

From the Health Commissioner

To say the past year was like no other would certainly be an understatement. Our year began as we usually do but that quickly changed with our first case of COVID-19 in March. We had to shift all of our efforts to responding to this pandemic for our community. We hired additional contact tracers to assist with the surge of COVID-19 cases and follow up and eventually shift those individuals to assist with our vaccination clinics for first responders, medical personnel and our high-risk individuals in our community. Our staff had to shift from their daily tasks to that of full pandemic response. Our staff worked tirelessly in responding to the many aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank our dedicated public health staff for all of their hard work this past year. They are truly public health heroes. I also want to extend my gratitude to all of our public health partners, local leaders, and volunteers that have assisted us throughout the pandemic. We could not have done this without you and it is a true testament to the collaborations among agencies and our partners in Stark County.

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



Public Health Nursing

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Our public health nursing team receives reported cases of COVID-19 from providers that administer a COVID-19 test. These cases are reported 24/7 to our staff. When public health staff receive a positive test result for COVID-19, our communicable disease and nursing staff contact the individual who tested positive. We provide education to the individual about their own health and the health of others. We also seek information about individuals who were in close contact with the positive individual.

Contact Tracing

Our staff spent a tremendous amount of time identifying contacts of positive COVID-19 cases. This is an epidemiologic approach to slow the spread of disease in the community. Individuals are identified and self-quarantine and are monitored for possible progression to symptoms. Our staff also assists and identifies community resources that these individuals may need. We had to hire additional staff to perform contact tracing to meet the demand due to the volume of cases.

Our nursing staff worked with our local long term care facilities to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities. Our department provided personal protective equipment (PPE) when these resources were very limited. We continue to be a resource for them as needed.

Community Partners-COVID-19 Testing

Early on in the pandemic our community partners stepped up to provide much needed testing services for our community. Alliance Family Health Center, Aultman Alliance Community Hospital and Hometown Urgent Care were critical in providing testing services for the community.

Vaccination Clinics

We administered our first dose of Moderna vaccine on December 28 to Emergency Medical Service personnel and then to medical care providers. These clinics were held in the health department office. The vaccine is provided free of charge. We held our first mass vaccination clinic on January 20 at the Alliance Senior Center and continue to hold those clinics every Wednesday. The COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be very safe and effective and they are a critical component in stopping the pandemic and returning to normalcy.

Environmental Health



The Environmental Health Division works toward improving the health and well-being of our community through education, inspection programs, housing, demolition of condemned and blighted structures and mosquito control programs to name a few.

Our Sanitarians shifted much of their time assisting with our COVID-19 Response in areas such as public information, education, and logistics. We collaborated with our public health partners in Stark County on the Restart Stark website. This website provides updated COVID-19 information such as state health orders and sector specific operating guidelines along with a resource for the public to submit questions and file complaints. Our Sanitarians responded to a large volume of calls, complaints and conducted field inspections regarding COVID-19 issues.

We continue to collaborate with academic institutions through their internship programs to improve our environmental health programs and provide a public health hands on experience for the students. Students develop and implement protocols to enhance programs and services. We were funded by the Ohio EPA Mosquito Control Grant and a paid intern assisted us with our mosquito control activities this past year. Our mosquito control program reduces the numbers of mosquitoes to prevent the likelihood of mosquito borne diseases, which are ever present and constantly emerging. We continue to move our program to the use of NextGen green naturally derived products for the environment.

We also utilized an intern from Walsh University that assisted with our Food Service Safety Program and our customer satisfaction surveys.

Injury Prevention

We continued to work and partner with the Stark County Health Department on the Childhood Injury Prevention Grant. Our focus remained on the distribution of bike helmets with accompanying safety education and fitting and the use of the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Toolkit. A memorandum of understanding and letter of commitment were received from a new partner, the Salvation Army, for the distribution of bike helmets. Distribution was placed on hold until 2021 due to COVID-19. We gained a new partner in the Akron Children's Hospital Pediatrics (ACHP)-Alliance office for the initiation of the CPS Toolkit. A letter of intent was received from ACHP; however, initiation of the program was placed on hold until 2021. As the end of the bike helmet portion of the grant ends in 2020, it will be replaced with the Graduated Driver's License training.



Safety Town could not happen due to the pandemic. While we continue our partnership with the Alliance Area Pregnancy Center (AAPC), we were unable to provide any parent education sessions for the year 2020. They are currently using the CPS Toolkit, but use has been minimal as they did not see clients within their facility for most of 2020.

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2020

Vital Statistics

Total Deaths	436
Infant Deaths (less than 1 year)	1
Fetal Deaths	0
Certified Copies of Births Issued	1,868
Certified Copies of Deaths Issued	1,396
Burial/Cremation Permits	472

Immunization Clinic

Number of Clinics	135
Immunizations Administered	512

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic/HIV

Number of Clinics	46
Number of Visits	138

Influenza Clinic

Number of Clinics	26
Immunizations Administered	103

Tuberculin Skin Testing

Number of Skin Tests	28
Number of Tests read	26

WIC Program

Number of Clinics	185
Number of Visits	2,758

Home Visits

CMH Home/Office Visits	3
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Lead Program

Elevated Levels Reported	15
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Cribs for Kids

Crib Classes	5
Cribs Distributed	8

Reported Communicable Diseases

COVID-19	1,145
Chlamydia	121
Gonorrhea	44
Hepatitis C Chronic	44
Influenza	14
Hepatitis B	10
Hepatitis A	5
Varicella	5
E.coli 0157:H7	4
Cryptosporidia	3
Strep Pneumoniae	3
Legionella	2
Campylobacter	1
Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacter	1
HIV	1
Giardia	1
Hepatitis C Acute	1
Lyme Disease	1
Viral Meningitis	1

Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease	122
Dementia/Alzheimer's	61
Cancer	57
COVID-19	39
Pulmonary Disease	38
Cerebrovascular	24
Kidney Disease	15
Pneumonia/Influenza	14
Drug Overdose	13
Sepsis	12
Failure to Thrive	8
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage	7
Liver/Cirrhosis	6
Accidents/Falls	6
Parkinson's	4
Diabetes	4
Amyotrophic Later Sclerosis	3
Suicide	1
Smoke Inhalation	1
Marfan Syndrome	1

HIV Counseling And Testing

Although 2020 stalled some of our efforts in regards to HIV outreach and testing, the Alliance City Health Department (ACHD) continues to be a HIV testing site for the residents of Alliance, Stark County, and surrounding areas. ACHD tested 28 clients for HIV in 2020, which is lower than years past. ODH and ACHD continue to focus on a target population for testing which includes:

- Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Youth
- High-risk heterosexuals (HRHS)
- Injection drug users (IDUs)

ACHD's HIV program consist of testing, risk reduction counseling, and referrals to local organizations that can assist with addressing barriers such as health benefits navigation, mental/ behavioral health services, and social services. ACHD can also provide education about Prep (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) which is a daily pill that can help prevent HIV. Clients who are interested in Prep are referred to the Early Intervention Services Navigator, who is employed at Canton City Public Health. They will then assist clients with further education, linkage to a provider, and assistance with medical costs surrounding Prep.

If you are in need of testing or have questions, please call ACHD. You can also follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for information.



Alliance City Health Department

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Web Site:

www.cityofalliance.com/health

visit us on facebook

Alliance City Health Department 2020 Financial Report

2020 Income

Vital Statistics

Birth and
Death Certificates87,954.47

Nursing and Clinics

Get Vaccinated Grant..... 16,500.00

Medicaid
Reimbursement 4,144.56

Medicare
Reimbursement481.60

CMH Reimbursement 1,130.00

Private Insurance/
Client Fees 1,956.50

MAC Program..... 12,908.76

WIC Program 123,076.62

HIV Prevention 6,186.14

Injury Prevention 2,475.00

COVID-19 Response... 108,968.83

THRIVE Initiative..... 8,743.50

Reimbursements 320.44

Environmental Health

Food Licenses 42,774.48

Mosquito Control Grant.. 10,000.00

Plumbing Registration
and Permits..... 17,020.00

Swimming Pool Licenses ...2,775.00

Rabies Prevention/Fines 150.36

Tattoo Licenses750.00

Reimbursements 1,655.52

State Subsidy4,187.72

Total Income 454,159.50

2020 Expenditures

Administrative and
Vital Statistics 268,461.48

Public Health Nursing
Clinics/Grants 505,584.42

Environmental Health. 165,528.83

Total Expenditures939,574.73

Environmental Health Statistics for 2020

Licensing Programs

Food Service/
Retail Food Operations 149
Mobile Food Service.....9
Temporary Food Service 28
Vending Locations 13
Swimming Pools 17
Plumbing Contractors 35
Tattoo and Body Piercing
Establishments6

Food Protection Programs

Food Service/
Retail Food Inspections 245
Food Service/
Retail Consultations.....71
Mobile, Vending and
Temp. Inspections 12
Plan Reviews and Consultations..35

Nuisance Control Program

Number of Complaints..... 144
Number of Inspections 281
Number of Consultations 55

Rabies Control Program

Number of Bites
Exposures Reported 86
Number of Bites
Exposures Investigated..... 86
Specimens Tested for Rabies 7
Rabies Positive Animals 0
Post Exposure Rabies Treatment.. 0

School Program

Number of Inspections 17
Number of Consultations 4

Plumbing Program

Permits Issued 46
Number of Inspections 90

Housing Program

Number of Inspections 58
Number of Consultations 41
Demolitions 0

Swimming Pool Program

Number of Inspections 34
Number of Consultations 4

Mosquito Control

Larviciding treatments..... 35
Mosquito Sprays 2

Tattoo Program

Number of Inspections 11
Number of Consultations 6

Smoke Free Program

Number of Complaints..... 1
Number of Inspections 7

Injury Prevention (continued)

The Cribs for Kids program continued with an online option. Nine online classes were completed and a total of 10 cribs were distributed via home delivery with the accompanying sleep sack and fitted sheet pack. Any client inquiring about a crib was also offered a Newborn Home Visit (NBHV). We were able to complete a total of 5 NBHVs. Two of the "visits" were completed over the phone as home visits were put on hold. Other visits were completed with "no contact" meaning no physical contact of Mom or baby and the use of masks and social distancing. Some of the grant funds were reassigned allowing us to purchase diaper bags and baby care items (diapers, wipes, barrier cream and home safety kits) to distribute to NBHV recipients. Clients received the diaper bag of baby care items and referrals were provided for Tdap vaccination, Mommy and Me Tobacco Free, THRIVE and WIC. Clients were able to ask questions and stated the visit helped them feel less isolated.

WIC for Healthy Moms and Babies

Ohio WIC is a federally funded program through the USDA that provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental food benefits to at risk and income qualified infants, children until age 5, and women who are pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding. We pride ourselves on being a part of the bigger picture of health for our local families, and we are thankful they give us the opportunity to be a part of their story. In addition to nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental food benefits, we also provide countless health care referrals to programs throughout Stark County, including newborn home visits, safe sleep and car seat programs, and substance abuse programs to name a few. 2020 was an interesting year for the Alliance WIC program, as it was for everyone worldwide. We were fortunate to be able to continue serving our families in the community in a safe and efficient manner, and were able to maintain a caseload of around 700 participants monthly.



Women, Infants, and Children Program

With the need for our families to feel safe, the federal government granted WIC with waivers that have allowed our families to complete appointments over the phone instead of in office. This was a completely new process for us, and our families, as things are typically done in person so we are able to collect current height, weights, and irons for those on the program. With this waiver in place, our families didn't have to make the tough decision of bringing their children out during the pandemic, or not receiving their WIC benefits. We are thankful we've had the opportunity to keep everyone safe, and in doing so, we had to get creative. With the help of our management team, we were able to make a "drive up" window where we could service our WIC families. We have been able to complete

appointments on the phone with our families, and then they can either drive up or walk up to the designated WIC window at the health department to complete their EBT card loading. Our families have been patient with us during this learning process and we are eternally grateful. Our families have voiced their relief and gratefulness for this new socially distanced set up in such uncertain times. With families doing phone appointments, we have been working closely with local pediatricians to collect recent weights and heights for our families from their well check appointments, as well as keeping open communication to be sure nothing falls through the cracks. State WIC made some temporary and permanent changes to the WIC benefits this year, the temporary ones including an increase in the amount of money families get for fruits and vegetables as well as expanding the type of milk families were able to shop for. For the permanent changes, state WIC expanded their food list and added two new items: yogurt and cheese are now approved items for our families. To help make the WIC program easier to navigate, state WIC has also updated the WIC app for smart phones. Families can now enter their personalized WIC EBT card number and check their balance on the app, as well as scan items at the store to see if they have the balance for

Alliance City Board of Health

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it before getting to the register. In person or on the phone, our nutrition education continues to range from family to family, especially during the pandemic when jobs and financial stability are so uncertain for so many people, but we feel strongly that each family gains at least one helpful piece to implement with their family. Our goal through this year has been consistent with our goal in years past - to help get our services to our community in a way that will benefit them, not burden them. Whatever barriers people have such as work, school, and transportation, we do our best to work with our families.

Personnel

Randall M. Flint, RS, MPH <i>Health Commissioner/Environmental Director</i>		
Compton S. Girdharry, MD <i>Medical Director</i>	Melissa K. Jackson <i>Public Health Nursing Clerk</i>	Holly A. Kouskouris <i>Registrar-Vital Statistics</i>
Melissa L. Rudolph, BSN, RN <i>Nursing Director</i>	Emily M. Lynch, RD, LD <i>WIC Dietitian</i>	Kimberly R. Nelson <i>Clerk, Deputy Registrar</i>
Brittany N. Biller, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Elissa Powers <i>WIC Clinic Assistant</i>	Edward C. Bissler <i>Plumbing Inspector</i>
Emily E. Edwards, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Duane M. Oyster, RS, REHS <i>Sanitarian</i>	Leslie M. Shaffer, MPH <i>Accreditation Coordinator</i>
Marian Pillar, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	William R. Robinson, M.Ed., RS <i>Sanitarian</i>	