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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.

DCGHD Accredited

The Darke County General Health District is pleased to announce that the organization has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by demonstrating that it meets the highest standards for delivering quality programs and services to its community.

National public health accreditation sets consistent standards against which the nation's approximately 3,000 state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments can continuously work to improve the quality of their services and performance. Accreditation by PHAB signifies that a health department is meeting those standards to provide essential public health services in the community.

To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multifaceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a specific set of quality standards and measures. This assessment process provides valuable, measurable feedback to health departments on their strengths and areas for improvement. Standards address 12 domains of performance and span activities such as community health assessment, surveillance, investigation, health education, enforcement, policy development, emergency response planning, workforce development, quality improvement, and health department management and administration.

"This process occurred over several years and involved many community members and agencies. I wish to thank all of them and my entire staff for all their hard work." Terrence Holman, DVM, REHS, Health Commissioner, Darke County General Health District



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Casey Shipp, RN, BSN, has taken over the Immunization Coordinator position for the Darke County General Health District. Casey will be responsible for maintaining the immunization program, ordering vaccine supplies, and ensuring all vaccines are administered according to the recommended vaccine schedule. She will also provide education to the nursing staff to ensure competency in providing vaccines, monitor vaccination rates in the county, and provide education and support for vaccine providers.



Janet Steinbrunner, RN, has taken over the Children with Medical Handicaps program for the Darke County General Health District. The Children with Medical Handicaps program helps cover families financially during the testing and treatment phases of a diagnosis. Janet will be responsible for working with families to sign them up for the program, as well as, locate and coordinate services that the child needs.

Nursing Division

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

The Darke County General Health District is now offering the COVID-19 (Moderna) vaccine for individuals 18 years and older, during our routine immunization clinics held on Tuesdays by appointment only. Clinic hours are from 8:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. and from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call 937-548-4196 Ext: 224. For any homebound individuals wanting a COVID-19 vaccine, please call 937-548-4196 Option 5. Reminder, the Darke County General Health District does not charge for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine and will not collect insurance cards.

IN-PERSON HOME VISITS TO RETURN

The Darke County General Health District's nursing staff is pleased to announce that in-person home visits have returned. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the home visits conducted for the Help Me Grow program, Early Intervention program, and the Children with Medical Handicaps program were suspended and moved to virtual visits. The nursing staff are eager to visit and provide services for their families in-person.

BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

The Darke County General Health District's nursing staff would like to remind parents that back-to-school immunizations are fast approaching. Students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade are required by the State of Ohio to receive immunizations.

For the Kindergarten children, the required vaccines are:

- Dtap
- IPV (Polio)
- Varicella and MMR
- Hepatitis B

For the 7th grade children, the required vaccines are:

- Menveo
- Tdap

For the 12th grade children, the required vaccine is:

- Menveo

All vaccination requirements can vary depending on vaccination history and age of the child at the time of the vaccination appointment.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Heidi Heuing is the new Environmental Secretary for the Darke County General Health District. She is a graduate of Fort Loramie High School. She currently resides in Russia with her husband and two daughters, Katelynn and Victoria. Heidi enjoys spending time with her family and in the summer, she loves to work in her garden. Welcome Heidi!!



Cassidy Freeman is the new Environmental Health Specialist in Training for the Darke County General Health District. She is a recent graduate of the Ohio State University, with a major in Geography: Environment and Society, and with a minor in Atmospheric Science. Cassidy really enjoys the summer so she can be outdoors. Hanging out and relaxing with friends and family is another thing she enjoys. Cassidy also likes to play slow-pitch softball on the weekends. Welcome Cassidy!!

Environmental Health

Division

FOOD MOBILE PERMITS AND TEMPORARY PERMITS

As we continue through the summer months and enjoying numerous local festivals and events, the Darke County General Health District would like to remind everyone about the requirements for Food Mobiles and Temporary Permits.

What is a mobile food service operation?

- It is a food service operation that is operated from a movable vehicle, portable structure, or watercraft that routinely changes locations, except that if the operation remains at any one location for more than 40 consecutive days, the operation is no longer a mobile food service operation.

How much does a mobile license cost?

- The 2021 fee for a mobile license is \$162.50

When do I need to apply for a mobile permit?

- The operator of a mobile food service operation shall apply for a license a minimum of 5 weeks prior to the operation date of their first event, to allow the Health Department to review the application, generate the license, and complete necessary inspections.

What is a temporary food service operation?

- A temporary food service operation is defined as any place, location, or separate area where food intended to be served in individual portions is prepared or served for a charge or required donation for no more than 5 consecutive days.

How much does a temporary license cost?

- The 2021 fee for a temporary food service license is \$19.60 per day. *Note a person or organization may only apply for up to 10 temporary licenses per year.

When do I need to apply for a temporary permit?

- The operator of a temporary food service operation shall apply for a license a minimum of 14 days prior to the operation date, to allow the Health Department to review the application, generate the license, and complete necessary inspections.

Both the mobile food service operation application and the temporary food service operation application can be picked up at the Darke County General Health District or can be found on the DCGHD's website. All food service operations, whether mobile or temporary, shall follow the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code, Chapter 3717-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code. For questions about mobiles or temporaries, please contact us at 937-548-4196 Ext: 209.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Steam Threshers Reunion*
 - July 1st– 4th
- *Ansonia 4th of July Celebration*
 - July 2nd– 4th
- *New Madison Firework Celebration*
 - July 2nd
- *Arcanum Old Time 4th of July Parade*
 - July 4th
- *Greenville Power of the Past*
 - July 8th– 11th
- *Barbecue and Blues Block Party*
 - July 9th
- *Eldora's Kings Royal*
 - July 14th– 17th
- *North Star Community Picnic*
 - July 16th– 18th
- *Annie Oakley Festival*
 - July 23rd- 25th
- *Gathering at the Garst*
 - July 24th- 25th
- *US Rt 127 Garage Sales*
 - August 5th – 8th
- *Eldora's Family Fireworks Night*
 - August 7th
- *The Great Darke County Fair*
 - August 20th- 28th
- *Eldora's Baltes Classic*
 - September 5th
- *Eldora's World 100*
 - September 8th- 11th
- *Greenville Feast and Fest*
 - September 11th
- *Illumination Festival*
 - September 18th
- *4-Crown Nationals*
 - September 24th- 25th



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In the News

NEW HOURS FOR THE DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Beginning Monday June 28th, the Darke County General Health District will have new office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. The vaccine clinic will continue to run on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. by appointment only. The new hours will be for all departments: Nursing, Environmental and Vital Statistics. We will re-evaluate this new schedule at the end of August to determine how effective the change has been for our staff, and the public.



MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR PLAN TO END POLIO

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership led by national governments and health groups, on Wednesday released a \$5.1 billion [plan to eradicate polio](#) by 2026. Polio can cripple or even kill those afflicted with it. For decades, the initiative has been trying to achieve a polio-free world by immunizing every child against the virus, but with limited success.

Many countries were dealing with sporadic outbreaks of polio before the coronavirus emerged, but the pandemic brought [some polio vaccination programs to a halt](#), at least for a few months, and worsened the trend. Last year, there were 1,226 cases of polio worldwide, compared with 138 in 2018.

There was also some good news. In August, African countries were [declared free of wild poliovirus](#), leaving [Afghanistan and Pakistan](#) as the only two countries where polio is endemic. And in November, the World Health Organization granted the first emergency authorization to a new vaccine that promises to minimize polio outbreaks.

“Now is the time to double down and really make sure that we stop transmission and that we’re able to deliver a polio-free world,” said John Vertefeuille, chief of the polio eradication branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the partners in the global initiative.

Excerpt from The New York Times. For the complete article visit <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/09/health/polio-eradication-plan.html>