



HealthLine

A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department

SPECIAL EDITION - COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Message from the Health Commissioner

Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS

First of all, I would like to thank all the Darke County residents who are practicing social distancing. Also, compliance with Governor DeWine's Stay at Home order is imperative. This is the most important thing we can be doing right now to help decrease the spread of COVID-19.

I want to stress the reality of the situation and that is that the majority of coronavirus cases result in mild to moderate symptoms with a full recovery in about 2 weeks. However, it is still the responsibility of everyone to practice social distancing, wash your hands before and after any potential contamination and limit your trips to get essential items like food and medicine. Be smart about this by making lists and combining outings whenever possible.

We are working hard here at the health department to make sure our community will be ready for a severe local outbreak if it comes to that. We are working closely with the hospital and health care facilities on proper procedures and inventory of personal protective equipment. Our staff is monitoring the positive cases and all those who have had contact with them to prevent further spread of the virus.

There is a lot of information out there. I ask that people avoid spreading rumors and misinformation. I also ask that people be kind and supportive to one another. Our phone lines are available during normal business hours, 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, for questions. Our staff works hard to have the most up to date information but the situation changes rapidly.

Updates are provided on our website and facebook page daily.



ACCREDITATION

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, PHAB has suspended all Accreditation activities for 90 days. However, while DCGHD works diligently on the COVID-19 response, documentation for our action plan will continue to be collected and reviewed.



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

Nursing Division News

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Emily Hoisington, RN, BSN



KUDOS to Emily, who, within her first 6 months of being our Director of Nursing has been thrown into the worst Public Health crisis of our time. She is a champ! Thank you for your leadership and dedication.

AS OF 3/17/2020 WALK-IN CLINICS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK CONTAINMENT AND MITIGATION RESPONSE

Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays

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

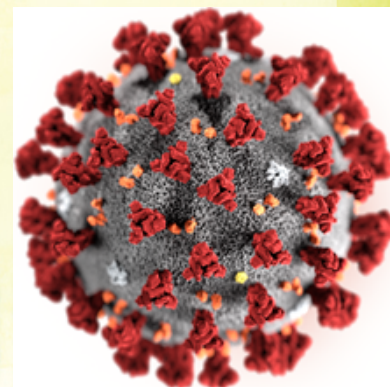
Clinics are walk-in with no appointments needed. Most insurances are accepted. Call 937-548-4196, extension 224, with questions or concerns.



The Show Must Go On!!

Community TDap Vaccine Clinic Another Success

Darke County Health Commissioner, Dr. Holman stays on task and still offered the community clinic while taking special precautions and following social distancing guidelines as closely as possible. The annual vaccine clinic is planned months in advance and fills a great need in the community. Also, with health care still being considered exempt from the strictest guidelines, Dr. Holman knew that the staffs expert knowledge of avoiding the spread of diseases would keep everyone safe. He felt comfortable and confident with his decision to move forward with the event. That being said, even with social distancing orders from the Governor and a very late winter/ early spring snow storm, the health department gave 274 vaccines at the clinic held at SPIRIT Medical Transport on Saturday, March 14. Thank you to the community and thank you staff!!!



Know How it Spreads

- *There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- *The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- *The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- *Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- *These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

To disinfect:

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

Options include:

Diluting your household bleach.

To make a bleach solution, mix:

5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water

OR

4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

Alcohol solutions.

Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.

Other common EPA-registered household disinfectants.

Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

Is it okay to flush disinfecting wipes?

EPA urges Americans to only flush toilet paper.

Disinfecting wipes and other items should be properly disposed of in the trash, not the toilet. These wipes and other items do not break down in sewer or septic systems and can damage your home's internal plumbing as well as local wastewater collection systems. As a result, flushing these wipes can clog your toilet and/or create sewage backups into your home or your neighborhood. Additionally, these wipes can cause significant damage to pipes, pumps, and other wastewater treatment equipment. Sewer backups can be a threat to public health and present a challenge to our water utilities by diverting resources away from the essential work being done to treat and manage our nation's wastewater. Disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, and paper towels should NEVER be flushed.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Can I Operate My Business?

Guidance for the Stay At Home Order - COVID-19

Business Criteria, pages 5-8 of the order

1. If you **DO NOT** meet any of the 16 categories listed in the order, then you cannot operate.
2. If you **DO** meet one of the 16 categories, **THEN**:
 - a. Can you/do you practice social distancing (6' apart from others)?
 - i. If **YES**, then you can operate
 - ii. If **NO**, then your company would need to either:
 1. **Modify** how you do business to ensure social distancing
 2. **Not operate** if you are unable to modify your business behaviors to practice social distancing.



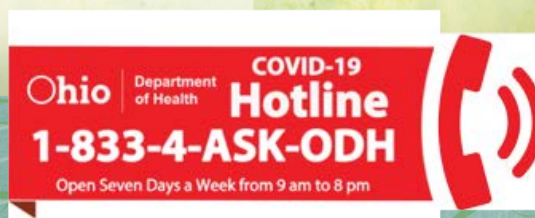
Get the order here: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

To all the staff for being flexible and willing to do whatever it takes to help keep the county as safe and healthy as possible during this unprecedented public health emergency. You have all shown your dedication to the mission of public health.

THANK YOU!!

Services at the health department that require you to come to the building are limited at this time and are by appointment or call ahead only. We are screening all visitors of the building. Please call us if you have any questions.





National Public Health Week

April 6 - 12, 2020

NPHW @ 25: Looking Back, Moving Forward.

The Darke County General Health District is pleased to be participating in the American Public Health Association's 25th annual Public Health Week from April 6th-April 12th. The Health District will be posting various social media posts and providing information through the media in conjunction with this event.

The APHA's goal for this week is to "recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health." The health district hopes to target this goal around Darke County. The topics that will be covered over the week are mental health, maternal and child health, violence prevention, environmental health, education, healthy homes, and economics, all of which are prevalent to the citizens of Darke County.

The Darke County General Health District Facebook page will be updated at least once a day with information regarding the day's topic. While the health district will be the main resource provided to citizens, various other Darke County entities will be mentioned and national means of support to best present issue solutions. Tatiana Burkett, the sanitarian with the health district working on this promotion has said of her work "I did research on not only the topic in Darke County but nationwide to bring forward the best information for our citizens."

For more information on Public Health Week 2020, please visit the APHA's website <http://www.nphw.org/nphw-2020> and check the Darke County General Health District Facebook page for all the updates.

coronavirus.ohio.gov



boe.ohio.gov/darke/

What about the election?

All polling locations were ordered closed on Tuesday, March 17th due to social distancing orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

All Ohioans are now being encouraged to vote by absentee ballot. Call (937-548-1835) the Darke County Board of Elections or see their website to fill out a request for a ballot to vote by mail.

All ballots must be returned by April 28, 2020.

2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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	August 11
February 11	September 8
March 10	October 13
April 14	*November 17
May 12	December 8
June 9	December 18
July 14	

