

From the Health Commissioner

This past year we started on "Our Path to Accreditation". The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments. PHAB has developed a set of Standards and Measures as a blueprint to achieve Accreditation. We have a dedicated internal Accreditation Team and our Accreditation Coordinator is leading us through this process. This process is a journey which requires management and staff commitment. It is a challenging process for our department both financially and staff time, but we have already developed strategies to improve the quality of our public health services to the community. We will continue to move forward with this project and our goal of National Accreditation.

**Randall M. Flint, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner**

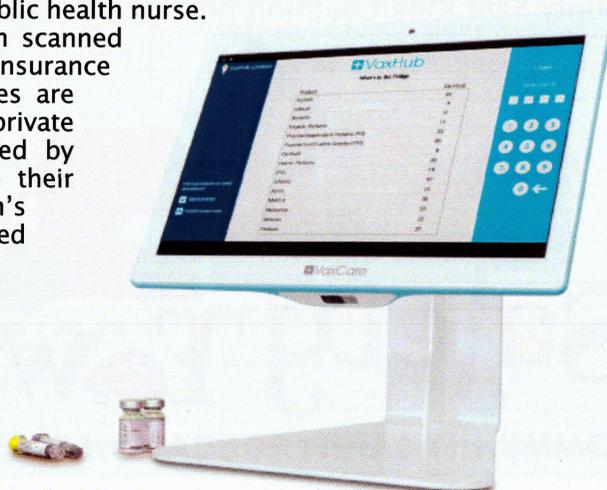


Public Health Nursing - VaxCare Program

The Affordable Care Act, though successful in effectively changing the accessibility of health care for many Americans, made it more difficult for local health departments to provide vaccines to privately insured children. To be able to vaccinate privately insured children, our health department would have to purchase tens of thousands of dollars worth of vaccine and be able to bill private insurances for reimbursement for the cost and administration of those vaccines. This was not feasible for our department. Therefore, in 2016 when the State of Ohio no longer provided local health departments with the vaccines for privately insured children, we had to make the difficult decision not to accept privately insured children. We would only see children who were eligible for the Vaccines for Children program. This a federal program that provides local health departments with the vaccines for children who do not have health insurance or their private insurance does not cover vaccines, or children who have a form of Medicaid insurance, or are Native American, Alaskan Native, or Pacific Islander. This presented a huge challenge in our community because not all private physicians stocked vaccines for privately insured children.

This past year our department contracted with a national company called VaxCare. They assist our department in providing childhood vaccines to children who are privately insured. VaxCare provides the vaccine that is administered to privately insured children and bills the private insurances for the cost and administration of the vaccine. Our clients with private health insurance can receive their vaccines at our department and in turn, our department receives a small reimbursement from VaxCare for each vaccine administered. VaxCare is an approved provider for dozens of private insurance plans. We encourage our clients to check with our department to see if their insurance can be billed by VaxCare before we schedule an appointment for their child. While scheduling the appointment, we ask the parent for insurance and ID information. The insurance information is entered into the VaxCare portal by our staff. When the insurance information is approved by VaxCare, the child is then vaccinated by the public health nurse.

Vaccines given to the child are then scanned into the VaxCare portal and the child's insurance is billed. Any co pays or deductibles are collected by VaxCare. Those with a private insurance plan that cannot be billed by VaxCare are encouraged to receive their vaccines at their private physician's office. This new program has helped many families in the greater Alliance area obtain vaccinations for their children and in turn, those children are up to date with their vaccines for school. Higher vaccination rates mean fewer outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and a healthier community.



WIC Works



WIC is a supplemental nutrition program that provides grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition and breastfeeding education at no charge for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. During 2017, the Alliance City WIC program served an average of 700 clients monthly. Our local WIC office is small, quiet, and kid friendly! We offer fun kitchen toys for kids to play with while parents complete their WIC appointment so that they can focus on learning with the help of our dietitian. Our staffing at the Alliance WIC office consists of one dietitian and one clerk; the small clinic helps our parents and children feel comfortable by allowing them to become familiar with friendly faces visit after visit! We pride ourselves on fast, friendly, and fun education with the focus on participant goals - we want to help you, not burden you. Whatever barriers you have - work, school, and transportation

- we will do our best to work with you. We are here to help you educate yourself on healthy eating so you can pass the information on for generations to come, therefore helping to build a healthier community in the future as well as now.

The WIC foods provided are supplemental, meaning they do not provide the amount of food needed for an entire month. With that being said, WIC benefits do help cut the cost of healthy foods such as low fat milk, 100% unsweetened juice, beans, peanut butter, eggs, cereal, whole grains, and fruits and vegetables. Participants will receive three months of food benefits at a time loaded onto an electronic card which they can use at our local Walmart, Giant Eagle, Save-A-Lot, and the newest addition to the vendor list, Marc's. The food list provided by WIC is expansive, so the options for our families are vast! A big change we are welcoming this year is the addition of whole wheat pasta to our approved food list, which is

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very helpful for disguising new foods when working with skeptical toddlers or young kids. Each summer, the Alliance City WIC clinic participates in the WIC Farmer's Market Coupon program where in addition to the monthly benefits given for use in stores, we distribute additional vouchers for use on fresh and locally grown fruits and veggies!

Aside from nutrition education, WIC provides participants with breastfeeding education from their first pregnancy appointment and continues this education through their postpartum visits. Our Alliance office is lucky to have our peer helper, AziaRae. She has been with us for over a year now and has a great bond with the staff and clients. The purpose of our peer helper is to be a support system for our moms - she is there to make moms feel comfortable asking questions, no matter how big or small. Our peer helper carries a WIC provided cell phone to help provide help for our moms 24/7, 365. If the WIC office is closed for a holiday, closed for the weekday, or closed for the weekend, our moms are able to still hear a familiar voice on the other side of our WIC peer helper phone.

Personnel

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Health Commissioner/Environmental Director

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Environmental Health

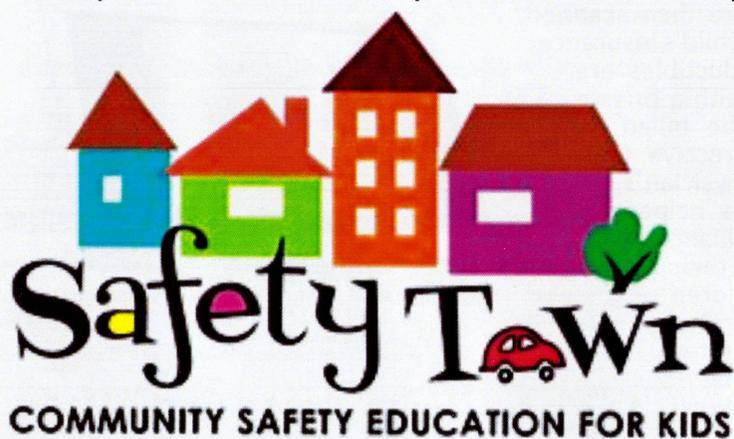


Environmental public health programs consist of preventing or controlling disease, injury and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment. Our focus is on education and providing best practices to improving and protecting the health of the community through our environmental health programs and services.

We continued our collaboration with our local academic institutions. A student intern from Malone College started work with our environmental staff to develop a grease trap prevention program focusing on our food service and retail food operations. She has completed a file audit of our food operations and developed a Level II food handler certification tracking system for the program.

Injury Prevention

The Alliance Area Childhood Injury Prevention Taskforce resurrected an injury prevention activity from “the good old days.” Many years ago, Alliance held an event called Safety Village where young children enrolled to participate in educational activities to learn and raise awareness about safety. The Taskforce partnered with the University of Mount Union’s Dr. Beth Canfield-Simbros and Leslie Schaffer’s public health classes to recreate Safety Village. Over 20 children participated in educational activities involving bike, playground, and poison safety to name a few. We received positive feedback from parents and Safety Village 2018 is already in the planning stage. Parent Series was better attended than past years and parents received information on topics like postpartum depression and pool safety. Over twice as many Pack n’ Play cribs were distributed through Safe Sleep Classes for a total of 30. A grant provided through the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition provided us with baby gates to distribute for anyone in need with a child under the age of two. The nursing department joined forces with WIC to distribute 23 baby gates. The Project DAWN program also taught and distributed 12 naloxone kits to combat the opioid epidemic.



2017

Vital Statistics

Total Deaths.....	314
Infant Deaths (less than 1 year).....	0
Fetal Deaths.....	0
Certified Copies of Births Issued.....	1,743
Certified Copies of Deaths Issued.....	1,199
Burial/Cremation Permits.....	364



Immunization Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	156
Immunizations Administered.....	1,220

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic/HIV

Number of Clinics.....	127
Number of Visits.....	322

Influenza Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	1
Immunizations Administered.....	136

Tuberculin Skin Testing

Number of Skin Tests.....	61
Number of Tests read.....	60

WIC Program

Number of Clinics.....	234
Number of Visits.....	3,263

Home Visits

BCM Home Visits.....	4
Lead Program.....	4

Lead Program

Elevated Levels Reported.....	18
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Cribs for Kids

Crib Classes.....	16
Cribs Distributed.....	17



Public Health Nursing Statistics

Reported Communicable Diseases

Chlamydia.....	137
Hepatitis C Chronic.....	37
Influenza.....	27
Gonorrhea.....	18
Campylobacter.....	6
Cryptosporidia.....	5
Salmonella.....	5
Pertussis.....	5
Strep Pneumoniae.....	4
Giardia.....	3
Hepatitis B.....	3
Lyme disease.....	2
Hepatitis A.....	1
Hepatitis C Acute.....	1
Creutzfeldt Jacob.....	1
Legionella.....	1
Varicella.....	1



Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease.....	91
Cancer.....	64
Dementia/Alzheimer's.....	46
Pulmonary Disease.....	31
Cerebrovascular.....	17
Kidney Disease.....	13
Pneumonia/Influenza.....	12
Liver and Cirrhosis.....	8
Sepsis.....	7
Accidents.....	5
Suicide.....	2
Diabetes.....	1
Other.....	17

HIV Counseling And Testing

Free and confidential HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) services are offered as part of our weekly walk-in STI clinic. Additional times for testing are available by appointment and walk-ins. We also collaborate with the Columbiana County Health District to offer clinic services once per month at their department. It is recommended that everyone should know their status and that HIV testing become part of routine health care for all persons. Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly extend the lifespan, improve the quality of life, and increase awareness of one's status thereby helping to modify risk behaviors leading to reduced transmission to partners.

In 2017, HIV testing was provided for 163 clients at our weekly clinics and also at the off-site clinic held in Lisbon. Stark County overall remains one of eight counties in the state, which accounts for the majority of HIV infections in Ohio.

Our agency utilizes an extremely accurate, rapid HIV test method in our clinics. The test requires a drop of blood from the finger with results in 20 minutes. If the initial test is reactive, a venous sample is then sent to the Ohio Department of Health Lab for confirmatory testing. These results are received within a week and discussed with the client at a pre-scheduled appointment. Referrals to other community agencies are made as needed and/or desired. In addition, the HIV counselor can assist any HIV positive individual in obtaining appropriate case management services.

Although treatment for HIV infection has improved greatly and is much more effective and efficient, the fact remains there is no cure for HIV/AIDS. Prevention is the key and correct, consistent use of condoms is very good at preventing infection. Free condoms are available during routine office hours.

The department is an excellent resource for university and community groups interested in print information (available in English and Spanish) on STI/HIV prevention, condom donations for special events, and prevention presentations by knowledgeable public health nurses.



Alliance City Health Department

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Web Site:

www.cityofalliance.com/health

 visit us on facebook

Alliance City Health Department 2017 Financial Report

2017 Income

Vital Statistics

Birth and Death Certificates	76,539.97
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Nursing and Clinics

Immunization Initiative..	10,012.96
Medicare Reimbursement.....	1,653.99
Medicaid Reimbursement.....	14,504.41
BCMh Reimbursement ...	1,000.00
Private Insurance/ Client Fees	5,183.36
MAC Program	18,335.44
WIC Program.....	115,499.29
HIV Prevention	10,589.85
Injury Prevention.....	2,500.00

Environmental Health

Food Licenses	43,878.45
Plumbing Registration and Permits	15,980.00
Swimming Pool Licenses..	4,010.00
Rabies Prevention/Fines..	1,113.60
Tattoo Licenses.....	750.00
Mosquito Control Grant..	14,100.00
Reimbursements.....	1,223.13
State Subsidy.....	4,187.72
Total Income	341,062.17

2017 Expenditures

Administrative and Vital Statistics	274,893.38
Public Health Nursing Clinics/Grants	408,541.22
Environmental Health.	167,501.80
Total Expenditures.....	850,936.40

Environmental Health Statistics for 2017

Licensing Programs

Food Service/ Retail Food Operations	145
Mobile Food Service	12
Temporary Food Service	35
Vending Locations	23
Swimming Pools	17
Plumbing Contractors	42
Tattoo/Body Piercing Establishments	3

Food Protection Programs

Food Service/ Retail Food Inspections	288
Food Service/ Retail Consultations	116
Mobile, Vending and Temp. Inspections	63
Plan Reviews and Consultations..	58

Nuisance Control Program

Number of Complaints.....	160
Number of Inspections	290
Number of Consultations.....	70

Rabies Control Program

Number of Bites Reported.....	89
Number of Bites Investigated	89
Specimens Tested for Rabies	5
Rabies Positive Animals	0
Post Exposure Rabies Treatment..	0

School Program

Number of Inspections	17
Number of Consultations.....	7

Plumbing Program

Permits Issued	37
Number of Inspections	91

Housing Program

Number of Inspections	96
Number of Consultations.....	74
Lead Risk Assessments	5
Demolitions	76

Swimming Pool Program

Number of Inspections	47
Number of Consultations.....	18

Mosquito Control

Larviciding	24
Mosquito Sprayings	4

Tattoo Program

Number of Inspections	4
Number of Consultations.....	16

Smoke Free Program

Number of Complaints.....	9
Number of Inspections	9