



# HealthLine

A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department



## Message from the Health Commissioner

**Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS**

Darke County is part of an initiative led and funded by the National Institutes of Health called the "Helping to End Addiction Longterm Initiative<sup>SM</sup>", or "HEALing Communities Initiative<sup>SM</sup>". The project involves four states; Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. The entities that have been awarded funding to lead the initiative in each state are the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Boston Medical Center, Boston, Columbia University, New York City, and The Ohio State University, Columbus. There are nineteen counties in Ohio that are participating representing both rural and urban populations. Locations were picked based on statistics revealing prevalence of opioid addiction and accidental overdose incidence.

While Darke County has addressed this issue in many ways already, the study will track the statistics while projects continue to be implemented as well as any planning and implementation of new projects that focus on opioid use and addiction are introduced to the community.

<https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/fighting-the-opioid-crisis-nih-heal-initiative-takes-on-addiction-and-pain-management>



## ACCREDITATION

December 2, 2019 Press Release from PHAB

PHAB Awards Initial Accreditation Status to Nine Health Departments; Four Achieve Rec accreditation Status

Ohio Recipients

Initial:

Canton City Public Health

Cleveland Department of Public Health

Defiance County General Health District

Trumbull County Combined Health District

Rec accreditation:

Columbus Public Health

Licking County Health Department

CONGRATS!! and GREAT JOB OHIO!!

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

## Nursing Division News

### NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHT



My name is Lindsey. I've been an RN for five years, most of which I've spent in home health. Pediatrics has always been my passion though, so visiting moms and babies is very exciting for me! I'm happily married with two children – a 7-year old girl and an 8-month old boy. I am glad to be part of the team!



Hello, I am Sara, Help Me Grow Home Visitor. I've been a nurse for the last 7 years in long term care. This new adventure has been quite different, but I am enjoying it. I live on a farm outside of Covington with my husband, two teenage sons and two spoiled dogs. We raise chickens, hogs and hopefully soon; bees! I enjoy gardening, canning and crafting. I also love to fish and am more than ready for spring!

### Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays

**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.

**Do you have a child in 6th grade or 11th grade? Shots will be required for them to go to school next year. Don't wait until school starts!**

**\*\*Special NO COST clinic for back to school shots Saturday, March 14th @ Spirit Medical Transport, Sweitzer Street in Greenville**

**8am - 1pm**

**Bring proof of insurance if you have it. Required vaccines for these ages are TDAP and MENVEO. Only these will be available at the special clinic.**

### FLU SEASON UPDATE

As of January 2020, influenza is widespread in Darke County and the surrounding West Central Ohio region. Influenza is a very contagious illness that strikes millions of Americans each year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu shot. It is important to get vaccinated to not only protect yourself but to protect spreading it to others. Especially those in our vulnerable population such as young children, elderly adults, pregnant women and those who are unable to naturally fight the illness. Many people in vulnerable groups are visited by friends and relatives. When their visitors are immunized, that makes it less likely to spread the flu to them.

In addition to getting a flu shot, the following preventive actions will help you stay healthy this flu season:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizer when you are unable to wash.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread this way.
- Get plenty of rest. Sleep is shown to help your body fight off illness.
- When you are sick, stay home until you are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

Flu vaccines are offered at the Darke County Health Department Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. For more information, call 937-548-4196 x235.

### Pertussis:

**Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is spread through the air by infectious droplets, like coughs and sneezes, and is very contagious. Pertussis symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing, low-grade fever, and a cough. The cough may last for as long as six to ten weeks. Pertussis can be very severe for infants. Complications include dehydration, ear infection, pneumonia, seizures, and even death.**

**Vaccination is the number one way to avoid pertussis. Vaccine experts recommend infants receive a DTaP given at 2, 4, 6, and 15-18 months of age. A booster dose is given at 4 to 6 years old.**

**Adolescents receive a dose of Tdap at 11 to 12 years of age. All adults should receive a single dose of Tdap and then subsequent booster doses of Td or Tdap should be given every ten years. It is also recommended that women receive a Tdap during each pregnancy. Darke County does see multiple cases of pertussis each year.**



**Tdap = Tetanus,  
diphtheria and pertussis  
DTaP = Diphtheria,  
tetanus and pertussis**



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

TRAINING OFFER SUCCESSFUL

The Darke County Health Department, Environmental Division, held their annual CEU training on December 12, 2019 at the Shawnee Prairie Preserve and Nature Center. The training was for registered installers, service providers, and pumpers to continue their certification. There were 72 people/companies present for the training. Several professionals were asked to speak and present essential information to the attendees. Training topics included grant and loan funding, EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits and sampling, GIS mapping, Jet Aeration, Presby Systems, and Spray Irrigation sewage treatment systems, as well as general requirements, policies and site design. We had a great turn out and look forward to putting on another CEU training course in November 2020. See you there!



## 2020 FEES

*Fees charged by the health department are calculated only with the intent to cover the costs associated with the service that they provide. The health department does not net any profit from fees charged for services.*

[https://darkecountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Draft\\_Fees\\_2020.pdf](https://darkecountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Draft_Fees_2020.pdf)



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Say Hello to our Deputy Registrar and Environmental Health support person, Kris. She bravely works the frontline of our Environmental Health division and takes care of all the birth and death records. She does a fantastic job, is always helpful and has a great demeanor. Thank you Kris for all you do!!!

*Starting in January 2020, the Ohio Department of Health released an update to the Private Water Systems Code. A letter is being sent to all the private water system contractors regarding the code updates. Topics addressed in the letter include outside use piping inside the home, variances being issued, disinfection of the private water system, alterations of the private water system, pressure tanks and sampling ports in confined spaces, required*

*CEU training for all contractors and a knowledge assessment on all new private water system contractors. To view the updated Private Water Systems Code, go to*

<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-28-08v1>.

**2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE  
FOR THE DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

*All meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am unless noted otherwise. If you would like to be put on the agenda please call Jody Hocker, 937-548-4196 ext. 200.*

*January 14*

*February 11*

*March 10*

*April 14*

*May 12*

*June 9*

*July 14*

*July 14*

*August 11*

*September 8*

*October 13*

*\*November 17*

*December 8*

*December 18*



**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!!**

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY? WE ARE TOO!!!  
WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR CONCERNS!

THE DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT IS LOOKING FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS TO HELP US IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH IN DARKE COUNTY.



ARE YOU INTERESTED?  
HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
JORDAN FRANCIS AT WAYNE HEALTHCARE 937-569-6409  
OR TRACI OWENS AT DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT 937-548-4196