

Allen County Public Health
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Vaccines Vital for a Healthy Community

Vaccination is the process where individuals are intentionally exposed to an antigen (a substance which activates the body’s defense system) in the hope of establishing protection from a given disease, or immunization, should the body encounter it again in the future. Vaccination is one of the greatest public health successes in our time. The use of vaccines has helped to greatly lower the number of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps and rubella. In 2016, ACPH gave 8,823 immunizations, 5,111 of which were to children without insurance participating in the Vaccines For Children Program.

Vaccines are good for both individuals and the public. Vaccines are monitored both before and after they are licensed to make sure that the individual benefits outweigh the risks.

Adverse reactions to vaccines are rare, and usually include minor symptoms such as fever and soreness at the site of the shot. Following vaccination guidelines is important for individual health, but also impacts a community’s health.

When immunization rates are high, the wider community is protected including:

- Older Adults** at risk of serious diseases.
- Infants who are too young to receive vaccines.**
- People who take medication** that lowers their immune systems.

“Herd immunity” (or community immunity) occurs when the number of people immune to a communicable disease is high enough in a population that even those members who do not have immunity are protected by a firewall of immune individuals. Herd immunity is crucial for those members of a population that cannot safely get immunizations regularly or have not built up immunity; for example, the very young or those who are immunocompromised, such as cancer patients, transplant patients and persons with HIV. When vaccination rates in a community decline, this important benefit is lost, and communities are left susceptible to disease outbreaks.

In March of 2017, Allen County Public Health issued [“Vaccination Information, Facts & Resources”](#) to accompany ACPH’s public statement on the importance of vaccines for public health. The full statement can be read on ACPH’s website, allencountypublichealth.org.

Allen County Public Health’s mission of protecting and promoting public health reaches beyond its walls to engage the community. During the 2017 3rd Quarter, ACPH was your public health resource through 25 public presentations reaching over 1,000 people, and news media appearances in print (9), and TV (9). Recent topics include:

PROTECT Health

- Project DAWN
- Preparing for Disasters
- Immunizations
- Infant Safe Sleep

PROMOTE Health

- Bike/Pedestrian counts
- Healthy eating for families and children
- Breastfeeding
- Women’s Health
- Community Gardens

July-September 2017



7,403 Reach (+15%)
336 Followers (+1%)



4,100 Impressions
276 Followers (+3%)

Allen County Public Health Services

Public Health	Jan-Dec 2016	2017 as of Sept. 30th
Immunizations Given	8,823	5,390
Vaccines For Children	5,111	2,530
State Funded	85	108
Private Pay/Private Insurance	3,627	2,752
Family Planning Visits	1,460	987
Family Planning New Patients	398	271
BCMH Caseload	661	550
WIC Monthly Caseload	2,691	2,691
Caring for Two Home Visits	1,164	866
Communicable Diseases	1,231	981
TB Skin Tests	811	611
HIV Tests/ # of positive results	1,190/9	767/8
Chlamydia	660	479
Gonorrhea	109	119
Syphilis	2	6
Influenza Hospitalizations	98	159
Hepatitis C	116	83
Viral Meningitis	17	9
Project DAWN Kits distributed	N/A	152
Pack N Plays Distributed (Safe Sleep)	86	135

Communicable Diseases	Jan-Dec 2016	2017 as of Sept. 30th
Class A: immediate response needed	0	0
Class B: timely response needed	1,136	952
Class C: response to outbreaks only	95	29

Environmental Health	Jan-Dec 2016	2017 as of Sept. 30th
Inspections		
Water Systems	211	184
Sewage Systems	1,972	1,935
Recreational Camps/Parks	39	54
Manufactured Home Parks	69	32
Public Pools and Spas	116	101
Open Bathing Areas	5	5
Schools	107	76
Plumbing Systems	965	731
Food Service Operations	1,936	1,485
Food Vending	86	24
Tattoo/Body Piercing Service	17	32
Investigations		
Animal Bites	461	323
Environmental Complaints	464	414
Smoke-Free Complaints	13	11

Vital Statistics	Jan-Dec 2016	2017 as of Sept. 30th
Allen County Births	1,248	822
Allen County Deaths	1,125	718
Birth Certificates Issued	6,454	4,783
Death Certificates Issued	5,705	4,234