



HealthLine

A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department



Message from the Health Commissioner

Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS

2019 Community Health Assessment

The Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) along with THE HEALTH COLLABORATIVE have completed the Community Health Needs Assessment for the tri state area that includes SouthWest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and SouthEast Indiana. Darke County residents were given the opportunity to respond to the question, "Given the health issues facing the community, which ones would be your top priorities?" The top three issues mentioned were Chronic Disease, Substance Abuse and Mental Health. These three topics of health concern have been consistent concerns for our community. As we move into the improvement planning phase, there will continue to be collaboration among community partners and stakeholders intensely addressing these issues and others in working towards making Darke County a healthier community.



ACCREDITATION

Our accreditation journey is close to the PHAB site visit.

On Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27, the appointed site visit team will be here to finalize the application for Accreditation process.

Documents have been collected and submitted and are currently being reviewed by the site visit team. In March, the site visit will consist of meeting sessions on each domain as well as special sessions with the Board of Health and Community partners. Site visitors will be conversing with employees during the sessions to clarify any gaps that may need filled to paint the full picture of how we do things. Results of the visit will be put into a written report by the site visitors and submitted to the final decision makers at the Public Health Accreditation Board.

We are very excited to be able to show them all of the hard work that goes on here and will be anxiously waiting to hear the results.

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

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Congrats to Nikki Lefeld who just completed her requirements for her BSN!!!
Job well done!



Nicole Lefeld, RN, BSN



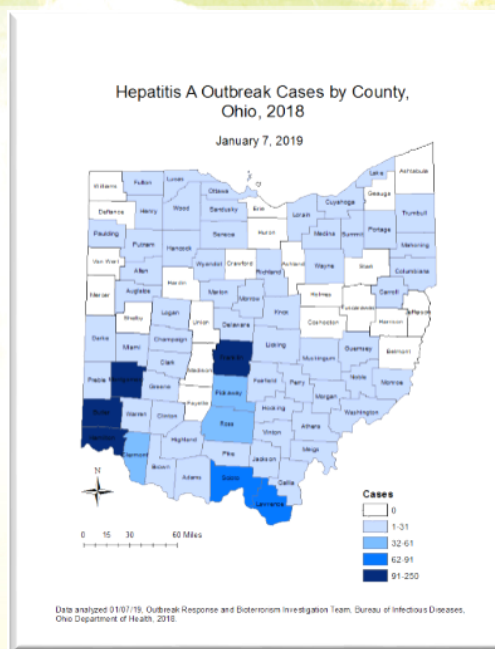
In order to help kids meet school vaccine requirements the Darke County Health Department is gearing up to hold its annual 7th and 12th grade immunization clinic on Saturday March 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Spirit Medical Transport on Sweitzer.

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.



ODH has declared a statewide community outbreak of hepatitis A after observing an increase in cases linked to certain risk factors since the beginning of 2018. Outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring in several states across the U.S., including neighboring states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and West Virginia. Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable liver disease that usually spreads when a person ingests fecal matter - even in microscopic amounts - from contact with objects, food or drinks contaminated by the stool of an infected person. Hepatitis A can also be spread from close personal contact with an infected person, such as through sex. People can spread hepatitis A even if they do not look or feel sick. Darke County has had a total of 15 cases and because of this the Health Department nursing division has scheduled a **No Cost Hep A clinic on February 7th from 3-6:30pm at the Health Department.** The vaccine is highly effective. If you haven't been vaccinated please plan to visit our hepatitis A clinic.

The DCGHD received for the fourth year in a row the WPCLF (Water Pollution Control Loan Fund) grant for 2020 in the amount of \$150,000. These funds aid in installation and improvement of septic systems. Some of the funds for 2020 can also be used towards sewer tie ins where available. Homeowners qualify for the grant money based on total household income and being up-to-date on mortgages/ taxes/ utilities.

Depending on the household income, the homeowner can qualify for 100%, 85%, or 50% of the system costs to be paid for by the grant money. The houses are required to have a failing septic system and be homeowner-occupied.

For more information contact the Environmental Health Division @ 937-548-4196 ext.210



Welcome Connor Super



Sanitarian-in-Training

My name is Connor Super. I am a new employee at the Darke County Health Department. I am originally from Troy, OH where I graduated from Troy High School in 2014. I then went on to attend The Ohio State University where I graduated in spring of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. Upon graduation, I moved back home to attend Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine for my Master's in Public Health. Outside of school and work, I enjoy playing golf, being active in nature, and spending time with friends and family. My main role as a Sanitarian-in-Training will be to conduct food inspections, but I will also help with Sewage treatment system designs. I am looking forward to helping protect public health and broaden my knowledge here at the local health department.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Brittany Weitzel...
2009 graduate of Versailles High School and 2013 graduate of Wright State University with a Bachelors Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. Works in the nuisance, solid waste, scrap tire, manufactured homes, lead, smoking, school environment, and tattoo and body piercing programs. Married husband Scott in 2014 and we are expecting our first child in March 2019.



Congratulations to Jody Hocker as the new Administrative Assistant!



We are pleased to announce the promotion of Jody to Administrative Assistant 2. Jody is a great asset to the Health Department. She has been here for over 15 years and worked as deputy registrar, account clerk and administrative assistant 1. Congrats and thanks for all you do!

2019 FEE SCHEDULE

Fees for 2019 have been reviewed and approved.
For a complete listing go to our website
www.darkecountyhealth.org or
click on the following link
[http://darkecountyhealth.org/wp-content/
uploads/2018/10/2019_Fees_Local_State_Final.pdf](http://darkecountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2019_Fees_Local_State_Final.pdf)

HOLDING TANKS

The Darke County Health Department would like to remind contractors and residents that in most cases, holding tanks are not permitted by the local health department for a sewage treatment system. Holding tanks are only allowed to be permitted by the local health department for temporary abatement of a public health nuisance of an existing system and on a temporary basis during inclement weather and/or during the non-installation season when the property owner must take occupancy until soil conditions are suitable for complete system installation. Holding tanks must always be installed by a registered installer and must meet required specifications.

Holding tanks are not sewage treatment systems because they do not treat the sewage and therefore, do not follow under the home sewage treatment rules, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29. Holding tanks are permitted under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The OEPA may permit these for various reasons, such as for industrial waste. During the permitting process, engineered drawings are submitted and the tanks often need high water alarms installed and need to be placed on a pumping schedule with the waste going to a capable sewage treatment plant.

The local health department has a handful of holding tank permits that were issued in the past without OEPA approval. These holding tanks should have been permitted under OEPA authority and any changes or updates in the future would go to them. Under no circumstance is a holding tank allowed to be permitted for a cabin, garage, agricultural barn, etc. These structures need to have soils tested and have a permitted onsite sewage treatment system installed. If a holding tank is located at a property without proper OEPA permits, a sewage treatment system will need to be installed or the holding tank and all plumbing removed.

A reminder for barns, garages, etc is that any time a toilet, shower, or a sink for human use or consumption which includes handwashing, is installed, a sewage treatment system must be installed. These facilities also require a potable water source which requires plumbing permits and a private water well with a satisfactory water sample. This includes all structures zoned agricultural.