

HEALTH LINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and maintain an efficient and effective system that 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.



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Every year, the American Public Health Association brings together organizations and communities across the county to celebrate National Public Health Week through a theme. This theme is a campaign used to educate the public, policymakers, and practitioners about public health issues. This year we focused on "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health" to ensure everyone, in all cultural communities, has a chance at a long and healthy life. To do so, we must address and prevent the underlying causes of poor health and disease risk. We can use social determinants of health to understand how those causes differ for each person based on various factors.

To show appreciation for staff, The Darke County General Health District hosted the annual Public Health Breakfast on April 6th.

Staff members were recognized for years of service anniversaries. (L to R, top to bottom)

Jody Hocker- Administrative Assistant and Account Clerk was recognized for 20 years.

Nicole Lefeld - Public Health Nurse and Early Intervention Service Coordinator/Supervisor was recognized for 15 years.

Casey Shipp- Immunization Nurse was recognized for 5 years.

Zachary Perry- Registered Environmental Health Specialist was recognized for 5 years.



NURSING DIVISION

BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

To meet state standards, certain immunizations are required to enter kindergarten, 7th, and 12th-grade levels. Kindergarten requirements are 4 or more doses of DTaP, 3 or more doses of Polio, 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 2 doses of Varicella, and 2 doses of MMR. 7th-grade requirements are Tdap and Meningococcal immunizations. 12th-grade requirements are 2 doses of Meningococcal. If the first dose was given on or after the 16th birthday, only one dose is required. If the first dose was given prior to age 16, the second dose must be administered after their 16th birthday.



DID YOU KNOW?

Here at the Darke County Health Department, we offer Hepatitis A immunizations for 12 months and older. HPV immunizations for adolescents; as well as Meningococcal B for 12th graders. Some colleges require Meningococcal B immunization as it is needed in addition to the Meningococcal immunization to be covered from all strains of meningococcal bacteria.

WHAT DO THESE IMMUNIZATIONS PROTECT AGAINST?

The CDC recommends diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis immunizations across the lifespan. Children younger than 7 years of age receive DTaP or DT, while older children and adults receive Tdap and Td. Adults should be followed by a booster of Td or Tdap every 10 years.

Polio immunization protects against Polio, or poliomyelitis, a disabling and potentially deadly disease. It is caused by the poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis (can't move parts of the body).

Hepatitis B immunizations are available for all age groups. Hepatitis B immunizations are recommended for all infants, all children or adolescents younger than 19 years of age who have not been immunized, all adults ages 19 through 59 years, and adults ages 60 years or older with risk factors for hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death.

Varicella immunization protects against chickenpox. Chickenpox is a very contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). It causes a blister-like rash, itching, tiredness, and fever. Chickenpox used to be very common in the United States. Each year, chickenpox caused about 4 million cases, about 10,600 hospitalizations and 100 to 150 deaths.

CDC recommends that people get MMR immunization to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella. Children should get two doses of MMR immunizations, starting with the first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Teens and adults should also be up to date on their MMR immunization.

ARE YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN UP TO DATE ON IMMUNIZATIONS?

Walk-in immunizations are on Tuesdays at the Health Department from 8-10:30 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.

NURSING DIVISION

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Kylee Puthoff, Public Health Nurse and Early Intervention Service Coordinator on becoming a Certified Lactation Specialist! Kylee completed the required training through the Appalachian Breastfeeding Network.

The Appalachian Breastfeeding Network also has a 24-hour Breastfeeding Helpline funded by the Ohio Department of Health. Those who call in for help will be connected with either a Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS), Certified Lactation Consultant (CLC), or an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) day or night. **24-hour Breastfeeding line (888)588-3423 or text 839863.**

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family served in EI will have a local EI team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, and your family. Your team works with you in your home or other places you and your family spend time to develop a coordinated plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). You and your team will work through your IFSP plan to use your existing supports and resources—and build upon them—to learn to enhance your child's learning and development.

In Darke County, the Darke County Health Department and Darke County Board of DD work closely to provide services to the families of Darke County. The Health Department employs three Service Coordinators, who are responsible for coordinating services for families, ensuring that timelines are met and help assist the families with any resources that the family or child may be in need of. Darke County Board of DD employs three Developmental Specialists and contracts services for Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy, who provide the interventions for the families.

Currently Darke County Early Intervention has 112 active children who receive anywhere from weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or every other month services. The Early Intervention team also works closely with the local school districts to ensure that families have access to services after the age of three if there is a need or the family is interested in preschool. Referrals can be made by a child's physician or family member.

If you have concerns about your child's development or questions about Early Intervention you can call **937-548-4196 x212 to speak to one of the Service Coordinators.**

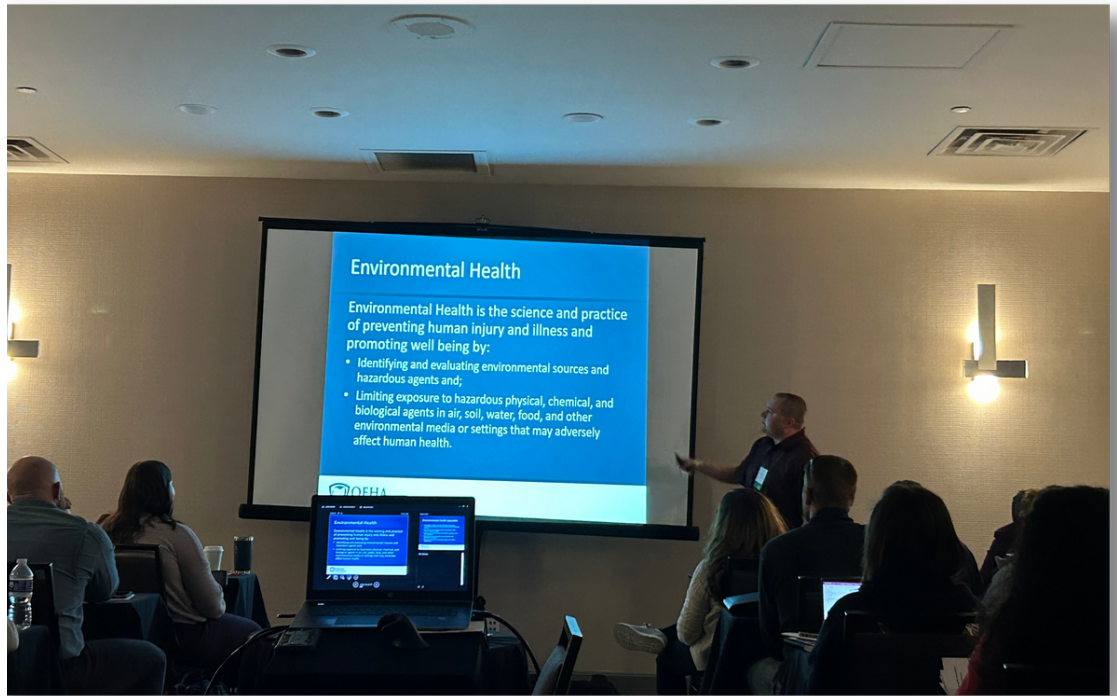


ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Kim Pickett is a new hire to the Darke County General Health District. She is one of our Environmental Division Secretaries. Kim was born and raised in Darke County. She spent the last six years at Wayne Healthcare doing various roles until she came to the Health Department in early March. Her favorite things are her family and pets. She spends most of her free time with family and friends. Her hobbies are reading and painting.



Zachary Perry, REHS, attended the Ohio Environmental Health Association, OEHA, annual educational conference to present and educate Environmental Health Specialists In-Training studying for the REHS Exam. Zachary provided study materials and created practice quizzes to help EHSIT become more familiar with REHS Exam content.

Registered Environmental Health Specialists, REHS, are professionals who demonstrate competency in an impressive range of environmental health topics including vector control, water quality, hazardous materials, air quality, built environment, direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations, and provide education to their communities. REHS/RS credential holders are also key to ensuring communities are in compliance with local, state, and federal environmental health regulations.

The REHS exam is a 225-question exam that requires a Bachelor's degree with at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of math and science. Coursework includes Biology, Chemistry, Epidemiology, Geology, Math, Physics, and Statistics. To advance to Registered Environmental Health Specialist, REHS, you must take and pass the National Environmental Health Association REHS/RS Exam and work for two (2) years, as an Environmental Health Specialist in Training, EHSIT or one (1) year if the applicant has a master's degree and has completed the required math and science coursework.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ginger Magoto, Environmental Division Director and GIS Specialist, has been selected to the Ohio Environmental Health Agency Sewage Technical Committee. This committee includes twelve local health district representatives (three from each district), and one representative from the following agencies: ODH, ODNR, and OEPA. The committee routinely reviews pending sewage legislation, OEPA and ODH advisory group recommendations, proposed rule revisions, and other sewage related activities. Ginger is very excited to be on this committee and having our health department be more active in OEHA!



OEHA
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

MOSQUITO GRANT

The Darke County Health Department was awarded the 2023 Mosquito Grant from the Ohio EPA for \$25,000. This money will help to purchase larvicide tablets for residents who have standing water, perform contracting services with a professional pesticide applicator to spray adulticide in villages who have requested it, hire a summer employee to set traps in high mosquito count areas throughout the county, and much more! Culex sp. mosquitoes that are trapped are counted and sent off to Ohio Department of Health for testing of West Nile Virus. If West Nile Virus is found, the residents in the area will be informed and spraying will be conducted.

NOW SEEKING

Mosquito Surveillance & Sewage Treatment Intern

SEND YOUR RESUME TO
DARKECOHD@DARKECOUNTYHEALTH.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
DARKECOUNTYHEALTH.ORG/ABOUT/EMPLOYMENT-OPPORTUNITIES/



If you are a high school or college student interested in the environmental health or public health field, we encourage you to apply for our internship!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SITUATIONAL WEATHER AWARENESS

In Ohio, tornadoes can occur all year round, but are most prevalent May-July. About 1,200 tornadoes hit the U.S. yearly. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air, extending from a thunderstorm, which are in contact with the ground. Tornadoes develop when wind variations with height support rotation in the updraft. Tornadoes occur in all shapes and sizes.



WATCH VS. WARNING

Many are unsure of the difference between a tornado watch and warning. A tornado WATCH is issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for weather conditions that are favorable for tornadoes and severe weather. A watch can cover parts of a state or several states. Watch and prepare for severe weather and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio to know when warnings are issued. A tornado WARNING is issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 over a designated area. This means a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the tornado. A tornado warning indicates that you should ACT NOW to find safe shelter! A warning can cover parts of counties or several counties in the path of danger.

In your home, choose a basement or underground shelter or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.

If you are away from your home, follow these tips.

- Seek shelter inside a sturdy building immediately, and find a small, protected space away from windows.
- Avoid these buildings as shelters: sheds, storage facilities, gymnasiums, shopping malls, mobile homes.
- DO NOT seek shelter under bridges or overpasses. You will become a stationary target for flying debris, with a substantial risk of being blown out and carried by the tornado winds.
- If you cannot find indoor shelter, crouch for protection next to a strong structure or lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area. Protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Ditches, culverts and ravines should be used only as an absolute last resort because you will be exposed to flying debris, rain, hail, lightning, and extreme wind.

To prepare for storms, create a tornado kit with items such as 3 day supply of water and non-perishable food, all current prescription medications, first aid kit, battery or crank operated weather radio, flashlight, whistle, clothing, sleeping bags or blankets, and external cell phone battery charger. Keep this kit in an easily accessible location.