



HealthLine

A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department



Message from the Health Commissioner

Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS

The coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic has been a public health crisis that we will all remember. We have learned from it and continue to learn from it for a long time yet. At this time, our efforts continue to focus on active cases and contact tracing while starting Phase 1A of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

The process for vaccine distribution is highly dependent on vaccine availability and recommendations provided by the Ohio Department of Health. We ask for your patience as we learn about priorities for distribution and the amount of vaccines we receive here in Darke County.

Phase 1A is expected to continue over the next couple of weeks and then Ohio will transition to Phase 1B. This phase (1B) includes those individuals 65 and older, adults who work in a school setting, and those living with severe medical disorders. These include: cerebral palsy, spina bifida, congenital heart disease, type 1 diabetes, inherited metabolic disorders, severe neurological disorders including epilepsy, severe genetic disorders (Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Prader Willi Syndrome, and Turner Syndrome), severe lung disease (cystic fibrosis and severe asthma), sickle cell anemia; and alpha and beta thalassemia.

It is not known at this time how long Phase 1A and 1B will last with the limited vaccine availability. As soon as we receive more information on the next phases, we will inform the public.



ACCREDITATION

This month, we are planning to submit all of our documentation for the action plan that we proposed in October 2019.

PHAB will review the documentation in March and inform us of their decision soon after. To date, Ohio has 43 local health departments that are accredited as well as the state health department. With the exception of New York and California, every other state has less than 10 accredited health departments.

The health department has put a lot of time and effort into the accreditation process. We look forward to what the future brings.

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

Nursing Division News

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

The nursing division staff have been working 7 days a week since March when COVID started. Often times staff are working up to 60 hours a week to keep up with the COVID reporting, calling positives, contact tracing, data analysis, and most recently administering COVID vaccines. This is all in addition to keeping up with immunizations, Help Me Grow, Early Intervention and the Children with Medical Handicaps programs. Our staff has shown such dedication, team work and compassion since this pandemic started! They have been thrown into roles they probably never thought they would be doing and doing it with grace! I could not be more grateful to work with such a strong team! A huge thank you to each and every DCGHD staff member!

*Emily Hoisington, Nursing
Director, DCGHD*



Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays

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

Clinics are by appointment only. Most insurances are accepted. Call 937-548-4196, extension 224.



ASSESSMENT

Darke County General Health District along with Wayne Healthcare, Family Health, Tri-County Board of Recovery and Wellness, Coalition for a Healthy Darke County as well as other stakeholders have worked together through the pandemic to complete a Community Health Assessment for Darke County. The purpose of the Community Health Assessment is to learn about the health of the community, identify contributing factors to higher health risks and poorer health outcomes and to determine what assets and resources are available to improve population health status.



With some help from Wright State University's Applied Policy Research Institute in facilitating the process, local partners and key stakeholders reviewed data analysis and discussed local trends that impact community health. The assessment provides insight to some of the major local health issues and the group has narrowed it down to 3 main focus areas.

- *Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- *Access to Care
- *Aging Population

These 3 main areas will be addressed in the Community Health Improvement Plan(CHIP). Goals and objectives will be established, actions will be assigned and implementation of the CHIP will begin soon.

We are still providing immunizations! It is very important to continue getting your preventative health care during the pandemic. With many people putting off regular doctor visits and other medical appointments, the potential to see outbreaks of other diseases is very high. A focus on prevention saves everyone time and money. And it is not too late to get a flu shot, if you still need one, call us!!!

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

I think we can all agree 2020 has been a year! The Environmental Division has continued to work towards preventing the spread of disease and protecting public health. When COVID-19 was confirmed in our County back in March, our division began to make small changes to ensure everyone was kept safe. We had a couple of weeks where we slowed on indoor inspections in early April when the stay-at-home order was put into place, but overall, we have been performing inspections as we have before the pandemic. Many of our programs such as the food, recreation, and solid waste have required inspections that need to be performed. These program requirements have been relaxed, as there are some facilities that we are not able to do or have closed because of COVID-19. The Environmental staff has continued to work hard and we appreciate all they do for us!

There have been some changes with job duties during the pandemic. We have staff helping with public information, creating maps and graphs, taking complaint phone calls, visiting businesses because of complaints, reviewing plans and answering COVID questions for restaurants, helping with unloading and moving PPE materials, and assisting with contract tracing. We currently have 2 staff dedicating 2 ½ days a week to help assist with contract tracing. During all of this, however, we want to thank the nursing division for the role that they have played. The nursing staff, our Emergency Response Coordinator, other vital Incident Command staff, and our Health Commissioner have done a tremendous job during this pandemic. We will get through this and with the excellent staff we have in our Health Department, the public can be assured we are here to help protect their health.

-Ginger Magoto, Environmental Health Director



The 2021 Fees have been approved and are available on our website. Fees may increase or decrease from year to year because they are calculated based on costs from the previous year. All fees only cover the cost of performing the service, there are no profits gained from the fees we charge. Many times due to state regulations or other outside influences, fees generally cover less than 100% of the cost to provide the service. To view the fees, click [here](#).

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Cody Snider, SIT



I grew up on a small family farm in Fletcher, Ohio, raising mostly market hogs and had a small pumpkin patch. I graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Food Business Management and have been a General Manager at several restaurants in the Columbus and Dayton areas, as well as a Food Service Director in 2 different schools.

I currently reside in Troy with my wife, Andrea, and 2 yr old, Lincoln. In my free time I have taken on the hobby of home brewing craft beer and hard cider.



COMING SOON - 2021 Public Health Week

National Public Health Week
April 5th-11th 2021

THEME: "BUILDING BRIDGES TO BETTER HEALTH"

OBSERVED BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, CAMPUSES, AND OTHER ASSOCIATES.

THESE INDIVIDUALS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PROMOTING OUR NATIONS HEALTH THROUGH PRESENTING KEY TAKEAWAYS THAT CAN SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTH IN A

MAKING THE STRIDES TO GREATER HEALTH:

Special events will take place during NPHW week in 2021 led by the American Public Health Association.

APHA strives to engage communities and partners in leading healthy and active lifestyles.

APHA has designed a program to help keep individuals motivated and active with the "Keep it Moving Challenge".

Can they achieve last year goal of 415 teams logging 1.8 billion steps? Stay Tuned.

7 DAILY THEMES:

- Monday:** Focus will be on rebuilding.
- Tuesday:** Boost racial equity.
- Wednesday:** Strengthening the community.
- Thursday:** Motivate the public to understand the importance of climate justice.
- Friday:** Establish Covid-19 resilience.
- Saturday:** Uplifting mental health and wellness.
- Sunday:** Elevating the essential and health workforces.

These 7 Key points are essential to developing the healthiest nations!

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK (NPHW) ALLOWS THESE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO BUILD AWARENESS AND PROMOTE A POSITIVE HEALTH MESSAGE.

Resources: <http://www.nphw.org/nphw-2021>

2021 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 12	August 10
February 9	September 7
March 9	October 12
April 13	November 9
May 11	December 8
June 8	December 18
July 13	



Facts vs. Myths COVID-19 Vaccine

[Click here for more info.](#)

Myth: COVID-19 vaccines will be mandatory for every Ohioan.

FACT: Ohio will not make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory.

Myth: You can get COVID-19 from COVID-19 vaccines.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19.

Myth: COVID-19 isn't very serious, so I don't need to get the vaccine.

FACT: The severity of COVID-19 symptoms varies widely, and getting vaccinated can help prevent infection with COVID-19.

Myth: Other vaccines, like the flu shot, will prevent COVID-19.

FACT: Only vaccines designed specifically to prevent COVID-19 will protect you from COVID-19.

Myth: COVID-19 vaccines will implant tracking microchips in people.

FACT: Vaccine injections do not contain tracking microchips.

Myth: Once I get a vaccine, I can stop wearing a mask and social distancing.

FACT: You should continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing after being vaccinated.

Myth: Vaccines cause autism.

FACT: Vaccines do not cause autism.