

Spring 2014 Newsletter

At a glance facts:

1st Quarter Statistics

(As of March 31, 2014)

- **Immunizations given: 1,014**
- **Women's Preventive Health Project caseload: 132**
- **BCMh Caseload: 247**
- **Caring For Two Home Visits: 302**
- **Family Planning Program Visits: 634**
- **Tuberculosis Tests given: 223**
- **Reportable Communicable Diseases: 251 total**
 - 0 cases of Class A diseases**
Diseases of major public health concern needing immediate response, e.g. human rabies, meningococcal disease
 - 251 cases of Class B**
Diseases of public health concern needing timely response because of potential spread, e.g. E .coli 0157:H7, West Nile Virus, and TB
 - 0 cases of Class C diseases – Outbreaks only**
Tracking of outbreaks whether the cause is foodborne, community, water-borne or zoonotic, e.g. foodborne, norovirus, ringworm, MRSA
- **HIV Tests given: 412**
- **Number of births filed: 492**
- **Number of deaths filed: 382**
- **WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program monthly average caseload: 3,126**
- **Environmental Division Field Inspections: 1,712**

Environmental Health Division Implements New Program to Improve Services

In 2013, the Environmental Division of Allen County Public Health (ACPH) began a significant transition in the manner in which the division conducts its billing, licensing and inspecting. It is our hope that these changes will result in better experiences for our customers, and create better access to information for the public in the years to come.

The project began in the fall of 2013 when ACPH obtained software to become part of the new, statewide Environmental Health Data System Integration (EH DSI) project. This software can be used for many tasks including managing the billing processes, issuing licenses, conducting field inspections and creating reports.

The division began using the computer program for issuing food licenses in February 2014. The program was then utilized for issuing Public Pools/Spas and Campground licenses in April. The division will work quickly to expand this to their other environmental health programs as soon as these software capabilities are developed.

As a part of this project, the Sanitarians now use laptop computers and portable printers to conduct field inspections. In addition to being able to provide establishments with easy to read, standardized reports, this allows the inspectors to automatically upload inspections onto the computer program's database. The general public has the ability to access certain environmental health data, such as inspection report results of Food Facilities, Public Pools/Spas and Campgrounds. Inspection results for our county establishments can be found on our website under [Food Safety Inspections](#).

Protect Yourself – Stay Healthy in the Water

ACPH Sanitarians inspect public swimming pools to help ensure your safety in the community. The following are tips of what you can do to protect yourself and others when you swim.

- 1. Wash up before you dive in.** Shower with soap before you swim. If you get out of the water, rinse off before you get back in.
- 2. Don't swim when you are sick.** Outbreaks of illness have been linked to individuals who swam while having diarrhea.
- 3. Don't swallow the water you swim in.** Chlorine doesn't kill germs instantly.

(Information from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)



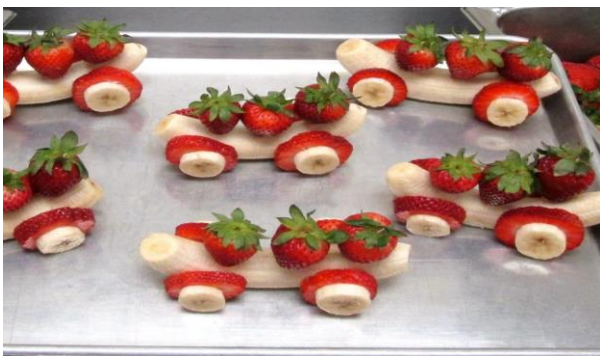
Photo submitted by CDC:
Richard Duncan

Promoting a Walk and Bike-Friendly Community

Making it easier and safer for residents to walk, bike or use transit to their favorite local destinations promotes active living, safety, and a better environment. For these reasons, Allen County Public Health supports two projects: 1) The Allen County Active Transportation Plan, funded by Activate Allen County. The Plan can be viewed on the Activate Allen County's "Healthy Community" web page. 2) The work of the Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force. For more information about the Task Force, contact the Health Education Division at 419-228-4457.

WIC provides Summertime Nutrition and Fun

Don't spend your summer eating boring and unhealthy snacks! "Summer Snack Ideas" is being featured at the Allen County WIC office this summer. WIC staff are inviting all to stop in and share ideas about fun ways to prepare healthy snacks. The ideas have been shared with WIC clients and pictures of the creations are posted on the bulletin board for all to see. Stop in at the WIC office and gather ideas for creative snacks. You just may see Elmo made from fun fruits or a flower made from vegetables. WIC is also sharing and accepting favorite recipes from Allen County residents. If you would like to share a recipe with WIC, or obtain the recipes submitted, call Allen County WIC at 419-224-8200.



Special Screening Events Provide Testing and Education

This Spring, Allen County Public Health provided two special health screening events for residents at risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections, including Hepatitis C. Chlamydia is commonly reported in Allen County and cases of Hepatitis C are increasing as well. Sexually active teenagers and young adults (ages 15-24) have higher rates of Chlamydia. Individuals at risk for Hepatitis C include individuals who have shared materials to inject or snort drugs or received a tattoo with non-sterile equipment. In addition, CDC recommends testing for all individuals born between 1945 and 1965.

The special events were held on February 14 and May 19. Treatment and referrals were provided when indicated. In addition to testing and treatment, education about reducing the spread of sexually transmitted infections was provided to all clients who were tested.

Besides these special events, Allen County Public Health continues to provide a weekly Sexually Transmitted Disease clinic on Tuesdays from 9 – 11 AM. For more information about this clinic, call the Nursing Division at 419-228-4457.

Protecting our Residents with Special Needs

In March, Allen County Public Health, along with Allen County EMA launched www.ReadyAllenCounty.org, a registry used to identify and assist people with special needs in the event of an emergency. Residents with special needs as well as facilities that serve them can register on-line so emergency responders can better plan how to serve them in the event of a disaster or other emergencies. For more information about this program, or to register yourself or a family member, call Tom Berger at 419-879-2271.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

219 E. Market Street, P.O. Box 1503, Lima, Ohio 45802-1503 | Phone: 419-228-4457 | Fax: 419-224-4161

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Protecting the Health of Allen County