



Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

March 2, 2016

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
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Special items

Quality Liaisons Selected

The following employees have been selected as Quality Liaisons:

Beth Carnes	Immunization Action Program
Tracy Clare	Emergency Preparedness
Dawn Ebron	Epidemiology
Robert Harrison	Creating Healthy Communities
Robert Schoone	Addiction Services
Matthew Tyler	Environmental Health
Tracey Waller	Women Infants and Children
Andy Weisman	Air Pollution Control
Faith Whitt	Office of the Health Commissioner

Our Quality Liaisons will participate in advanced QI training and serve as consultants to our QI project teams. They will guide the teams through the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle and the use of quality tools such as flow charts, fishbone diagrams, and storyboards. The liaisons will provide just-in-time training on the PDSA process to project teams and update the Quality Council on the status of assigned QI projects. We plan to begin agency-wide QI projects by June.

Quality Liaisons



Pictured left to right: Dawn Ebron, Matt Tyler, Faith Whitt, Andy Weisman, Tracy Clare, Robert Harrison, Beth Carnes, Tracey Waller, Robert Schoone.

Prevent the spread of diseases

Local Investigations

There were four cases of *Campylobacter* reported during late January/early February. Ages ranged from 26 years to 77 years old. Three of the four were admitted to the hospital for diagnosis and treatment. There were no epidemiologic links between cases; one was a Montgomery County resident staying in Florida at the time of illness and diagnosis.

The 2015 Annual Report for Communicable Diseases shows there were increases in the number of cases of Legionnaires' disease, Shigellosis and healthcare-associated outbreaks reported as compared to 2014. There were 51 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported, as compared to 32 in 2014. Over the past 5 years, there was an average of 22 cases per year. Reported cases of Legionnaires' disease were increased around the state last year, possibly due to increased rainfall. There were 23 cases of *Shigella* reported, as compared to 5 in 2014. Over the past 5 years, there was an average of 44 cases per year with a high of 165 in 2012. There were 5 healthcare-associated outbreaks, which matches the highest number in the past 5 years (2010). Four of the five were in skilled nursing facilities involving norovirus, *Clostridium difficile*, and scabies (2). The hospital-associated outbreak was a small cluster of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae.

Protect against health threats

Updates to the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code

Updates to the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code (Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3717) become effective March 1, 2016. In order to keep the public and our operators informed of new changes in the laws or rules, Environmental Health included an insert in all Food Service and Retail Food Establishments license renewal packets, which were mailed to operations in February. This insert

directed operators to view a downloadable list of changes on Public Health’s website or to call the department’s main number. During inspections and upon request, sanitarians handed out and reviewed this list of changes with operators. Public Health staff also presented information to the directors of local school nutrition services.

Some of these changes consisted of the definition of the word “package” to include loosely (instead of securely) wrapped containers. This change in the definition requires all food services to fully label all (loosely and securely) packaged foods available for consumer self-serve.

Another change is that all risk level 3 and 4 operations will be required to have at least one management or supervisory employee with a Level 2 Certification in Food Protection by March 1, 2017. In the hopes of controlling the spread of norovirus and other illnesses, operations are also now required to have a written procedure for employees to follow when responding to vomiting and diarrheal events. The informational video “Everyone Plays a P.A.R.T. in Norovirus Control” is available at <https://vimeo.com/89134675>.

Phillipsburg Sanitary Sewer Project Update

The wastewater improvements and sanitary sewer system for the Village of Phillipsburg was completed in late 2015 by Montgomery County Environmental Services. In January, a Notice and Order from Public Health was sent to 115 owners of properties that were deemed to be a public health nuisance. For the purpose of this project, a nuisance was considered to be a property with:

- a reported sewage nuisance;
- a sand filter with an outlet to a storm sewer;
- an aerobic treatment unit;
- having no sewage record on file.

The Notice and Order requires the property owner to connect to the available public sewer system within 180 days.

As part of a second phase, another 112 Notice and Orders will soon be sent to the property owners of functioning on-site leaching tile systems to connect to the available public sewer system in 3 years. The connection periods are established in Public Health’s “Policy Regarding Connection to Public Water and Sewer Services.” Property owners are advised of the opportunity to seek financial assistance through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and low interest loan programs and their rights of appeal and obtaining a variance from the connection requirement. To date, 45 properties have obtained septic tank abandonment and plumbing sewer connection permits from Public Health.

Promote healthy behaviors

April is Minority Health Month

In April 1989, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health created Minority Health Month (MHM). In 2000, MHM became a national celebration. Every year, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health provides over seventy mini-grants across the state to facilitate MHM community events that are planned and executed by grassroots organizations, social service agencies, and local health departments.

For more than twenty years, Public Health has hosted MHM events to provide our local community with opportunities to learn about chronic disease prevention, health disparities, health services and community resources, and to practice healthy behaviors.

This year, Public Health, grassroots organizations and local health partners are providing a variety of health and wellness activities, including free health screenings, a Wellness Camp for obesity prevention, a 21-day wellness pledge, diabetic cooking and meal planning, a Cardiofest, fitness training, a smoothie/juicing workshop, line dancing for health and exercise, infant mortality awareness/education, and more.

All MHM events are free and open to the entire community. A local MHM calendar of events is distributed widely and will be available online at www.phdmc.org.

Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

Ebola Virus Disease

Among countries with former widespread transmission of Ebola, Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free on November 7, Guinea was declared Ebola-free on December 29, and Liberia was initially declared Ebola-free on May 9, but had 2 subsequent small clusters of cases and again declared Ebola-free on January 14, 2016.

Travelers coming to the United States from Guinea are still entering the US through one of the designated airports conducting enhanced entry screening, however the CDC no longer recommends active monitoring for these travelers after arrival. Travelers arriving from Sierra Leone and Liberia are no longer restricted to the designated airports and are no longer subject to enhanced entry screening or active monitoring after arrival.

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 January, overall influenza increased slightly but pneumonia and influenza mortality remained below the epidemic threshold. For week 6 (ending February 13), Puerto Rico and 12 states reported widespread influenza activity; 20 states reported regional influenza activity; Guam and 16 states (including Ohio) reported local spread of influenza; 3 states reported sporadic influenza activity; and no states reported no influenza activity. Regionally (Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and Warren counties), there were 93 cases of influenza A and 7 cases of influenza B from January 24 through February 13, with 25 influenza-related hospitalizations.

Serve as a public health information resource

Travel Warning for Zika Virus

Investigation is ongoing of reports in Brazil of microcephaly and other poor pregnancy outcomes in babies of mothers who were infected with Zika virus while pregnant. The CDC recommends that

women who must travel to one of these areas should talk with their doctor or other health care provider first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms can last from several days to weeks. There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika virus infection. All travelers should take steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as using insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, and staying in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens. Updates on areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission are available online at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

Pregnant women with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission should be tested for Zika virus infection in consultation with their physician and the Ohio Department of Health. Testing is not indicated for women without a travel history to an area with Zika virus transmission. In pregnant women with laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection, serial ultrasound examination should be considered to monitor fetal growth and anatomy and referral to a maternal-fetal medicine specialist with expertise in pregnancy management is recommended. There is no specific antiviral treatment for Zika virus; supportive care is recommended.

RAPCA Hosts Wright State University Class for Clean Air Update

On February 4, Valerie Whitman, John Rowe, and Andy Roth of RAPCA hosted Wright State University students in the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) air monitoring laboratory at the Reibold Building. The students are working toward a Master of Public Health degree. The professor and approximately 30 students visited the laboratory to hear a short presentation on RAPCA's efforts to measure and improve our area's air quality. There was also some "show and tell" as staff went through the various pieces of equipment used to measure ozone, particulates, and other air pollutants. The students gained an appreciation of the technology and effort required to measure air pollutants and to protect the public from the adverse effects of air pollution.

Mass Media Interactions

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

The following are a few examples:

- Coverage by Channel 22 about Super Bowl food safety
- News Release about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2016
- Interview with DDN about health inspections
- Interviews with DDN and Channel 7 about illegal dumping
- Interviews with DDN and Channels 2 and 7 about Zika virus
- Interview with Channel 2 about restaurant complaints
- Interview with Channel 7 about flu and upper respiratory infections
- Interview with Channel 2 about womens' health education
- News Conference and News Release dedicating Dayton's first smoke-free bus stop
- Coverage by Channels 2, 7, and 22 about smoke-free bus stops

Jeff Cooper and Tom Herchline, M.D.