

## Summer 2013 Newsletter

### At a glance facts:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Statistics

(As of June 30, 2013)

- **Immunizations given: 3,508**
- **Women's Preventive Health Project caseload: 351**
- **Komen Caseload(<50 yr old): 32**
- **BCMh Caseload: 533**
- **Caring For Two Home Visits: 527**
- **Family Planning Program Visits: 1,753**
- **Tuberculosis Tests given: 505**
- **Reportable Communicable Diseases: 604 total**
  - 0 cases of Class A diseases**  
Diseases of major public health concern needing immediate response, e.g. human rabies, meningococcal disease
  - 18 cases of Class B1 diseases**  
Diseases of public health concern needing timely response, e.g. E .coli 0157:H7, West Nile Virus, and TB
  - 426 cases of Class B2 diseases**  
Diseases of significant public health concern, e.g. STDs, foodborne illnesses, influenza (flu) hospitalization, chicken pox
  - 160 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: 835**
- **Number of births filed: 1,112**
- **Number of deaths filed: 715**
- **WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program monthly average caseload: 3,418**
- **Environmental Division Field Inspections: 1,772**

## Protecting our Residents During an Emergency

The Allen County Health Department is working with our political subdivisions to develop a plan to help protect residents in the event of certain medical emergencies. Mass prophylaxis, or the distribution of vaccine or medicine to the public in a specified period of time, is a central function of a public health emergency preparedness program.

The model that is currently being developed to get medications to our residents is called the Community Based Points of Distribution (POD) model. In this model, predetermined points of distribution are set up throughout the county, as opposed to our former plan of having just one location for the entire county. This plan relies on leadership from our political subdivisions and volunteers to assist in the distribution of medication and vaccine. Staff from the Health Department will also be available at each site to provide guidance and assist in running the POD.

The Health Department has also started to implement a Closed Points of Distribution Model. This model will allow private business, faith based organizations, and service clubs to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Health Department to distribute medications to their members, their employees and family members of their employees. The MOU requires the organizations to formulate a plan to secure the material, distribute, track, and maintain communications with the Health Department.

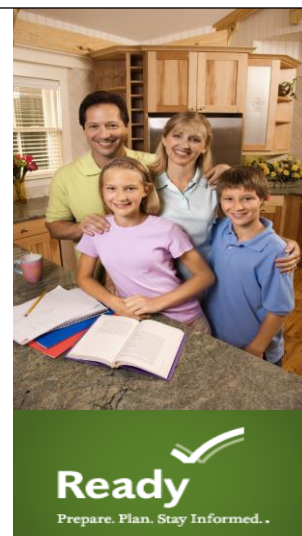
For more information about Community Based Points of Distribution or Closed Points of Distribution, call Tom Berger, Director of Emergency Response at 419-879-2271 or [tberger@allenhealthdept.org](mailto:tberger@allenhealthdept.org).

### Protect Yourself – Be Prepared for an Emergency

You never know when an emergency will happen so it is important to be sure that you are always prepared. FEMA suggests that you:

1. **Be Informed** – What should you do before, during or after an emergency.
2. **Make a Plan** – Prepare, plan and stay informed for emergencies.
3. **Build a Kit** – Assemble supplies that will aid your family for at least 72 hours.
4. **Get Involved** – Find opportunities to support community preparedness.

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



## **Allen County WIC Staff Win Two “You Make a Difference Awards”**

On May 8, 2013 Allen County WIC staff received two State WIC awards for continuously striving for excellence in performance by making a difference in Allen County and the Ohio WIC program. The first “You Make A Difference Award” award presented to the Allen WIC staff was for exhibiting exemplary, innovative and creative efforts in providing and promoting nutrition education to WIC clients and the Allen County community. Winning educational ideas ranged from “Creative Snacking” to “Using MyPlate to Eat & Drink For Better Health” to “Creative Ways to Get Picky Eaters to Eat Better” and “Favorite Food Books at the Library.”

The second “You Make A Difference Award” was given for Best Practices in Community Involvement and was given for exhibiting exemplary, innovative and creative efforts in providing and promoting collaboration and education in the WIC program and in the Allen County community. Collaborations in the community include a coordinated breastfeeding class and breastfeeding trainings in the community, car seat classes, story time, parenting tip time, and creative snack making at various agency programs.

## **Like Us on Facebook!**

The Allen County Health Department is using Facebook as one way to get important information to our residents. The posts will include a variety of topics including updates about health department services and accurate information about health and safety issues. In the event of a public health emergency, this mode of Social Media will be used to provide important updates that will help keep residents safe and informed.

## **Schedule Vaccines – On-line**

Did you know that you can schedule your immunization appointment on-line anytime that is convenient for you? Simply go to our website [www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org) and click on the link on the homepage “Schedule a Vaccine Appointment.” Once you click on the link you will be prompted to enter the birthdate of the individual needing vaccines, and then a list of available dates and times will appear. Choose the date and time you would like and follow the prompts to enter your name, phone number, and email address. Once you have entered the information your appointment time is set, and you will receive a reminder email approximately two days prior to your appointment. If you have any questions regarding your appointment, please contact the Nursing Division at 419-228-4457.

## **Environmental Division Programs Receive Approval**

Routinely the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio EPA perform surveys of the Environmental Divisions’ state mandated programs. On May 3, 2013 the Ohio EPA conducted its review of this departments’ Solid and Infectious Waste program as well as the Construction/Demolition Debris program. On June 11, 2013 the Ohio Department of Health conducted its’ review of our Public Swimming Pool and Spa program. These surveys include an evaluation of administration, inspection records, and enforcement procedures. They also include an evaluation of our Registered Sanitarians’ inspection abilities by doing joint inspections with our staff. Both programs received unconditional approval from these state agencies allowing us to continue to administer these programs locally.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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***Protecting the Health of Allen County***