

# ALLEN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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[www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org)

## The Year of H1N1 Influenza

2009 was a challenging year especially focused on dealing with the H1N1 or swine flu pandemic. The first cases of disease were reported in Mexico which resulted in several hundred deaths and a virtual shutdown of that country for a period of weeks. The H1N1 virus emerged in the U.S. in April while causing substantial disease worldwide. By early June over 13,000 cases of H1N1 influenza had been confirmed in the United States, 55 cases in Ohio, and 2 confirmed cases in Allen County. In order to be prepared for the pandemic locally, we reassigned staff to organize and coordinate our response, began to issue releases through news media, and strengthened contacts with local hospitals, physicians, and our EMA office. On a global scale, because of concerns that the virus would continue to cause significant illness and death, the decision was made to manufacture vaccine to give to our citizens during the Fall and Winter months. As a result, your health department, along with public health authorities across the country, undertook a massive multifaceted campaign to protect our citizens. Components of our effort included:

**Public Information** – a variety of communication tools were used to keep everyone up-to-date including a weekly Flu Update e-newsletter, postings on our Website and through our telephone system, frequent releases to our news media, public service announcements on TV and radio, and the weekly Medical Moment slot on WLIO's morning news program, courtesy of St. Rita's Medical Center.

**Monitoring** – this component included working with hospitals and physicians on procedures for confirming cases of H1N1, monitoring school absenteeism as an indicator of the level of the flu virus in the community, and keeping an eye on emergency room visits for flu-like illness and over-the-counter sales of thermometers and other medications.

**Antiviral Distribution** – because of concern that widespread illness from H1N1 would quickly surpass the commercial availability of medications to counter the virus, a stockpile of antivirals was shipped from the state. It was our responsibility to maintain and distribute materials from the stockpile. In order to accomplish that locally, we partnered

with five local pharmacies: Pack Pharmacy and Allen County Health Partners in Lima, Delphos Discount Drugs, Greg's in Bluffton, and Canal Pharmacy in Spencerville.

**Flu Vaccination** – our staff worked very hard in the last few months of 2009 to get vaccine out to our residents. Examples include clinics in each of our school districts throughout the county, a special flu shot facility on N. Main Street in Lima, and taking the vaccine to a variety of worksites. Vaccine was also provided to our hospitals, nursing homes, EMS squads, several physician offices, and the Allen County Health Partners clinic.



One point of frustration centers on the fact that H1N1 vaccine was in short supply in October at which point the greatest numbers of flu cases were reported across the country. At that point, we were limited to giving the vaccine only to those considered at highest risk for disease and death. In spite of the limitations, more than 14,000 Allen County residents were protected against H1N1 thanks to a lot of hard work completed by health department staff as well as many other partners in the community. And while many were sickened by the virus, all have recovered to the best of our knowledge.

In closing, a special thanks to all who helped us with the H1N1 campaign in 2009. While too numerous to mention, we clearly could not have done it without many partnering organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rosebrock, MPH  
Health Commissioner

## **DIVISION UPDATES**

### **Nursing Division:**

The two biggest challenges the Nursing Division faced in 2009 were responding to the arrival of the H1N1 virus along with the accompanying vaccine campaign, and dealing with a \$175,000 reduction in grant funds. While the entire health department assisted with the H1N1 vaccination campaign, much of that responsibility was shouldered by the nursing division. Only slight service disruptions in our regular services were noted as our massive vaccine campaign began in late October and continued well into 2010. The second challenge of reduced grant funding prompted the relocation of three services - Family Planning, Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP), and the Caring for Two Infant Mortality Reduction programs - into the main campus of the health department. The logistics of getting equipment and connections moved and operating again was no small task. The challenge of a new virus and the significant grant reductions revealed once again the ability and creativity of the public health nursing work force, and their dedication to providing services to our constituents.

### **WIC Program:**

WIC made one of its biggest changes in 2009 since the inception of the program. The WIC program nationwide made sweeping change in the authorized foods list. Whole grains including whole grain bread/buns, tortillas, brown rice and oatmeal were added to the authorized foods list. A fruit and vegetable voucher was also added. Participants are now able to buy fresh, canned or frozen, plain and simple fruits and vegetables. In Allen County alone, over 4,200 pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children benefit from healthier diets, nutrition and breastfeeding education, and referrals through the WIC program each month.

### **Environmental Division:**

The Environmental Division is responsible for promoting better living conditions and safeguarding the public health. Unlike many third world nations, our society has come to expect safe water and food as well as proper sewage and refuse disposal at all times. Without these essentials, our quality of life would be degraded by epidemics of disease. State Registered Sanitarians investigate public health nuisance complaints and inspect food sales, recreational water, and schools to protect the public. The sanitarians and Certified Plumbing Inspectors also work hard behind the scenes inspecting plumbing and private sewage disposal to ensure a safe and healthy environment for us all.

### **Vital Statistics:**

The Vital Statistics office files records for births and deaths that occur in Lima, Delphos, and all of Allen County. Our files date back to December 1908, when the filing system for the state began. Ohio law only allows for the issuance of certified copies of birth and death records. We do not accept personal checks, but require cash, a money order, or cashier's check. We now offer the use of a debit/credit card machine when placing an order in the office with an additional usage fee applied to the cardholder. VISA credit/debit cards cannot be used at this time. Vital Statistics personnel issue copies while customers wait when possible, approximately 10 minutes. On-line ordering is available via a link on our website: [www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org).

### **Health Education Division:**

Approximately 14,105 residents in Allen County were impacted by the Allen County Heart Health Program activities in 2009 through schools, worksites, healthcare and community agencies. Activities all support the goal of helping people move more, eat healthier, and be tobacco free. Medical Information Notebook classes were held at several churches through the West Central Ohio Health Ministries Network in 2009; there are 32 network partners. Confidential HIV testing is provided at the Health Department and at numerous locations throughout the county with the goal of reducing the number of new HIV cases. Scheduled improvements were completed at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Park through a state Obesity Prevention grant and in partnership with the City of Lima, providing more community opportunities for people to be physically active.

### **Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response:**

The Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response section was truly "put to the test" this year with the H1N1 flu pandemic. Beginning with its emergence in April as a new virus, through the waves of illness in the fall and the arrival of vaccine and antivirals, our response plans were implemented and community partnerships strengthened. The pandemic illustrated how important community partners are and the importance of a coordinated community response. Evaluating and addressing our strengths and weaknesses allows us to be even more prepared for any future outbreaks.

## PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR 2009

### Nursing Division

#### Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

**Caseload (BCCP) -** Serving Allen and 6 surrounding counties

•Pap tests	475
•Screening and diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds	404
•Breast cancer diagnosed	5
•Cervical dysplasia diagnosed	12
•Cervical cancer diagnosed	1

#### Total Immunizations given 25,522

•Travel Vaccines	1,554
•Flu Shots (Adults and children) - seasonal	1,108
•Flu Shots (Adults and children) - H1N1	9,120
•Childhood Immunizations	13,740

#### Family Planning Clinic Visits 6,290

•New patients to Family Planning	434
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#### Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic 880

**Visits** (including Allen County Jail clinics)

#### TB Skin Tests Given 1,483

#### Bureau of Children with Medical 372

**Handicaps Caseload -** Unduplicated

#### Communicable Diseases Reported 1,535

#### Caring for Two —African American Infant 975

Mortality Home Visits

### Vital Statistics

#### Births/Birth Certificates

•Number of county resident births filed	1,354
•Number of certified copies issued	9,175

#### Deaths/Death Certificates

•Number of county resident deaths filed	938
•Number of certified copies issued	5,751

### Environmental Division

Private Water System Inspections	234
Private Sewage System Inspections	1,567
Recreational Parks and Camps Inspections	26
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	73
Public Swimming Pool and Spa Inspections	347
Open Bathing Area Inspections	19
Solid and Infectious Waste Inspections	95
Demolition Waste and Clean Hard Fill Inspections	269
School Inspections	96
Plumbing System Inspections	1,496
Food Service Operation Inspections	1,692
Retail Food Establishment Inspections	375
Food Vending Inspections	154
Animal Bite Investigations	572
Environmental Complaint Inspections	586
Smoke-Free Workplace Complaint Investigations	84

### Health Education Division

#### Children's Health Fair—student attendance 665

#### HIV Tests performed 1,201

•Positive Tests	8
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#### WIC Monthly Caseload 4,230

•Women	892
•Infants	930
•Children	2,408

## 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

**BALANCE** January 1, 2009 \$282,316.00

### 2009 RECEIPTS

	Amount	Percentage
Townships, Villages, and Cities	737,890.00	18.2%
County Commissioners	38,840.00	0.9%
Grants	1,811,029.00	44.7%
Permit and Service Fees	1,372,576.00	33.9%
Medicaid Reimbursement	59,116.00	1.5%
State Subsidy	32,056.00	0.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,051,507.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>BALANCE AND RECEIPTS</b>	<b>4,333,823.00</b>	

### 2009 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	2,990,015.00	75.5%
Clinic Supplies	66,263.00	1.6%
Other Supplies	122,357.00	3.1%
Lab Expenses	18,672.00	0.4%
Rent/Occupancy Costs	189,642.00	4.8%
Equipment/Equipment Repair/Service Contracts	53,154.00	1.4%
Training/Continuing Education	5,723.00	0.2%
Transportation	22,408.00	0.6%
Contractual Services	78,926.00	2.0%
Other (Insurance, audits, payments to state, etc.)	412,811.00	10.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,959,971.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Ending **BALANCE** December 31, 2009 \$373,852.00



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*The Allen County Health Department is  
an equal opportunity employer and  
provider of services.*

## 2009 BUDGET DROPS

As we continued to see reductions in our revenue, efforts were made to keep expenses in line with revenues. Overall the Health District Budget expenditures for 2009 were \$144,000 or 3.5% less than in 2008. In order to accomplish this, four positions were lost and another went from full to part time. In addition, 11 staff located in off-site offices were moved into the main building to save the cost of rent, utilities, and other expenses during the year.

## ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

As established in Ohio law, the seven member Board of Health is our policy-making body with authority to adopt regulations and establish programs to promote public health within the district. Board members during 2009 included Dr. Charles Thompson, President; Don Schweingruber, Vice President; Dr. Wilfred Ellis; Tom

Redding; Jon Neuman, Janis Carse; and Eric Kerner. At the December 2009 Board meeting, retiring Lima representative Tom Redding was recognized for his 10 years of service on the Board.

Six of the seven Board members are appointed by the mayors, township

trustees, and county commissioners of Allen County. The seventh member is appointed by the Health District Licensing Council. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, and meetings are open to the public.

