



ALLEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

---May/June 2009---

At a glance facts:

Year to Date Statistics

(As of April 30, 2009)

- **Immunizations given: 3,067**
- **VFC Immunizations (underinsured) given: 120**
- **Women's Preventive Health Project caseload: 309**
- **Family Planning Program visits: 2,191**
- **HIV Tests given: 515**
- **Tuberculosis Tests given: 527**
- **Reportable Communicable Diseases: 401 total**
 - 0 cases of Class A diseases**
Diseases of major public health concern needing immediate response, e.g. human rabies, meningococcal disease
 - 17 cases of Class B1 diseases**
Diseases of public health concern needing timely response, e.g. E .coli 0157:H7, West Nile Virus, TB
 - 303 cases of Class B2 diseases**
Diseases of significant public health concern, e.g. STDs, foodborne illnesses, influenza (flu) hospitalization, chicken pox
 - 81 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
- **Number of births filed: 793**
- **Number of deaths filed: 487**
- **WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program monthly average caseload: 4,188**
- **Environmental Division field inspections: 2,268**

Komen Funds Help Us Serve More Women

Allen County Health Department is a grant recipient of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. In an effort to completely eradicate breast cancer, Komen teamed up with the Ohio Department of Health's Allen County Breast and Cervical Early Cancer Detection Program (BCCP) in early 2000.

This funding allowed us to expand our services. BCCP contracts with over 50 local medical providers that provide the no cost clinical breast examinations, mammograms and pap tests to uninsured, low income women who meet the state age eligibility guidelines: 40 years and older for a pap test and 50 years and older for a mammogram. Through the Komen grant, we have been able to provide breast health education and screening mammograms to younger women, those between the ages of 40 and 49, who meet the same insurance and income criteria for BCCP. If a woman screened through Komen is diagnosed with breast cancer or pre-cancerous conditions, she is eligible for BCCP Medicaid coverage for follow-up and treatment.

The Allen County BCCP, known as Region 3, serves women who live in Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Hancock, Mercer, Putnam and Van Wert Counties. Through the BCCP Program, we are able to fund mammograms for about 700 women per year in Region 3. There are approximately 300 additional women in these counties who receive mammograms funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Last year, five breast cancer diagnoses were discovered through these programs. Region 3 is one of two regions in Ohio funded by the Komen Foundation.

The Women's Preventive Healthcare Project (BCCP) is located at 300 S. Elizabeth Street in Lima. Women can call for enrollment information - 419-224-4500 or 1-800-901-9727.

Protect Yourself

Healthy immune systems are an important part of staying healthy. Keep your immune system "in shape" by getting enough rest, choosing healthy foods, staying active and taking time to relax.



H1N1 Flu is Good Practice for Pandemic Flu - Are You Ready?

Get ready now.

You need to be ready when a flu pandemic **first** arrives in your area. Information will be given on local TV, radio, websites, and in the newspaper. Limiting contact among people **early** can save more lives. Making plans **now** will help you to be ready for the next flu pandemic, which could last up to several months.

Make plans for your household

Most people with pandemic flu can be cared for at home. During a flu pandemic, hospitals may only have room to care for patients who are the most ill or require special care.

- Plan to stay home for at least 7-10 days when you are sick with pandemic flu.
- Plan who will take care of your children and pets.

Make plans with your workplace

- Decide how you will limit contact among people and maintain your business/services.

Make plans with your school

- Plan to keep students from seeing other students outside of school. If school is cancelled, after-school programs should be cancelled as well.
- If students live on campus, ask how the schools will help students if they are sick.

Make plans with your community groups

- Talk about ways you can take part in your group from home by phone, e-mail, or Internet to limit contact among people.

We may have to change our daily routines during a flu pandemic, and this may be hard for some people. Talk to people you live and work with about what you will do during a flu pandemic.

Plan now. Check out the resources on these sites:

- www.pandemicflu.gov
- www.ready.gov

Together, we can help protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.

No Bird Testing for West Nile Virus will be done in 2009

West Nile virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. In 2007, there were human cases in 45 states. It has caused illness and death in humans, wildlife and domestic animals, especially birds and horses. While dead crows and blue jays can be valuable warnings of WNV activity, the Ohio Department of Health is no longer testing dead birds. This means the Allen County Health Department cannot accept dead birds for testing this summer. You may contact us if you would like to report breeding sites or unusual mosquito activity in your area.

It is still very important to protect yourself from West Nile Virus. In humans, it causes an influenza-like illness that may lead to aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, and death, especially in persons over 50 years of age. Protective measures include:

- Eliminate breeding grounds by draining standing water.
- Mosquito proof your house by maintaining screens.
- Prevent mosquito bites by using repellants when you are outdoors.

Learn more about West Nile Virus on our website:

http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org/animal_diseases.htm

WIC Staff Receives Award



Barb Deepe, Allen County WIC Director, and the WIC staff received an **Everyday Hero Award** in April from Allen County Children's Services. The awards were presented to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated commitment to the protection of children, provided resources, time and leadership in an attempt to improve the quality of life for the children of Allen County.



Allen County Health Department

David L. Rosebrock, MPH, Health Commissioner

219 East Market Street

P.O. Box 1503

Lima, Ohio 45802-1503

419-228-4457 Information Line – 419-228-INFO (4636)

<http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org>