December 5, 2016 at 9am. Visit our website to see the proposed fees.

### Contractor Registration

The Darke County Health Department registers contractors such as Sewage Treatment System Installers, Service Providers, Pumpers, Plumbers, Sewage and Water Line Installers, Plumbing Appliance Installers and Water Haulers. The Health Department assures the contractors are insured and bonded and inspects the trucks if needed and their work when we are called out to a job site. Often times work is done without the Health Department being present on the job.

We strongly recommend homeowners ask around to find out who may be recommended (the Health Department does not recommend any contractors, we only provide a list of who is registered to perform the work in the county) and ask for estimates.

We often receive complaints that homeowners are not satisfied with work that has been done. Some homeowners are also signing contracts which may include Service Providers coming to the job multiple times a year and the homeowner being charged for every visit. Be sure not to sign anything unless you are clear what you are signing. Be sure to know what work is being performed and look at the work after it is completed. If it doesn't appear that the work was done correctly, please inform the contractor and call the Health Department if necessary so we can come and review the work that has been done. If you are unsatisfied, you should contact the Better Business Bureau at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org). If you have damages, you will want to contact a lawyer to begin a civil action against the contractor's bond. The Health Department is not responsible for damages done or for contract agreements between the homeowner and the contractor