



ALLEN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

---July/August 2008---

At a glance facts:

Year to Date Statistics (As of June 30, 2008)

- **Immunizations given: 16,302**
- **Child Health Clinic visits: 420 (closed May 2008)**
- **Family Planning Program visits: 2,895**
- **HIV Tests given: 603**
- **Tuberculosis Tests given: 658**
- **Reportable Communicable Diseases: 999 total**
 - **0 cases of Class A1 diseases**
Diseases of major public health concern needing immediate response, e.g. human rabies, meningococcal disease
 - **22 cases of Class A2 diseases**
Diseases of public health concern needing timely response, e.g. E. Coli 0157:H7, West Nile Virus, TB
 - **354 cases of Class A3 diseases**
Diseases of significant public health concern, e.g. STD's, Food Borne illnesses
 - **600 cases of Class B diseases**
Diseases tracked for trending purposes, e.g. influenza (flu), chicken pox
 - **23 cases of Class C diseases**
Diseases of concern when seen in multiples, e.g. scabies and staph infections
- **Number of births filed: 1,275**
- **Number of deaths filed: 678**
- **WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program monthly average caseload: 3,997**
- **Environmental Division Field Inspections: 4,235**

Health Department Targets Infant Mortality

Reducing infant mortality remains a leading priority for Ohio. Allen County's infant mortality rate, according to 2006 Ohio Department of Health data is 8.4, while Ohio's is 7.8 (deaths per 1,000 live births). Even more disturbing is that in Ohio, as well as in the United States as a whole, the African-American infant mortality rate is over two times the White infant mortality rate.

To help address this, the Allen County Health Department receives a grant called the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative Program (OIMRI). This state-wide program was developed to address the risk factors associated with infant mortality and low birth weight by targeting census tracts or neighborhoods with high risk, low-income, uninsured or underinsured pregnant women. Our program, "Caring For Two", targets pregnant African-American women residing in the 45801 and 45804 zip codes and has helped reduce the African-American infant mortality rate.

We utilize three Certified Community Health Workers (CHWs) and a Licensed Social Worker to identify and provide intensive care coordination to high risk clients. They empower individuals to access community resources through education, outreach, home visits, and referrals. They make home visits on a regular basis during and after pregnancy with three major goals in mind:

1. Pregnant women receive early and consistent prenatal care
2. Infants receive consistent well baby check-ups
3. Infants receive their immunizations on schedule

The CHWs are able to develop special relationships with their clients. They help their clients take control of their health, social and economic issues. CHWs help by bridging the gap between their clients and social agencies, health providers and other valuable community resources to help them have a healthy pregnancy and baby. This program is helping to make a difference in the health of the babies born in Allen County. Some of the successes we've seen include:

- Fewer low birth weight babies are being born
- Fewer babies are born prematurely, and
- Pregnant women are getting more early and consistent prenatal care.

Protect Yourself – Safe Produce

Follow these general guidelines:

- Refrigerate within 2 hours or discard cut, peeled or cooked produce items.
- Avoid purchasing bruised or damaged produce items.
- Discard any produce that appears spoiled.
- Thoroughly wash all produce items under running water.





Photo: James Gathany, Public Health Images Library, CDC

New Hours and Times for Childhood Immunization Clinics

The Allen County Health Department continues to offer childhood vaccinations for children from ages 2 months of age through 18 years of age. With the summer season in full swing, it is not too soon to begin school preparation for children. Getting a child their school immunizations remains one of our priorities.

Starting July 1, the Allen County Health Department instituted a new childhood immunization clinic schedule, as follows:

Wednesday mornings: 8:30-11:00 AM
By appointment only
* * *

Wednesday afternoons: 1:30-3:30 PM
Walk-in clinic
* * *

Thursday mornings: 8:30-10:30 AM
Walk-in clinic
* * *

Thursday afternoons: 1:30-3:30 PM
By appointment only

Judy Holmgren, Childhood Immunization Coordinator noted: "These additional hours will give parents the option of childhood immunization, avoiding the "before-school rush."

Vaccine preventable diseases still exist. Infants need to start their immunizations at 2 months of age and continue through 18 years of age to be ready for school and/or college.

Summertime Safeguards

With summertime upon us, our Registered Sanitarians are busy safeguarding our community. Pool and campground inspections occur year round but peak during the summer months. Our goal is to protect the public from any potential health risks that may occur in these areas.

Pool Inspections

What kinds of facilities do we inspect?

A public swimming pool is defined as any indoor or outdoor structure, chamber or tank containing a body of water for swimming, diving or bathing, but does not include a private residential swimming pool. The Ohio Administrative Code rules establish minimum standards, applicable throughout Ohio, for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of these facilities in order to protect the public from injury, minimize the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy aquatic recreational environment.

What do we look for?

Our inspectors assess water quality, ensure that filtration and disinfection equipment is operating properly, and review operational records including the qualifications and number of lifeguards, as well as the maintenance of the physical facilities.

Campground Inspections

What kinds of facilities do we inspect?

A recreation camp means any tract of land upon which five or more portable camping units are placed. Such facilities are subject to the rules for construction, layout, drainage, sanitation, safety, and operation as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code.

What do we look for?

Sanitarians assess the drinking water supply, waste water disposal, dump station set-up, spacing of campsites, park rules, restroom and shower facilities, refuse disposal, electrical service, maintenance of physical facilities, and registration of pets.



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>

Protecting the Health of Allen County