



UNION COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2019

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YEAR IN REVIEW

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From the Health Commissioner



Dr. Jason E. Orcena
Health Commissioner

From the 1918 Spanish Flu to the 2019 Coronavirus

In 2019, the Union County General Health District celebrated its 100th birthday. Ohio's comprehensive public health system was born of the pandemic influenza of 1918 through a series of acts in the Ohio legislature in 1919. One hundred candles for 100 years of service.

Capturing 100 years of service to our community in a short article is futile and undersells the value that our predecessors have brought into the lives of many in Union County. Nor does it reflect our status as a leader in public health in Ohio. However, recognizing our origins does emphasize

that 100 years later we are still on the front lines of tracking, preventing and slowing the spread of diseases that expose our mortality and threaten our quality of life.

Though our programming evolves with the needs of the community, our core role remains mitigating the spread of disease. One of the first directives to newly formed health districts in 1919-1920 was to establish mechanisms for reporting diseases by defining the scope and severity of disease spread. By the 1950s, while Memphis saw the birth of the King of Rock 'N' Roll, public health nurses and local physicians worked with civic organizations to spearhead mass polio vaccination efforts. And only a decade ago, in 2009, health districts launched

large scale H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics, vaccinating thousands within days of receiving vaccine shipments.

Today, as the novel coronavirus is poised to become a worldwide pandemic, local health districts are again tasked with the cornerstone duty to identify, monitor and report disease spread and severity. Our staff will again work hand in hand with our response partners to implement strategies to minimize the impact on our community and do all we can to preserve life. Like most of the great accomplishments in our 100-year history, our ability to navigate the rapidly changing challenges associated with this new disease will rely on our ability to come together. ■

Board President Retires; New Member Welcomed

In March 2019, long-time Board of Health President Mr. James "Al" Channell stepped down from the Board to enjoy

retirement with his wife Donna. Mr. Channell was first appointed to the Board in 2001. He served as President of the Board for many of his 18 years of service. Mr. Channell's passion for serving our residents as well as his role as director of a residential day camp helped bring an important perspective to the Board.

The vacancy left by Mr. Channell's retirement was filled by Mr. Wayne Dellinger. Mr. Dellinger was appointed to the Board of Health by the District Advisory Council (made up of the township trustees, municipal mayors, and county commissioners). Mr. Dellinger is a lifelong resident of Union County. He has worked for The Ohio State University for

25 years and has been in his current role as an Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the OSU Extension Office in Union County for four years. He serves in the Union County Agriculture Association and is committed to representing Union County's rich agricultural roots on the Board.

The current seven-members of the Board of Health come from a variety of backgrounds and provide geographic representation from across Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union school districts. Members of the Board have professional expertise in agriculture, business, finance, healthcare, public safety, and veterinary sciences. ■

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Cover Photo: In August 2019, families joined with the Union County Health Department and the Union County WIC Office to celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month. This adorable little one was one of the young supporters helping to let local mothers know that breastfeeding is a community supported effort in Union County.



2019



— UNION COUNTY —
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Serving Union County since 1919



Celebrating 100 Years of Public Health

In 2019, the Union County General Health District celebrated its 100th birthday. Our staff ran across many momentous occasions as they looked back through our archives.

A First For Richwood Proved Successful Sun.

The first Tetanus Clinic in Ohio was held Sunday, Oct. 20th at the Richwood Civic Center.

A total of 570 persons received their immunization against the deadly infection of tetanus, between the hours of 11:30 and 5:30. This is a first, for which the people of Richwood should be justly proud; health board, doctors, and minded citizens

1963

We learned that the first tetanus clinic in the state of Ohio was held at the Richwood Civic Center in 1963. Coined "T-Day" the tetanus clinic inoculated 570 farmers, protecting them from the deadly bacteria commonly found in soil. We felt pride as we discovered

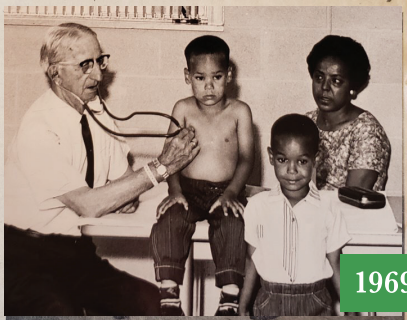
the women of the Union County Farm Bureau Home and Community committee drove the development of the Well Child Conferences in 1948. The Well Child Conferences traveled across the county from late 1948 through 1954 and became the model for subsequent public health initiatives focusing on improving maternal and child health throughout Ohio. And we were struck by the rapid growth of the

Health Department Vital To County

The Union County General Health District plays a vital part in maintaining a high level of good health. Prevention is our major product whether it is "sold" through nursing service, control of environmental sanitation or through health education, or any other channel.

The activities of your Health Department are designed to provide Union County with the necessary ingredients of prevention, to protect the health of the individual, family and the community. This is accomplished in a combination of ways.

1. Well Child Conferences — any child from birth to school age may come for physical examination once a year and any remedial defect found is referred to the family physician. Immunizations are given against small pox, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, polio and measles. Infants under one year of age must have written permission from the family physician for immunizations. Advise us given an nutrition, infant care.

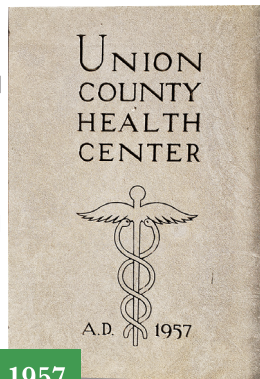


1969

school health program, which resulted in the production of a health guide for every student, written by a Union County resident and nationally recognized author, Donna Hornbeck.

We were transported back in time to learn the salary of the first health commissioner (Dr. H.G. Southard, \$3,000 per year starting in 1924) and amazed that one of the very first employees hired (Fern Berger, secretary and vital registrar) is also our longest tenured employee (43 years of service). Our hearts were touched when we shared a 1970s photo of sanitarian Richard Miller (37 years of service) on Facebook and his daughter reached out and shared fond memories of her dad's commitment to the health department and our community. We even managed to track a long and storied series of quarantines for rabies (at least 3 countywide quarantines

1957



of dogs issued between 1937 and 1962), scarlet fever (barred the York Township School boys' basketball team from going to the 1927 county basketball tournament), and influenza (1945 closure of all schools, picture shows and public gatherings to contain the spread of influenza).

We were reaffirmed in our belief in vaccines as we looked back at the dramatic shift in the types of communicable diseases reported from 1934 to

present (1934 leading communicable diseases were measles and whooping cough). And despite being a compliment from 71 years earlier, we still felt pride that a local dairy farmer commended the



1948

Board of Health for "giving the dairymen of the county every consideration" in the implementation of new milk regulations in 1948.

Occasionally, a walk down memory lane can be good for the soul. This trek back in time has re-inspired our commitment to the community. The stories told through our archives are timeless legacies that depict the fabric of our community. Most of the great achievements weren't driven by government. They were driven by the people who live and work here - people committed to making life better for their neighbors. I still see this commitment in our staff and partners. It is this commitment to making life better for our neighbors that will drive our work for the next 100 years.

- Reflections from Jennifer Thrush, Public Information Officer, Lead on UCHD's 100 Year Celebration ■

1954

Widely-Acclaimed Model For Others

Clinic Spells P-r-e-v-e-n-t-i-o-n For County Kiddies

YEAR IN REVIEW

100 Years | **Recognition** | Financials

Public Health Partner of the Year:

Lt. Molly Harris and the Ohio State Highway Patrol – Marysville Post (OSHP)

Lt. Harris routinely answers the call to help make our community a safer place to live and raise a family. Lt. Harris and the OSHP are instrumental partners on our Safe & Sound coalition, helping to bring awareness about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving, the importance of seatbelts, and promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety. Lt. Harris has been a dedicated partner, often stepping forward to serve as the spokesperson for the Safe & Sound coalition at public events. Despite limited resources and staffing, Lt. Harris and OSHP troopers are active participants in several community coalitions, bringing their expertise to topics beyond traffic safety.



Ohio State Highway Patrol - Marysville Post Commander Lt. Molly Harris helps UCHD promote the new "Next of Kin" form for Ohio drivers in this 2019 social media photo.

For this invaluable partnership, the Union County Health Department is proud to recognize Lt. Molly Harris and the Ohio State Highway Patrol - Marysville Post as the 2019 Public Health Partner of the Year. ■

Employee of the Year: Krista Finch, CNP



Krista Finch, CNP, is the 2019 Employee of the Year. Known for her kind, caring and empathetic treatment of patients, Ms. Finch is working to advance UCHD's delivery of clinical services.

The 2019 Employee of the Year is Krista Finch. Ms. Finch is a Certified Nurse Practitioner and the Clinical Director for the Union County Health Department. Ms. Finch has served UCHD for 7 years and is known for her kind, caring and empathetic treatment of patients. She provides outstanding leadership and mentorship of both staff and nursing students.

In 2019, Ms. Finch worked to launch a new clinical model. The new model expanded services and hours in an effort to put the need of patients first. Ms. Finch strives to provide wholistic, non-judgmental care and recognizes every person has unique needs. Her previous experience in emergency rooms and as a sexual assault response nurse, has made Ms. Finch well suited to understand and address her patient's diverse and complicated needs. ■

Board of Health



Keith Watson
President
Appointed in 2011



Gary Bowman
Vice President
Appointed in 2014



Donna Burke, RPh
Appointed in 2010



Justin Krueger, MD
Appointed in 2008



Mark Smith
Appointed in 2016



Tiffany Wood
Appointed in 2018



Wayne Dellinger
Appointed in 2019



Vaccine Champion Award Winner

The Union County Health Department's Nursing Division received the 2019 Vaccine Champion Award for Excellence in Immunization Practices. The distinction was awarded in recognition of UCHD's work to increase completion of the HPV vaccine series. HPV vaccination provides protection against human papillomaviruses which can lead to cervical and other cancers. The continued efforts of UCHD's Nursing Division to help ensure tweens, teens and young adults are fully vaccinated is helping to provide the highest level of cancer protection we can offer.

National Model & Promising Practice Awards Earned

In 2019, the Union County Health Department received two national recognitions for outstanding public health programming from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

Ms. Rebecca Honaker, Health Planner for UCHD, received a Model Practice Award for UCHD's older adult fall prevention initiative entitled "Prevention of Older Adult Falls Through Medication Management and Home Safety Education". Mr. Doug Matthews, Health Planner for UCHD, received a Promising Practice Award for UCHD's facilitation of the Richwood Lake Trail project entitled "Small town, big heart: How a grass roots effort changed the landscape and health of a community."



Model and Promising practice distinctions are awarded to specific initiatives that demonstrate exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. In order to receive the awards, a program must reflect a strong local health department role, collaboration, innovation, and demonstrate its value through evaluation.



UCHD Named Richwood Christmas Parade Grand Marshal

After being rained out in 2018, the Union County Health Department was once again honored to be named the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Richwood Christmas Parade. The Richwood Area Business Association selected Mr. Doug Matthews and the Union County Health Department as Grand Marshal in recognition of UCHD's on-going efforts to improve cardiovascular health within the Village of Richwood. Mr. Matthews, through the Creating Healthy Communities grant, has become the face of UCHD within Richwood. His work on trail development, park improvements, creating safe routes to school, and North Union Safety Town has been met with heart felt appreciation from the Richwood community.

Doug Matthews Earns Award from OSU Extension

In November, Mr. Doug Matthews was awarded the 2019 Ohio State University Extension Friend of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the education and service of his community. Since 2016, Doug and valued community partners have worked to build community garden programs throughout the county. In 2018 alone, over 600 pounds of produce was donated from these gardens to Marysville's food pantries.



YEAR IN REVIEW

100 Years | Recognition | **Financials**

Financial Statement (Calendar Year 2019)

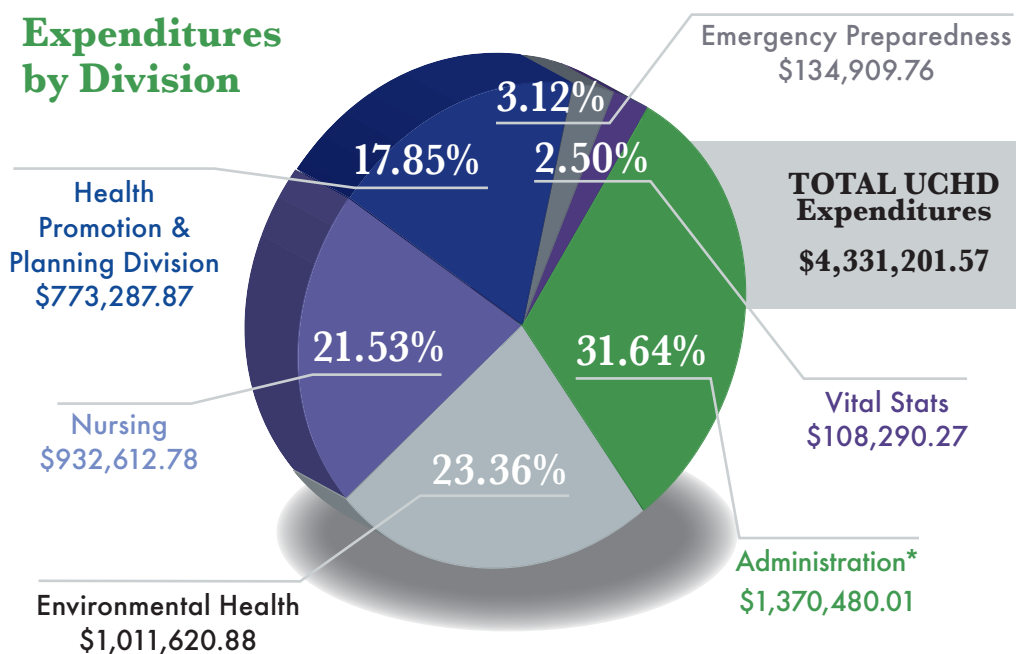
Statement of Revenues

Levy Receipts / Rollbacks / Tangible Personal Property Replacement	1,730,182.43	37.23%
Grant Receipts (State / Federal / Private)	925,556.90	19.92%
Permits / Licenses / Fees / Fines / Special Assessments	771,769.43	16.61%
Bond Proceeds (for Facility Remodeling)	500,000.00	10.76%
Nursing Fees (Including Medicare Reimbursement)	210,767.61	4.54%
Contracts and Other Charges for Services	163,750.00	3.52%
Medicaid Reimbursement	123,321.50	2.66%
Reimbursements, Refunds, Misc. Other Receipts	105,649.59	2.27%
Vital Statistics Fees	91,190.00	1.96%
State Subsidy	24,812.36	0.53%
TOTAL REVENUE (Excludes Inter-Fund Transfers)	4,646,999.82	100.00%

Statement of Expenditures

Personnel Expenditures	2,666,955.79	61.57%
Operating Expenditures	1,083,095.49	25.01%
Construction Expenditures	458,049.00	10.58%
Remittances to the State of Ohio	78,552.42	1.81%
Equipment Expenditures	44,548.87	1.03%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (Excludes Inter-Fund Transfers)	4,331,201.57	100.00%

Expenditures by Division



Financial Notes:

UCHD began a remodel project at the end of 2019. As a result, revenues and expenditures are higher than seen in a typical year.

- UCHD continues to work to diversify our revenue stream, bringing \$925,557 (almost 20% of all revenues) in outside grant funding into our community.
- At the end of 2019, UCHD had an unencumbered cash balance of \$3,086,517 or about 260 days of operating expenses.
- UCHD received another successful audit in 2019.
- All numbers within this financial statement are unaudited.

* Administration expenditures include rent, technology and construction costs.

2019 VITAL STATS

Births Recorded*

Male	312
Female	297
Total	609

Deaths Recorded*

Male	178
Female	153
Total	331

Leading Causes of Death in Union County*

Heart Disease	88
Cancer	65
Respiratory Illness	36
Failure to Thrive	35
Dementia	30

* Stats only reflect births and deaths which occur within Union County.

UCHD issued 3,796 birth and death certificates in 2019. New driver's license requirements resulted in a sizeable increase in the issuance of birth certificates in 2019 (increase of 400+ over 2018 and 2017 respectively).

Clinic Offers So Much More Than Vaccinations

The Union County Health Department expanded its nursing services and hours in 2019. The clinic now offers annual exams, breast and cervical cancer screenings, physicals, vaccinations and so much more Monday through Thursday.

"Vaccination is what comes to mind when most people think about what the Health Department can offer. But our nurses and nurse practitioner provide so much more than vaccinations," said Joyce Richmond, Director of Nursing for the Union County Health Department.

The nursing staff at the Union County Health Department offer:

- Annual wellness exams
- Birth control – pill, patch, shot, implant, IUD available
- Breast exams & mammogram referrals
- Immunizations for babies, children, teens and adults
- Pap smears & cervical cancer screening
- Physicals - basic exam for sports & work
- Pregnancy testing, prenatal vitamins & planning for a healthy baby

- Prenatal care - including nutrition counseling and help quitting tobacco
- STD testing & treatment - treatment offered to both the patient and their partner(s)
- TB testing

Services are provided by appointment Monday through Thursday with evening hours available on Thursdays. To make an appointment, call 937-642-2053. Most insurances including private, Medicaid & Medicare are accepted. A sliding fee scale is also offered for those facing financial hardships. ■



UCHD public health nurses hosted a special vaccination clinic for local first responders in April 2019 amidst a statewide Hepatitis A outbreak.

2019 Nursing/Clinical Achievements

- Received Vaccine Champion Award
- Saw sharp increase in adult vaccinations administered (+632 since 2018)
- Back to school shots offered at all three school districts
- Hep A vaccination clinic for first responders held in midst of statewide outbreak
- Tested mass vaccination capability with a drive thru flu clinic
- Expanded birth control options to include intrauterine device (IUD)
- Online breastfeeding support group topped 1,000 members

PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH

UCHD Clinic | Disease Prevention

Communicable Diseases Reported in Union County in 2019

Class B Reportable Diseases

Campylobacteriosis	16
Chlamydia	129
Cryptosporidiosis	5
Cyclosporiasis	2
E. coli	3
Ehrlichiosis	1
Giardia	1
Gonorrhea	23
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis A	4
Hepatitis B (including delta)	6
Hepatitis C - chronic	49
Hepatitis C - perinatal infection	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	13
Legionnaires' Disease	1
Lyme Disease	3
Meningitis, aseptic	3
Pertussis	4
Salmonella	15
Shigellosis	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	1
Streptococcal - Group A (invasive)	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	3
Syphilis	4
Varicella	20
Yersiniosis	1
Total	311

50% of cases were sexually transmitted infections

16% of cases were vaccine preventable diseases

14% of cases were gastrointestinal illnesses

The Union County Health Department investigated 311 cases of reportable disease in 2019. Chlamydia remained the most frequently reported disease (129 cases) accounting for 41% of all cases. Hepatitis C (49 cases) and gonorrhea (23 cases) were the next most frequently reported diseases. Not all diseases are required to be reported to local health departments. In Ohio, there are about 90 diseases that are considered reportable infectious diseases.

Some diseases, like strep throat or flu, are not reportable unless there are multiple linked cases considered to be an outbreak. The cases are typically linked either by time and shared location (such as camp, childcare, church, restaurant, school, etc.) or by serological testing (multiple cases have genetically identical strains of virus/bacteria). In 2019, UCHD investigated 7 outbreaks including hand, foot and mouth disease, influenza (flu), norovirus, strep throat, varicella (chicken pox), and an unknown gastrointestinal illness.

Every reportable disease case in Union County is investigated by our communicable disease team. The investigation can consist of one-time correspondence, or more commonly, detailed interviews. These interviews are tools to determine risk for exposure to others and to ensure the ill person is receiving appropriate treatment and follow up care. The communicable disease team often serves as a facilitator for information gathering and verification between patients, healthcare providers, laboratories, and when required, employers or affected public places. The UCHD communicable disease team also serves as the front-line staff, feeding data from our local community into state and federal public health surveillance networks. ■

Class C Reportable Diseases- Outbreaks

Hand Foot and Mouth Disease	1
Influenza	1
Norovirus	2
Strep Throat	1
Unknown Gastrointestinal Illness	1
Varicella	1
Total	7

2019 Healthcare & Support Service Statistics

3,080 childhood immunizations
1,642 adult immunizations
1,129 reproductive health visits
193 prenatal clinic visits
24 newborn home visits

31 breastfeeding support visits
14 cribs distributed
48 car seats checked for safety;
84 car seats distributed
2,200 families served by WIC

433 hearing, vision, dental and scoliosis screenings
321 families with special healthcare needs served by CMH
129 people enrolled in insurance
250 naran kits distributed

\$13,158 in prescription assistance provided to 84 people
14 people received eyeglass & hearing aid assistance
50 fall prevention home safety checks for older adults

Septic Permits Renewed in 2019

In December 2019, homeowners with a household sewage treatment system (STS) received a renewal bill for their STS operation permit. The renewal permit fee of \$50 ensured a valid STS operation permit for years 2020 through 2024.

The need to renew STS operation permits comes from the adoption of statewide sewage rules in 2015 (Ohio Administrative Code: Chapter 3701-29). State rules require every STS to have an operation permit. The permit cannot be valid for longer than 10 years under Ohio rules. The state rules allow local health departments to set a permit period of less than 10 years. The Union County Board of Health chose a five-year permit. The five-year permit lessens the cost for homeowners in a given renewal year. It also protects homeowners from a fee that must be inflated to try and account for 10-years of projected costs.

Fees collected from operation permits are used to cover costs associated with ensuring household STS's across the county are working properly. These costs include an assessment of each of the roughly 8,100 systems in Union County, maintaining an online database the public can access, and responding to nuisance complaints regarding surfacing sewage. Fees collected from operation permits cannot be used for

any other programs offered by the Union County Health Department, nor can permit fees be used for public sewer systems.

Board Postponing Inspection Requirements

In 2019, the Board of Health began reviewing inspection requirements for household sewage treatment systems (STS). Local sewage rules currently require an annual inspection of aerator systems, with regular inspections on

UCHD has found 452 or 7% of systems assessed are not working as intended and could be creating a public health nuisance

ALL types of systems to begin in 2020. However, the Board plans to postpone the inspection requirement for non-aerator systems until the next permit cycle begins in 2025 (annual inspection requirement remains in place for aerator systems). This postponement will allow our staff to complete the initial identification and assessments of each of the roughly 8,100 systems in Union County. Information regarding any change to the rules will be shared

through www.uchd.net, Facebook, and local newspapers.

76% of Initial Sewage System Assessments Completed

Following the adoption of new statewide sewage rules in January 2015, the Union County Health Department was tasked with doing an initial assessment of each household sewage treatment system (STS) in the county. During the assessment, a sanitarian determines the type of system, locates components of the system and looks for signs of system failure. As of Dec. 31, 2019, UCHD has found 452 or 7% of systems assessed are not working as intended and could be creating a public health nuisance. The system type was unable to be determined for 2,762 or 45% of systems assessed. In total, UCHD has completed assessments on 6,166 systems, about 76% of the approximately 8,100 STS's in Union County. All assessments in Claibourne, Jackson, Leesburg, Liberty, and Taylor Townships are complete. Remaining systems will be assessed in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Per the request of our residents, postcards notifying the homeowner of an upcoming assessment are mailed approximately 14 days before an assessment.

Continued on pg. 10

UNION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT We are headed your way!



We would like to notify you an associate from the Union County Health Department will be on your road to perform septic system assessments for the Operation and Maintenance Program in the next 2 weeks.

Once we complete your assessment, you will receive a yellow door hanger with details on how to receive a copy of your report.

Please call (937) 642-2053 or visit www.uchd.net if you have any questions.

Our Sanitarians May be Visiting You

Assessments of sewage systems will continue in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Per the request of our residents, please look for a postcard like this in the mail. Postcards are sent approximately 14 days before an assessment. Homeowners do not need to be present for the assessment. A report is left on the door and entered into an online database available at www.uchd.net.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Septic Permits | Tire Round Up

Continued from pg. 9

Homeowners do not need to be present for the assessment, but are welcome to join our sanitarian if they wish. A door hanger is left on the door following the assessment, and a report is entered into an online, public database available at www.uchd.net. Assessments are also conducted any time a sanitarian is called to a property (nuisance complaint investigation, water sample, etc.). For the safety of the homeowner and our sanitarians, sanitarians conducting assessments will have a safety vest, ID badge, and marked vehicle when coming on your property.

They will first stop and knock at your front door, but will proceed with their inspection if no one answers the door. Sanitarians will not enter your home or out buildings to complete the assessment. All assessments are done during normal business hours (8am-5pm). If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at 937-642-2053. ■



Tire Round Up A Success!

More than 2,800 tires were collected in Union County Health Department's October 2019 community tire clean ups. UCHD's tire collection events, part of our ongoing mosquito control efforts, were funded by a mosquito control grant from the Ohio EPA. Old tires, along with buckets, pots, rain barrels, and birdbaths, provide excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes. UCHD is trying to reduce mosquito populations by providing free mosquito dunks, larvaciding complaint areas, and educating residents on eliminating standing water. UCHD trapped 3,041 mosquitoes across the county to identify species and understand what types of mosquito borne diseases may be circulating in our county. New in 2019, UCHD also hatched mosquito larvae and conducted pesticide resistance testing as part of the EPA's federal surveillance network.

2019 Environmental Health Service Statistics

117 well permits issued
283 water quality samples taken
119 septic permits issued
2,308 septic inspections
439 food service permits issued
1,072 food service inspections

27 food service complaints received
144 animal bite investigations
84 nuisance complaint investigations
3,041 mosquito surveillance specimens
2,800 tires collected
519 plumbing permits issued

1,760 plumbing inspections
170 public facility inspections
14 food safety classes
155 food service workers educated
1 sewage education class
110 realtors and sewage installers educated

Lets Get Pedaling

Pedal power was the theme in 2019. Through the Creating Healthy Communities grant and community partnerships, three new bicycle initiatives rolled into Union County in 2019. A free bicycle lending program was established with the Hope Center, public bicycle racks were installed at the Hope Center and the Union County Services Building, and sharrows and signage were installed for a new on-road bicycle route connecting Marysville to the Heritage Trail outside of Plain City.

The new Hope Center bicycle lending program joins Richwood Rides as the second such free lending program within Union County. Richwood Rides launched in 2017 and is run by the Richwood-North Union Public Library. In 2019, the Richwood Rides program increased its utilization significantly. Participation increased from about 35 registered users taking just under 50 rides each year in 2017 and 2018 to 54

The installation of bike racks, and other pedestrian infrastructure around Marysville and in Union County, are part of a larger effort by UCHD and its partners to encourage a more active lifestyle and more connected community.

participants taking 189 rides in 2019. Richwood Rides offers several bicycle options (including a tandem bicycle and a trike), provides helmets, and lends the bicycles out for up to 3 hours – all with your library card. While the Hope Center Lending program is new and just beginning, organizers hope people will take advantage of the free lending program as a transportation option for in-town trips to work, grocery stores, or medical appointments.

The Union County Health Department has been working for many years to build a more bikeable and walkable Union County. UCHD is working alongside city planners, county engineers, township trustees, village officials, and the Union County-Marysville economic development team



to maintain and improve a master trail and greenway plan for Union County. Some pieces of the plan are becoming a reality year by year. Other pieces may be decades in the making. But one thing is for certain, a more connected Union County is something that is being worked toward every day. ■

Battling the Opioid Epidemic

Union County, like most US communities, has identified opioid overdose as an alarming threat to public health. The Union County Health Department has distributed Narcan, a nasal spray opioid reversal drug, since 2016. Distribution efforts increased in 2019 when UCHD became the lead agency for a 5 county Narcan distribution grant and established online ordering. Through the grant, 250 Narcan kits have been distributed. Additionally, UCHD received a federal Opioid Overdose prevention grant aimed at establishing additional Narcan distribution programs for local EMS and correctional facilities to distribute Narcan to high risk individuals. ■

Transportation: Not Just a Big City Problem

In 2019, the Union County Health Department secured an \$88,000 grant to begin a transportation feasibility study within Union County. The feasibility study will examine what specific transportation needs exist (employment, medical, social, etc.), what barriers may exist (disability, cost of vehicle, cost of insurance, time of day/night, etc.), and what types of solutions may realistically work for Union County.

The feasibility study is one part of UCHD and Union County's approach to address the on-going need for transportation solutions for all people. UCHD's mobility manager, a position

newly created in 2018, created an inventory of what transportation resources are currently available and what types of transportation needs individuals have. This information is feeding into the feasibility study. Whenever possible, the mobility manager connects individuals with the available resources, but she also records unmet needs to create a true picture of what transportation barriers truly exist within our county. One such example is becoming ever more common as our community grows and job opportunities expand. Both employers and eligible employees are identifying lack of reliable transportation as a barrier to employment. ■

Annual Report 2019



UNION COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

940 London Avenue, Suite 1100
Marysville, Ohio 43040

(937) 642-2053 or 888-333-9461
www.uchd.net • contact@uchd.net



www.facebook.com



unioncohealthdept@unioncohealth



www.instagram.com/unioncohealth

The Union County Health Department annual report is available for download at www.uchd.net. If you would like a printed copy of the annual report, please call or email us with your name and mailing address.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Prenatal care
Breastfeeding support
& education
Newborn home visits
Car seat distribution
& safety checks
Immunizations
Assistance for children with
special healthcare needs
Safe sleep education
& crib distribution
Radon test kits
Well permitting & inspection
Animal bite investigations
Nuisance complaint
investigations
Prescription assistance
STI testing
Healthy pregnancy planning
Reproductive healthcare
for women & men