



# Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

**January 4, 2017**

This report provides a monthly update for the Board of Health, staff and the community. Our key activities are listed for the seven pillars that support our vision for improving the health of our community.

- Prevent the spread of disease
- Protect against health threats
- Promote healthy behaviors
- Reach out to vulnerable populations
- Mobilize community action through partnerships
- Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
- Serve as a public health information resource

## Special items

### **New Employee Orientation**

Public Health has significantly enhanced our new employee orientation process. The new multi-day orientation is very comprehensive and includes attending a Board of Health meeting, a tour of facility locations, and completion of required training. Orientation topics and presenters are as follows:

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
	Welcome	Human Resources
	Facilities / Building Access	Paul Clark
	Public Health Overview	Jeff Cooper
	Information Services Technology	Terri Parrott
	Public Information	Dan Suffoletto
	Payroll	Lindy Carroll
	Wage Scale / Classification	Lois Jernigan
	Benefits	Julie Stratton
	Leave Policies	Debbie Hassell
	Diversity and Inclusion Champions Reibold Building Tour	Jennifer Riley
<b>Day 2</b>	Public Health 101 / Personnel Policies	Kay Andolsek
	Immunization Awareness	Yvetta Hawley
	Board of Health meeting	
	Diversity and Inclusion Champions Off-Site Facilities Tour	Jennifer Riley
<b>Day 3</b>	Workforce Development	Chris Clinefelter
	Confidentiality / HIPAA	Kathy Egleston

	Quality Improvement	Julie Goode
	Meet with Supervisor and Work Group	
<b>Day 4</b>	Emergency Preparedness	Tracy Clare
	Training: IS 100 Incident Command System	
	Training: OSHA Hazard Recognition	
	Training: IS 700 National Incident Management System	

## Prevent the spread of diseases

### Local Investigations

This month pertussis has accounted for a majority of Public Health's reported communicable diseases. Centerville High School experienced a cluster of pertussis cases. The first child's symptom onset was October 30; since then there have been 13 other children reported to Public Health. One student shared a class with two previous cases, but no links were reported between the other cases. Holiday break began December 17. The outbreak investigation continues, but cases reported to Public Health have decreased since parents were sent an information letter from the school during the first week of December about treatment and isolation requirements.

Reports of gastrointestinal illnesses continue, but are at baseline levels. There were 2 people positive for Cryptosporidium infection, 1 person with Giardia, 2 people with Salmonella, 3 people with Shigella and 1 person positive for Campylobacter. There were no common exposures among these cases.

### World AIDS Day – December 1

World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and began in 1988. This day has been set aside to remind the public that HIV has not gone away and there is still a need to fund prevention, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

In 2014, 44,073 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the United States. The number of new HIV diagnoses fell 19% from 2005 to 2014. In Montgomery County there were 72 people diagnosed with HIV infection in 2005 compared to 59 in 2014, a 17.8% decrease. Because HIV testing has remained stable or increased in recent years, this decrease in diagnoses suggests a true decline in new infections. The decrease may be due to targeted HIV prevention efforts. However, progress has been uneven, and diagnoses have increased among a few groups.

#### Current Facts about HIV/AIDS:

- More than 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, and 1 in 8 is unaware they are infected.
- Gay and bisexual men accounted for almost 82% of HIV cases among males and 67% of all cases.
- African Americans represented about 13% of the U.S. population, but accounted for 45% (17,670) of HIV diagnoses.

- Hispanics/Latinos represented about 18% of the U.S. population, but accounted for 24% (9,290) of HIV diagnoses.

## Promote healthy behaviors

### **Public Health Wins 2016 “CommuterAds Creative Award” for Produce Perks Campaign**

Public Health’s Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program has been named the 2016 recipient of the CommuterAds Creative Award. The award was presented for a series of 15-second audio ads that ran during 2016 on RTA buses promoting the *Produce Perks* program.

CHC is committed to preventing and reducing chronic disease by helping local communities improve access to affordable, healthy food. A long-term objective of CHC is to increase the number of Montgomery County residents following the U.S. dietary guidelines for Americans. One way CHC has increased access to healthy food options for residents of Montgomery County is through the Produce Perks program.

Produce Perks are incentive tokens given to customers at participating farmers’ markets who use an Ohio Direction Card (“electronic benefits transfer” or EBT card) to purchase food. The incentive (perk) is a dollar-for-dollar match to every dollar spent (up to \$10) using an Ohio Direction Card at the market.

The Produce Perks CommuterAd campaign was designed to promote the Produce Program at the Market at Wright Stop Plaza, as well as the partnership between Public Health and Homefull. CHC funded the Produce Perks program at the Market at Wright Stop Plaza in 2016 to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables among residents of Montgomery County.

## Reach out to vulnerable populations

### **Focus Groups Designed to Gauge Community Awareness About Infant Mortality**

The Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) and Dayton Council on Health Equity collaborated to conduct the first of three women’s focus groups on infant mortality. “*When Sisters Talk – Things Happen! Too Many Black Babies Are Dying*” was held at the Dr. Charles R. Drew Health Center on December 7. The event was held to gauge the level of community awareness surrounding the infant mortality crisis and how it impacts the African-American community in Montgomery County.

The group was facilitated by Dr. Linda J. Burrs, Step Up to Success! The dialogue centered around four questions posed by the facilitator:

1. What do you know about infant mortality?
2. How do you define infant mortality?
3. What factors contribute to infant mortality?
4. Share suggestions for what you believe the community could be or should be doing to increase awareness of the problem.

In addition to the questions and dialogue, an excerpt from the video, “*Unnatural Causes...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*” was shown and discussed. There were 29 community residents in attendance representing various professions and age ranges. A retrospective survey was given to

the participants to assess the level of awareness/knowledge gained from the session. The focus groups will act as a catalyst in developing messaging and talking points on infant mortality for the community going forward.

## Mobilize community action through partnerships

### **2016 Ohio Infant Mortality Summit: Aiming for Equity**

Public Health representatives attended the 2016 Ohio Infant Mortality Summit held on December 5-6. High infant mortality and associated racial inequities are one of Ohio's biggest public health challenges. Ohio's infant mortality rate is higher than most states and the nation as a whole. Ohio's African American infant death rate is three times our white rate. The summit highlighted the problem, pointed to solutions, and provided new perspectives about the health of your family, friends and community.

Ohio is vigorously pursuing numerous initiatives to fight the leading causes of infant mortality. Saving the lives of Ohio babies will take all of us working together at the state and local levels. Ohio's goals are to achieve the Healthy People 2020 objective of 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in every racial and ethnic group, to better inform the public about our infant death and disparities challenge, and to inspire, energize and equip stakeholders with ideas and action steps to work for change in their communities.

Public Health employees and contractors provided poster presentations to highlight the work being done locally with CenteringPregnancy® and progesterone therapy and the importance of breastfeeding of low birth weight infants. The Summit was a time to showcase successes that have proven effective, as well as discuss ways of moving forward to gain equity in birth outcomes.

## Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

### **Influenza Activity**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Influenza Division collects and analyzes surveillance data year-round and produces a weekly report on U.S. influenza activity from October through May. During December, overall influenza activity increased slightly within the United States. Pneumonia and influenza mortality remained below the epidemic threshold. For week 49 (ending December 10, 2016), Puerto Rico reported widespread influenza activity, Guam and 7 states reported regional influenza activity, 22 states (including Ohio) reported local spread of influenza, 20 states reported sporadic influenza activity and 1 state (Rhode Island) reported no influenza activity. No human infection with novel influenza A virus was reported. No resistance to oseltamivir or zanamivir has been detected this season. Regionally (Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and Warren counties), there have been 40 cases of influenza A and 11 cases of influenza B in December (through December 17), with 13 influenza-related hospitalizations.

## **Zika Activity**

On January 15, 2016 the CDC began requesting providers report suspected Zika virus disease. Through December 21, there have been 4,756 cases reported in the US (78 in Ohio); of these, 4,541 were travel-associated cases, 215 were locally acquired vector-borne cases (210 in Florida, 5 in Texas) and 1 laboratory acquired case. Through the US Zika Pregnancy Registry, there have been 1,246 pregnant women with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection. Through December 13, there have been 34 liveborn infants with Zika-related birth defects and 5 pregnancy losses with birth defects. The first cases of local transmission via mosquitos identified in Florida occurred in the Miami area in late June/early July. On November 28, the CDC designated Brownsville, Texas as a Zika cautionary area due to local transmission via mosquitos. There are travel and testing guidelines in place for this area and South Florida for pregnant women, women of reproductive age and their partners.

## **Ebola Vaccine**

The results of a vaccine trial in Guinea were recently released and showed 100% effectiveness among 5,837 recipients. A stockpile of 300,000 doses has been created. Over 11,000 people died in the outbreak which started in 2014. Previous outbreaks were limited to small, rural villages and were contained by medical teams which arrived with protective gear to enable effective isolation. This approach failed in the 2014 outbreak.

## **Serve as a public health information resource**

During the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with TV, radio, and print.

The following are a few examples:

- DDN on Stony Hollow landfill
- DDN on Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program
- DDN and Channel 7 on Walmart plumbing issue
- Channel 45 on Pertussis vaccine
- WDAO on minority health, health disparities, and infant mortality
- DDN on cold weather safety tips
- News Release on Martin Luther King violence prevention celebration
- Channel 2 on Community Overdose Action Team
- DDN on Ohio Emergency Preparedness Ranking
- Channel 7 on Emergency Preparedness
- Lab Matters magazine on STD clinic's lab
- Channel 45 on lead levels in children in Montgomery County

Jeff Cooper and Tom Herchline, M.D.