



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

The health department continues to work hard for our community by providing current and accurate information regarding COVID-19 guidelines. Information on this topic has been continuously changing and often times confusing. The staff and I work hard to separate the misinformation from the important points. It is our goal to make sense of what is happening out there and provide our community with the most reliable and pertinent feedback.

We have been working closely with businesses, schools, community groups, event planners and health practitioners to determine ways in which we can all go to work, send our kids to school and enjoy what the community has to offer while minimizing any potential threat of the virus.

The reality is that we all have to learn how to deal with the new coronavirus in a way that keeps our vulnerable populations as safe as possible. Sensibility and a bit of caution is key to getting back to a life that feels more "normal".

For up to date information on COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths go to our website at www.darkecountyhealth.org or follow us on Facebook.



Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS
Health Commissioner

ACCREDITATION

The Health Department, Wayne Healthcare and many other community stakeholders met early this year to assess the local public health system and the health needs of the community.

Thanks to the dedication of our partners to community health, we were able to review data, assess resources and determine the three greatest public health and health care needs currently in the community.

Soon, the final draft will be shared with the residents of Darke County via our website. Residents will be encouraged to read through the assessment and offer feedback so that we can be sure we will direct our energy and efforts in the right direction. Keep a look out for the announcement and opportunity to provide feedback.

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

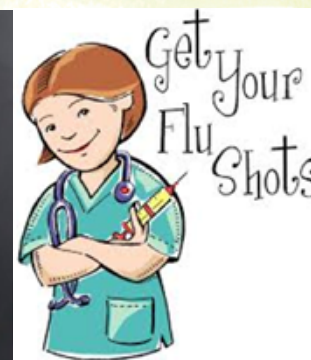
Nursing Division News

WELCOME NEW STAFF

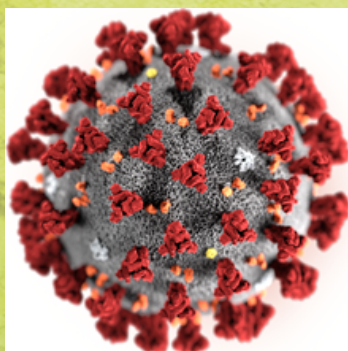


Janet - RN/ Contact Tracer

I was born and raised in Darke County and currently reside outside Versailles with my husband Doug. I have 3 children Nathan 27, Zach 23, and Josh 20. My work background is in occupational health for the past 20 yrs. I enjoy going to sporting events and watching movies



**FLU SHOTS ARE AVAILABLE
CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT
OR COME SEE US AT
BRADFORD LIBRARY
10/1 @ 3:30-5:30PM
ANSONIA RESCUE
10/5 @ 4:30-6:30PM**



Vaccination Clinics are now by appointment only.

Please call 937-548-4196 ext. 224

How are we making it as safe as possible?

Call when you arrive. Check-in process is completed over the phone.

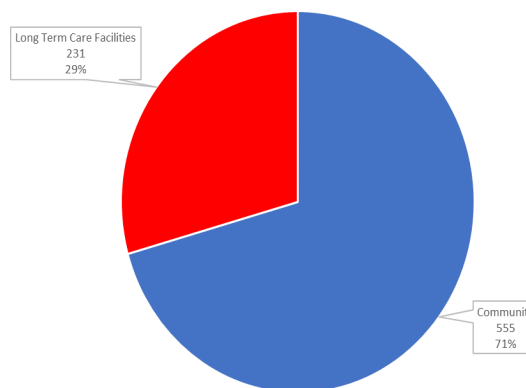
Masks are required to enter the building and temperatures are taken before entering the clinic area.

**Nurses are wearing masks and face shields.
Paperwork is filled out by the nurse to reduce contact with other objects.**

The waiting room is closed so it is requested that only the patient and parent/guardian come in for service.

Exam rooms are cleaned in between each use.

COVID-19 Total Community vs Long Term Care Facility Cases as of 9/23/20 (Note that Long Term Care Facility Cases include staff)



At this point in time, we are seeing many more community cases as opposed to the several cases reported from the long term care facilities early in the pandemic. In many cases once one member of a household tests positive, other household members come back as positive.

The process of quarantine and isolation should be taken seriously to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to others.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

What happens if my well water samples are bad?

If the well is getting back multiple bad water samples then that could be due to a crack in the well casing, not using enough grout around the well, or poor installation of the pitless adapter, which allows the water to pass through the casing. In the picture, a dye test is being performed to help determine if the bad water samples are due to one of these problems. For a dye test, you dig a six-inch trench around the well and pour in a mixture of water and a water approved, non-toxic, colored dye. If you start seeing the water turn that color of the dye inside your house, then you know it is one of those three problems.



If not, then it is time to do a down hole camera test to further investigate the problem. Since this is not something that happens very often it was a great learning experience for our Sanitarians. The results of this test were inconclusive so State will be conducting another assessment using a downhole camera next.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently conducted a down-hole camera test on two homeowner's wells in the county. A down-hole camera can be requested after two or more positive bacteria or Escherichia coli water samples have been taken and the local health department has conducted a dye test. If the dye test comes back as inconclusive then ODH can be requested to conduct the down-hole camera. To conduct the test, the private water contractor must pull the pump out of the well, and then the camera is submerged into the well. The camera shows a picture on a screen which is being recorded to a disk so ODH can get a closer look at it on a computer. Our sanitarians went to watch this camera test being conducted. This was a unique learning experience for them. If no foreign material or issues with the casing are found, the homeowner can choose to drill a new well or have a continuous disinfection system put in.

Allison - Sanitarian in Training



Hello! My name is Allison. I recently graduated this past December from Wright State University with a Bachelor's in Public Health Education. I currently live in Beavercreek with my husband and golden retriever, Apollo. I love spending time with family and friends, my favorite TV shows are Game of Thrones, The Office and The Big Bang Theory.

I am a Sanitarian-in-Training where my main focus will be on the Food Safety Program. I am so thrilled to be a part of the Darke County General Health District. I am looking forward to being active in the community.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Dale - Sanitarian in Training

I was born in Toledo and grew up in the suburbs of South West Detroit, then moved to Western Michigan where I went to high school. After high school I went to trade school to become an auto mechanic which I did for a few years before getting hired into Ford Motor Company where I worked as a chassis assembler for



12 years. In 2007 I took a buyout from Ford and they paid for me to move back to Ohio to attend Ohio State as an engineering student, but I graduated with a bachelors of science in Business and Economics. I went back to the auto industry for 5 or 6 more years before deciding to try something new. I got my sanitarian in training license and was very excited to be hired here in Darke County.

In my off work hours I enjoy spending time with my girlfriend and working on our 8 aquariums.





Brittany Weitzel, RS,
Public Health
Emergency Response
Coordinator

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

Starting March 9th, with the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency, the Darke County General Health District has been operating in the Incident Command System.

The Incident Command System is a standardized approach to the command, control and coordination of emergency response.

The Darke County General Health District's Incident Command Team is comprised of the Incident Commander, Public Information Officer, Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, Finance/Administration Section Chief and the Support Staff.

All these individuals work together to ensure a cohesive COVID-19 response for the citizens of Darke County.

coronavirus.ohio.gov

The Great Darke County Fair 2020

The first weekend of the fair was August 21st. It was a junior fair; only open to kids showing animals and their families. We inspected 2 temporaries and 7 mobiles. All mobiles were over near the animal barns except Burgers, Brauts, and Dawgs which was by the horse track. The following weekend of the 28th the fair was open to the public for food concessions. We inspected 15 mobiles this weekend. Every mobile was great to work with and no major problems were found. Violations were addressed on the spot.



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, we request that you contact us on or before the Friday of the week prior to the meeting. 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	



Proposed Fees for 2021 will be announced at the regularly scheduled Board of Health Meeting on October 13th, 2020.