

HEALTH LINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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.



HEALTH COMMISSIONER TERRENCE L. HOLMAN, DVM, REHS TO RETIRE AFTER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

After over 37 years of service to the Darke County General Health District in Darke County, Ohio, Health Commissioner, Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, REHS has announced he will be retiring at the end of the year. Prior to his career with the Darke County General Health District, Dr. Holman graduated from The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine and also earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Dairy Science. He worked as a veterinarian in private practice until September of 1985. Dr. Holman also taught Animal Science, Nutrition, and Reproductive Physiology at Ivy Tech. Since becoming Health Commissioner, Dr. Holman attained his Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian license, as well as his County Registrar certification.

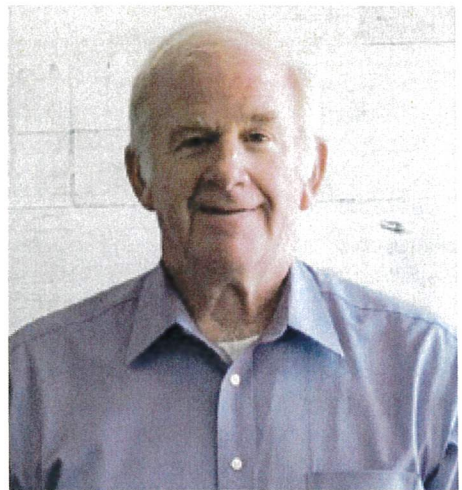
The Darke County General Health District has seen dramatic changes in services and accountability to the public during Dr. Holman's tenure; some notable achievements include:

- Being designated an Accredited Health Department by the Public Health Accreditation Board
- Implementing an Operation and Maintenance program for septic systems
- Exemplary leadership during the H1N1 and COVID-19 pandemics
- Attaining sewer systems in all but three villages throughout the county
- Appointed to the Dangerous and Restricted Animals Board by Governor John Kasich
- Guided a relocation of the Health Department in 1990
- Developed a Quality Improvement and Performance Management program
- Expansion of various programs resulting in staff growth from 11 to 25 individuals
- Serving on many local boards and committees, such as: Darke County Family and Children First Council, Child Fatality Review Board, Planning Commission, Solid Waste Advisory Board, Homeland Security Bioterrorism Committee, LEPC, Coalition for a Healthy Darke County, Tri-County Board of Mental Health and Recovery, Healing Communities and many more

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Darke County General Health District

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve Darke County," said Health Commissioner Dr. Terrence Holman. "Our staff are out conducting inspections and promoting public health programs each and every day. Our accomplishments in improving the health and wellness of our county would not be possible without our educated and dedicated staff. I am confident Darke County will continue to be a safe, healthy, and thriving community."



Dr. Timothy Kathman, MD, Board of Health Chairman, announced that Jordan Francis, MPH has been selected to succeed Dr. Holman as Health Commissioner for the Darke County General Health District to commence January 1st, 2023 with a 90-day term as Deputy Health Commissioner beginning in October of this year as an apprentice under Dr. Holman's preceptorship. Dr. Holman will continue leading the department until his retirement takes effect on December 31, 2022.

"The citizens of Darke County have been extraordinarily fortunate to have had Dr. Terrence L. Holman at the helm of the Health Department for the past nearly four decades. Above all else, he has upheld and safeguarded the health interests of our county with steadfast commitment, dedication and professionalism. His wealth of knowledge and experience in the realm of public health will be irreplaceable." Dr. Timothy Kathman continued, "That being said, the Board of Health has the utmost confidence that Jordan Francis will continue the tradition of strong leadership, innovative thinking, passion and dedication to the health needs of the Darke County General Health District. We deeply thank Dr. Holman and enthusiastically welcome Mr. Francis."

Prior to being selected as Darke County General Health District's Health Commissioner, Jordan Francis served 7 years as the Director of Wellness Services for Wayne HealthCare. Since achieving his Masters in Public Health, he has served many roles including Ohio Public Health Association-Chair, EverHeart Hospice-Board Member, Darke County Wellness Challenge-President, and Public Health Practitioner of the Year (2018).

Mr. Francis added, "Being entrusted to lead and uphold the institution responsible for protecting the health of our community is an honor and I look forward to serving the Darke County General Health District as Deputy Health Commissioner. Dr. Holman has been a tireless advocate for public health in Darke County for nearly four decades and his preceptorship will prove invaluable in ensuring that the Darke County General Health District will continue to be an innovative leader in safeguarding the health and wellbeing in our community under my leadership."

A graphic with the word "Farewell!" in a large, blue, serif font. The text is surrounded by colorful confetti, including yellow and red stars, green and yellow swirls, and small red and yellow stars.

ENVIRONMENTAL/NURSING DIVISIONS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Shannon Skiver, is a recent hire to the Darke County General Health District. Shannon was hired to be the IT Specialist. Shannon grew up in Darke County and graduated from Greenville High School. He currently lives in Celina and enjoys spending most of his time with his 5 year old son. In his spare time, Shannon has his own small business, and enjoys photography, science/technology, and spending time in nature and with his family. Welcome Shannon!



NEW ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2023

The Darke County Board of Health will be establishing new fees for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year as authorized by Senate Bill 136, House Bill 700, and Section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code. Environmental Health fees are established after conducting a cost analysis for each program. These fees are then presented to the Board of Health at 3 different Board of Health meetings for approval. The fees will be read during the October 11th, November 10th, and December 6th, Board of Health meetings. A final vote will be conducted during the December 6th Board of Health meeting for approval or denial.

A complete listing of the 2023 proposed fees, effective January 1, 2023, can be found on the Darke County General Health District's website at www.darkecountyhealth.org or in our office located at 300 Garst Avenue in Greenville, OH. The fees apply to several environmental health programs including: food service/food establishments, home sewage treatment systems, plumbing permits, and private water systems.

FALL IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

The Darke County Nursing Division has been very busy this fall with back to school vaccinations, COVID-19 booster vaccinations, and influenza vaccinations.

On August 2nd and 9th, the Health Department held two back to school clinics for incoming 7th and 12 graders. The State of Ohio requires 7th graders to receive a Meningococcal and Tdap immunization, and requires 12th graders to receive an additional Meningococcal immunization. During these two clinics staff gave a total of 76 immunizations, which was a decrease of 19 from the 2021 August back to school clinics.

During the month of October the nursing staff offered influenza vaccines to anyone during working hours and also traveled to 17 offsite clinics to provide influenza vaccinations. As of November 1st the Health Department has given 412 influenza vaccinations.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fall into Christmas at the Fairgrounds**
 - November 5
- **Versailles Hometown Christmas Celebration**
 - November 11
- **Hometown Holiday Horse Parade**
 - November 19
- **Bear's Mill Christmas Preview**
 - November 26
- **Bear's Mill Christmas Open House and Walk**
 - December 2
- **North Pole Express**
 - December 3
- **Walking in a Winter Wonderland**
 - December 3
- **Ansonia Lighted Christmas Parade**
 - December 3
- **Winter Wonderland at Chenoweth Trails**
 - December 9-11



STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR REGAN ON THE ONGOING WATER CRISIS IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Today, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan returned to Jackson, Mississippi with Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim to address the ongoing water crisis. Following a meeting with Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Administrator Regan issued the following statement:

"The people of Jackson, Mississippi, have lacked access to safe and reliable water for decades. After years of neglect, Jackson's water system finally reached a breaking point this summer, leaving tens of thousands of people without any running water for weeks. These conditions are unacceptable in the United States of America.

When I became EPA Administrator, I made a commitment that EPA would prioritize the health and safety of underserved and overburdened communities across this country. That's why Jackson was the first stop on my Journey to Justice tour last year and why I've returned to the city multiple times since, meeting directly with families affected by this crisis and with State and local officials.

As a public health agency, EPA has a responsibility to protect people's health. As evidenced by the roughly 300 boil water notices that have been issued over the past two years, the multiple line breaks during the same timeframe, and the recent drinking water crisis, it's clear this community has suffered long enough.

Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim from the Department of Justice and I met today with Mayor Lumumba to discuss the actions the federal government is prepared to take to help remedy this longstanding injustice. During that meeting, I conveyed our desire to work with the City to reach a judicially enforceable agreement that ensures a sustainable water system in the mid- and long-terms.

The people of Jackson, like all people in this country, deserve access to clean and safe water. They also deserve more than words - they need action. I look forward to working together with the Mayor and City of Jackson to deliver long overdue relief for Jackson residents."

