

IN THIS ISSUE >>>

- *National Public Health Week*
- *Nursing Division Updates*
- *Environmental Health Division Updates*



The Newsletter of the Darke County General Health District

Health Line

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and maintain an efficient and effective system which will provide for the highest quality of public health services and to promote and protect the Darke County community's physical, mental, social, and environmental well-being.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be an innovative leader in achieving the highest possible health and wellbeing for Darke County and the environment.

Public Health Week

During the first full week of April each year the United States promotes National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. This year the main theme for National Public Health Week is **"Building Bridges to Better Health."** In alignment with the main theme, the daily themes for National Public Health Week are as follows:

- **Monday** - Focus 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 health workforces



**NATIONAL
PUBLIC
HEALTH
WEEK**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Kathy Shimp, LPN has recently been hired at the Darke County General Health District. Kathy will be taking over the daily COVID-19 nursing duties. We would like to welcome Kathy as she joins are team!



Susan Rismiller, RN, the Immunization Coordinator for the Darke County General Health District will be retiring in May after 21 years of service. We wish Sue the best as she transitions into retirement life!



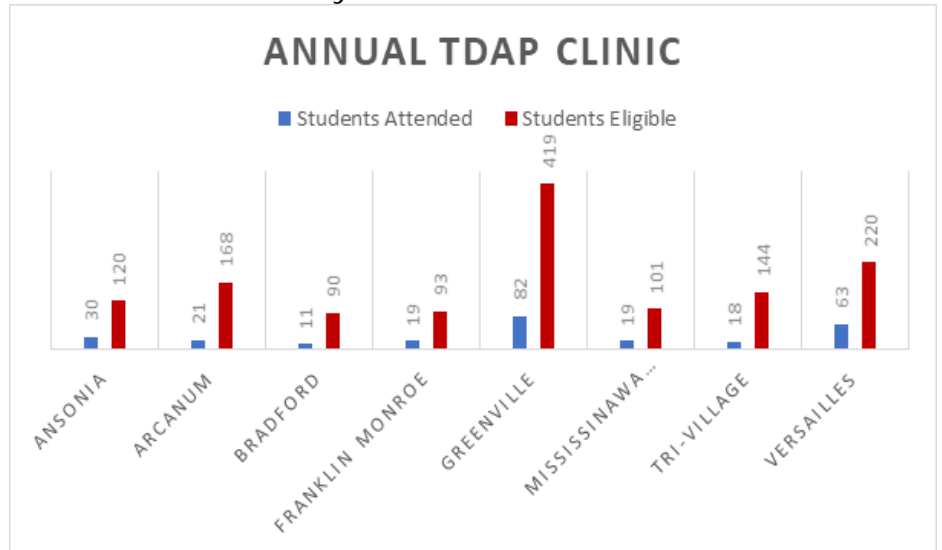
Recently the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities analyzed data related to the Timely Receipt of Services for the Early Intervention Program. The analysis indicated that Darke County had a compliance percentage of 100%. A big congratulations goes out to the Early Intervention Program on their success!

Nursing Division

ANNUAL TDAP CLINIC

On March 20th, 2021 the Darke County General Health District held our annual Tdap Clinic out at the Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This clinic is put on every year for Darke County students going into the 7th and 12th grades.

This year we had 264 students attend our clinic within 5 hours. Each Darke County School had at least 13% of their eligible students attend this clinic. Versailles Schools had the highest attendance rate out of all the Darke County Public Schools at 28.6%. Please see the chart below for a complete breakdown of all the Darke County Public Schools.



COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

A continued thank you goes out to the entire Nursing Division and Environmental Division for the work that everyone is putting in to make the COVID-19 vaccination clinics a success.

The Nursing Division is working tirelessly to vaccinate not only the Darke County population, but also surrounding areas. The schedule for the vaccine clinic is constantly changing and all of the staff have stepped up to fill in the time slots, as well as continue to keep up with their own individual programs.

A lot of positive comments have been generated since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Please note that everyone's hard work is not going un-noticed and a big thank you goes out for your continued efforts!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Kristin Clayton, the Deputy Registrar for the Darke County General Health District will be moving positions within the Health Department. The Vital Statistics Office will move upstairs to the "glass room". In addition to this transition Kris will assist Jody with financial duties. Congratulations Kris!



Janet Spradlin, the Clerical Specialist for the Darke County General Health District will now be assisting the Deputy Registrar within the Vital Statistics Office. She will continue to help the Nursing Division with clerical duties. Congratulations Janet!



Recently, the Environmental Division received their results for the Private Water Systems Program Survey. The Environmental Division passed with an 88% and was put on the Ohio Department of Health's approved health district list for private water systems. Great Job!

Environmental Health

Division

FEES INCREASE FOR SOME SYSTEMS

The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) fees for Aeration, Sandfilters, and Drywell septic systems increased for 2021. This is the first O&M increase since 2015 when we placed all homes with a permit on the program. When the fees were set up, it was done as to not increase them during the first five years, the timeframe to get all homes on the O&M program.

A cost analysis was performed, and it was determined that we had lost money on those three systems, but more so on the sandfilters and drywells. The Environmental Division sets fees appropriately to cover the cost of the program and no profit is made, per Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Because we had a loss, we needed to make up for the deficit and were not able to provide a discount if a homeowner had a service provider contract with a sandfilter or drywell. However, for 2022 fees, we plan to give a discount to all systems that have a service provider contract. The homeowner would only be responsible for the administrative fee.

We expect as systems continue to be inspected, all required components will be on the systems and the inspection times will decrease. This will in turn decrease the overall fees. However, if we continue to see the trend like we did this year of over 60% of the systems inspected under the O&M program needing reinspected, the fees will take some time to decrease.

PRIVATE WATER CONTRACTORS

The Darke County General Health District would like to remind all Registered Plumbers that you are not to do any work as a Private Water Contractor unless you are registered as such. A Private Water Contractor is defined as "a person who is registered as a private water systems contractor in accordance with rule 3701-28-18 of the Ohio Administrative Code that constructs or develops a well for use as or as a part of a private water system or otherwise constructs a private water system, installs pumping equipment for a private water system, alters a private water system, services or maintains any part of a private water system, repairs a private water system, seals a private water system, or performs any combination of those activities for hire; or, who inspects or evaluates private water systems for hire."

If you are registered as a Registered Plumber in the county, but not a Private Water Contractor, you are not to perform work on the private water system.

POSITION OPENINGS

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)/ Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training (EHST)
 - 40 hours per week
 - 7:30 am- 4:00 pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

- *National Public Health Week*
 - April 5th – April 11th
- *Cast Iron Seat Collectors Association*
 - April 17th
- *Spring Food Truck Rally at the Fairgrounds*
 - May 8th
- *Versailles Poultry Days*
 - June 11th – June 13th
- *Eldora's #LetsRaceTwo*
 - May 7th – May 8th
- *Eldora's Prelude to the Dream*
 - May?
- *Burkettsville Community Picnic*
 - June 12th – June 13th
- *Ohio Dreamfest*
 - June 17th – June 20th
- *Rolling 50's Classic Car Show*
 - June 20th
- *Willowdell Weinerfest*
 - June 26th – June 27th



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In the News

CHANGES TO PROFESSIONAL TITLES

On January 8th, 2021, Governor DeWine signed into effect H.B. 442. This bill changes several aspects that affect "sanitarian-in-training" and "registered sanitarian". The changes go into effect on April 12th, 2021 and include the following:

- Changes the professional title of "**sanitarian-in-training**" (SIT) and "**registered sanitarian**" (RS) to "**environmental health specialist in training**" (EHST) and "**registered environmental health specialist**" (REHS).
- Removes the requirement that the Director of Health create and conduct EHST and REHS registration examinations, and instead requires an REHS or EHST registration applicant to pass the credential examination conducted by the National Environmental Health Association.
- Removes the requirement that an REHS applicant be of good moral character.
- Extends the period of validity of EHST and REHS certificates of registration from one year to two years.
- Requires an REHS to complete a continuing education program every two years (instead of every year).
- Specifies that an REHS must complete 24 hours of continuing education (instead of an amount determined by the Director that is between six and 25 hours).
 - Previously was set at 18 hours annually
- Reduces specified registration application and renewal fees for REHSs and EHSTs.

TICK PREVENTION

Ticks are most active during the warmer months from **April to September**. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Spending time outside increases your risk of coming into contact with ticks. To help limit tick bites follow the tips listed below:

- Use EPA registered insect repellents
- Avoid walking in wooded and brushy areas
- Shower soon after being outdoors
- Check your clothing and body for ticks after being outdoors
 - Under the arms
 - In and around the ears
 - Inside the belly button
 - Back of the knees
 - In and around the hair
 - Between the legs
 - Around the waist

