

PUBLIC HEALTH:

FRONTLINE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly brought new attention to public health and the health of our community. As your local public health agency, our mission is to protect and promote the health of Lima, Delphos and all of Allen County. Living in a world where the new coronavirus exists brings together a unique blend of those two critical public health roles – protecting and promoting our health.

It's obvious that the pandemic has had a huge impact on all aspects of our individual health – social, emotional, economic, mental, and physical health – not to mention the overall health of our community. In March of 2020, when students were sent home for distance learning, there were many unintended side effects impacting the safety, nutrition, and psychosocial development of our children. Adults have had their work routines interrupted, jobs were lost, and our businesses were impacted. The fall saw schools reopen for on-site education, with strict pandemic protocols in place. While quarantines became part of the school process, schools have not been a major source of spread. Words like quarantine, isolation and social distancing have become part of everyday conversation. Resiliency and recovery from the pandemic are critical aspects as we move forward.

The overwhelming stress of the pandemic exacerbated conditions and issues that already existed. Nationwide, there have been increases in suicides, increases in the number of people using drugs, and more people reporting symptoms of depression and anxiety. This is certainly not the direction we had been heading prior to the pandemic.

Many of the health disparities we've identified in our community in the past have been magnified throughout the pandemic. We know from our data that the pandemic is impacting different segments of our population differently. Our Allen County residents who are Black are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In Allen County, Black residents make up 12-13% of our population, yet they represent 18% of Allen County residents who have been hospitalized due to COVID-19. Others at high risk include the homeless, the uninsured, and people with behavioral health issues. (continued on back page of Annual Report)

See inside for a timeline of 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Events Impacting Allen County

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

(continued from front page)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Nothing about this pandemic has been ideal, as the nation, Ohio and Allen County have faced challenge after challenge. Debate between public health systems and national and state legislatures regarding each one's role in responding to the pandemic began when we were confronted with the need for action. Protective measures such as wearing masks, social distancing, stay-at-home directives and reopening orders received pushback from many sectors for a variety of reasons. Many public health leaders, including Ohio's Director of Health Amy Action, resigned as they faced threats and harassment for pushing these measures as ways to limit the spread of disease. By the fall of 2020, many Ohioans and Allen County residents were experiencing "pandemic fatigue", and there was less regard for preventive measures. Cases of COVID-19 were primarily spreading through social contacts such as weddings, funerals, parties and get-togethers. We saw huge spikes in cases of COVID-19. The surge in cases stretched thin hospitals' inpatient and intensive care staffing in Allen County and across the state and country, as well as the capacity of public health contact tracing efforts.

2021—Hope of a return to normalcy

As 2020 came to a close, the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine rolled into local health departments and hospitals, bringing help – and hope- to end the pandemic sooner rather than later. The logistics of administering these new vaccines that require ultra-cold storage and/or special handling are incredible, especially as supply is limited and demand is high. In Ohio, vaccine is initially being allocated to healthcare workers and the elderly - those at highest risk of severe complications or death - to help meet our goals of preventing deaths, reducing the spread of disease, and preserving our healthcare resources.

It has been a tough year. We've lost friends and loved ones. We've faced scary times and new challenges at every phase of this pandemic. It is not over yet. The good news is that we can look forward to the promise of 2021: to recommit our resolve to keep up our defensive protocols, to administer more vaccine as the supply increases, and to support each other through the days to come. Throughout this response, we have been encouraged by our strong partnerships in place in our community. The pandemic has reinforced how much we need the support of each other. Our community has responded bravely and we are so thankful for the many volunteers assisting Allen County Public Health with our vaccination clinics through our Medical Reserve Corps. A coordinated, collaborative response is the only way a community can weather this COVID-19 storm. As your local public health department, we look forward to continuing to serve our community through the remaining phases of the pandemic as we protect and promote your health.

www.allencountypublichealth.org
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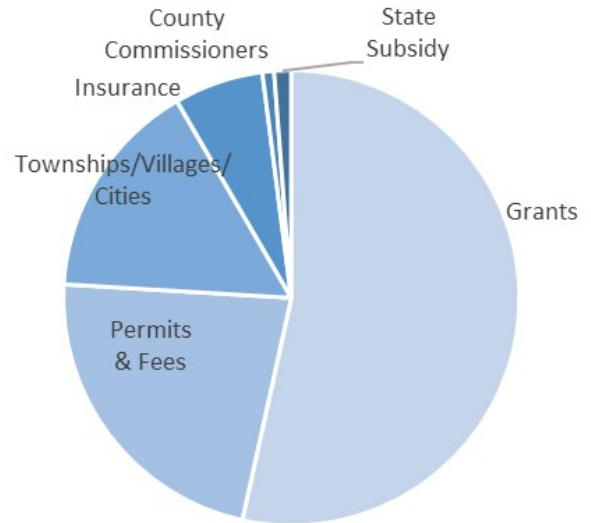


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FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

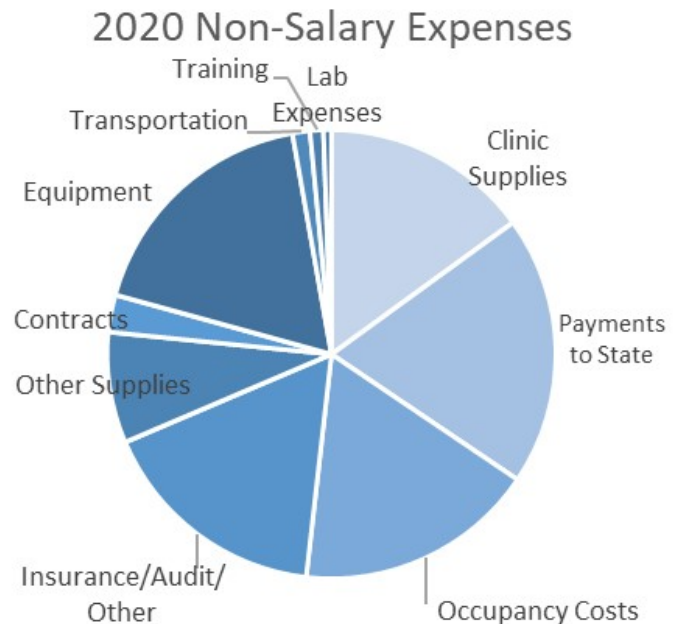
PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

RECEIPTS	2019	2020
January 1 BALANCE	\$728,020	\$809,783
Grants & Contracts	\$1,697,015	\$2,319,641
Permit & Service Fees	\$988,724	\$976,758
Townships, Villages, & Cities	\$653,971	\$680,129
Medicaid/Insurance Reimb	\$503,783	\$274,923
County Commissioners	\$34,420	\$35,800
State Subsidy	\$45,748	\$52,508
TOTAL	\$3,923,661	\$4,339,759
BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$4,651,681	\$5,149,542



PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURES

EXPENSES	2019	2020
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,689,573	\$2,947,842
Clinic Supplies	\$326,008	\$161,105
Payments to State	\$216,951	\$208,656
Building/Occupancy Costs	\$173,623	\$186,553
Other: Insurance, Audit, etc.	\$157,990	\$180,159
Other Supplies	\$88,346	\$85,832
Equip/Equip Repair/Service	\$123,300	\$192,558
Transportation	\$28,589	\$13,484
Contractual Services	\$28,862	\$28,862
Training/Continuing Ed	\$4,442	\$10,317
Lab Expenses	\$4,214	\$6,210
TOTAL	\$3,841,898	\$4,021,578
December 31 BALANCE	\$809,783	\$1,127,964



2020 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2018	2019	2020
Inspections			
Water Systems	195	151	146
Sewage Systems	2,018	2,260	1,024
Recreational Camps/Parks	41	54	27
Manufactured Home Parks	31	29	26
Public Pools and Spas	125	122	70
Open Bathing Areas	8	9	10
Schools	114	107	53
Plumbing Systems	990	928	958
Food Service Operations	1,973	1,747	1,091
Food Vending	108	74	78
Tattoo/Body Piercing Service	37	36	32
Investigations			
Animal Bites	348	382	263
Environmental Complaints	552	250	248
Smoke-Free Complaints	30	22	10

Vital Statistics	2018	2019	2020
Births by County of Residence (Allen)	1,241	1,259	1,177*
Deaths by County of Residence (Allen)	1,157	1,185	1,374
(*2020 Data may not be complete)			

Vital Statistics	2018	2019	2020
Birth Certificates Issued	6,410	7,486	6,475
Death Certificates Issued	6,277	6,207	6,983

WIC PROGRAM	2018	2019	2020
MONTHLY CASELOAD	2,469	2,200	2,100
Women	600	557	525
Infants	817	764	746
Children	1,052	879	829

Prevention & Health Promotion	2018	2019	2020
Narcan Kits Distributed	298	316	288
Safe Sleep Spaces (cribs)	208	206	179
Moms & Babies First	1,200 visits	85 clients	89 clients
HIV Risk Assessments	n/a	373	63

Nursing Services	2018	2019	2020
Immunizations Given	6,661	6,685	4,016
Vaccines For Children	2,945	2,822	1,949
State Funded	176	320	154
Private Pay/Insurance	3,540	3,543	1,913
Family Planning Visits	1,102	1,085	812
New Patients	381	344	222
TB Skin Tests	801	798	573
CMH Caseload	617	614	664
Communicable Diseases	1,473	1,461	11,035

ALLEN COUNTY WORKFORCE & BOARD OF HEALTH

The health of Allen County residents depends upon the knowledge and vigilance of our public health workforce, which includes nurses, health educators, environmental health specialists, nutritionists, breastfeeding counselors, administrative and support personnel and community health workers at Allen County Public Health. The activities of the public health work force are overseen by the 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 2020 included: Wilfred Ellis, MD, President; Eric Kerner, Vice-President; Marva Cowan, Sherri Winegardner, Scott Shutt, Ross Kauffman and Kevin Casey, DO.

Five of the Board members are appointed through the mayors, township trustees, and county commissioners of Allen County. One member is appointed by the District Licensing Council, and one member is a physician appointed by the other Board members. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to the public, and have been held virtually in accordance with pandemic protocols.

2020 COVID-19 Pandemic: An Unprecedented Year

Beginning of Historic COVID-19 Pandemic

- January 1st** - The World Health Organization (WHO) reported an outbreak of pneumonia-like cases with an “unknown cause” in China
- January 9th** – Outbreak determined to be caused by a novel coronavirus, later named COVID-19
- January 30th** – “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (WHO)
- February 4th** – All countries urged to prepare for spread of COVID-19
- March 11th** - WHO officially declared a Global COVID-19 Pandemic

November 26, 2020

Highest per capita rate* in Allen County: 1,104 cases per 100,000 in 14-days

March 9, 2020

First COVID-19 cases reported in Ohio (3)
State of Emergency declared in Ohio

July 2, 2020

Public Health Advisory System established in Ohio.
The four-level, color-coded system built on a data-driven framework to assess the degree of the virus’ spread and to inform, engage, and empower individuals, businesses, communities, local governments, and others in their response and actions. As the number of COVID-19 cases rose steadily through the fall, Allen County spent 12 weeks at Level 2/Orange Alert and 14 weeks at Level 3/Red Alert in 2020.

November 17, 2020

Per capita rate* for cases in Allen County reaches 996

March 27, 2020

First COVID-19 case in Allen County reported

October 15, 2020

Per capita rate for cases in Allen County reaches 248

April 5, 2020

First COVID-19 death in Allen County reported

July 15, 2020

Per capita rate* for cases in Allen County reaches 100

August 15, 2020

Per capita rate* for cases in Allen County reaches 232

September 15, 2020

Per capita rate* for cases in Allen County reaches 87

Closures & Cancellations

In an effort to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases, and therefore lessen the burden on healthcare systems, the State of Ohio issued health orders that limited, closed or cancelled many businesses and activities:

- March 12th** – 1st Mass Gathering Ban
- March 15th** – Bars & Restaurants closed or carry-out only
- March 16th** – Schools moved to remote learning
- March 17th** – Elective surgeries postponed
- March 22nd** – Stay-at-Home Order issued (all non-essential businesses closed)

“Responsible Restart Ohio”

On **April 27th**, Ohio announced the state’s re-opening plan:

- May 1st** – medical procedures not requiring an overnight stay could resume
- May 4th** – construction, manufacturing and general offices could open with safety measures in place
- May 12th** – consumer, retail and service businesses could open with safety measures
- May 15th** – salons and barbershops, and outdoor dining could resume
- May 21st** – indoor dining, with social distancing restrictions, could resume

All sectors were under strict preventive measures upon re-opening. Social distancing, face coverings, and group size limitations were in effect throughout the remainder of 2020.

Allen County 2020 COVID Case Data

2020 COVID-19 Cases: 8,675
2020 COVID-19 Hospitalizations: 497
2020 COVID-19 Deaths: 174
Highest Per Capita Rate: 1,104 on **November 11th**

*Rate measures the total number of cases per 100,000 Allen County residents in the previous 2-week period. The Centers for Disease Control determined a rate over 100 an indication of high incidence of community spread of the coronavirus.

Contact Tracing

A primary role of public health is to investigate communicable diseases and act to stop their spread. 69 ACPH staff members spent **16,830 hours** monitoring individuals that tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts in 2020, providing guidance for isolation and quarantine to stop the spread of COVID-19.

