



HealthLine

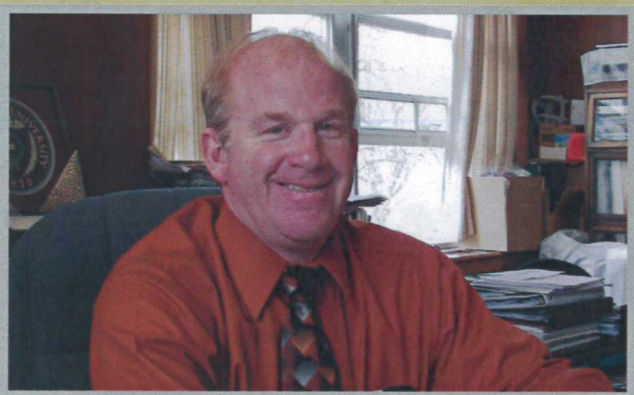
(A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department)

Message from the Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Holman, DVM, RS:

To better serve the residents of Darke County and to let the community know what the health department is doing, the Darke County Health Department has decided to bring its newsletter back.

The Health Department continues to strive to complete its mission of developing and maintaining an efficient and effective system which will provide for the highest quality of public health services and to promote and protect the Darke County Community's physical, mental, social, and environmental well being.

Please take a few moments to review our newsletter and learn of the important activities occurring at the Health Department.



Did you know?

- *The Darke County Health Department may now issue birth certificates for any one born in the State of Ohio. Previously, you had to go to the county you were born to get your certificate.*
- *Cost of certificate is \$23.00*
- *We are excited to provide this new service to our community.*

*The Health Department is now on Facebook & Twitter.
Please "Like us" to receive up to date messages.*

Free Tdap Clinic held at the Cow Palace

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, the Darke County Health Department held a FREE Tdap clinic for sixth grade students who would be entering the seventh grade next school year. Before students can enter the seventh grade this fall – they must receive the Tdap Immunization as required by the State of Ohio.

The Tdap vaccine covers immunity for both the tetanus & pertussis (also known as *Whooping Cough*) diseases. This new immunization requirement came about after much research proved that the human body needs one more pertussis booster during adolescent/young adult years. This decision was due to the fact that pertussis has shown to have made a come back in the recent years – in some cases proving to be a very fatal disease - thus the need for a required booster shot.

The clinic was held at the Darke County Fairgrounds as a drive-thru clinic at the *North Cow Palace*. The clinic was funded by a grant provided by the Ohio Department of Health; therefore, the vaccine was free on that day only at that location, and the Tdap vaccine was the only vaccine that was available at the site.

The clinic was very successful with 285 immunizations given. It was a great opportunity for parents to take advantage of this easy and inexpensive way of receiving the Tdap immunization.

The clinic also served as a bioterrorism exercise to better prepare the department in the event of a real emergency. It gave the department an opportunity to work with its partners. Special thanks to the Medical Reserve Core Volunteers (MRC), the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Red Cross, and the school nurses for their assistance with this clinic.



Registration at Tdap Clinic



Nurses station at Tdap Clinic

**Beat the summer rush!
Get your kindergarten shots early.**

Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays Only

**Hours: 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
and 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Clinics are walk-in with no appointments needed. Checks and Medicaid cards are accepted.

Recreational Water Illness & Injury Prevention Week

Enjoy the Water & Stay Healthy!

2012 National Recreational Water Illness & Injury Prevention Week is May 21-27, 2012. The goal of this observance is to raise awareness about healthy swimming behaviors, including ways to prevent recreational water illnesses. The 2012 themes are the use of health communication materials (videos, posters, fact sheets, etc.) to educate the public on how to prevent Recreational Water Illness and drowning prevention.

Elizabeth Farver, RS, MS, Pool Program Sanitarian at the Health Department will be distributing posters to many of the local pools to help get the message out to prevent recreational illnesses.

Recreational water illnesses are caused by germs spread by swallowing, breathing in mists or aerosols of, or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, water play areas, interactive fountains, lakes, rivers or oceans. Recreational water illnesses can also be caused by chemicals in the water or chemicals that evaporate from the water and cause indoor air quality problems.

The best way to prevent Recreational Water Illnesses is to keep germs out of the pool in the first place. More information about Recreational Water Illnesses can be found on the CDC's webpage or the Health Department's website www.darkecountyhealth.org.



Elizabeth Farver, RS, inspecting a swimming pool



Picture of Janel Hodges, RS, Food Program

Summer Food Safety Tips:

Janel Hodges, food program sanitarian would like to remind the community of the following food safety tips:

- When using a cooler, keep it out of the direct sun and place it in the shade or shelter.
- Avoid opening the lid too often, which lets cold air out and warm air in.
- Pack beverages in one cooler and perishables in a separate cooler.

Mapping in Harrison Township

In 2008, the Health Department successfully completed the inventory of septic tanks and wells for the Stillwater Watershed area as part of a 319 grant. We are now in the process of finishing the inventory for the remaining portions of Darke County not previously mapped. We would like to make residents aware that over the next several months, representatives from the Health Department will be in Harrison Township to GPS the locations of septic tanks and wells. An informational packet will be left at the home with educational materials about the homeowner's septic system and how to properly maintain it. If you have questions regarding the inventorying of septic systems and wells, please contact Sophie O'Connor, RS at 548-4196 ext. 208.



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