



HealthLine

(A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department)

Message from the Health Commissioner

Dr. Terry Holman, DVM, RS:

Alcohol Prepared at a Winery, Brewery, or Distillery Licensing Regulations

If alcoholic beverages manufactured by a winery, brewery, or distillery are being sold from the producer to be retailed by other facilities, the producer is wholesaling their product. When a facility wholesales their product, a license shall be obtained by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to complete this process. If alcoholic beverages at a winery, brewery, or distillery are being made and only sold for on-site consumption, the producer shall receive a food service operation license from their local Health Department. This is not a change in law, but rather a clarification from Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Health presented on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 that alcohol is a beverage and a beverage is food according to section 3717-1-01 (B) (42) of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code which states food:

“Means a raw, cooked, or edible substance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for use or for sale in whole or in part for human consumption or chewing gum.”

Existing wineries, breweries, and distilleries in Darke County without a license from either Ohio Department of Agriculture or The Darke County General Health District have been notified by the Darke County Health General Health District of this clarification. A facility may be licensed by both departments if they wholesale one product and only provide on-site consumption for another product. The Darke County General Health District will work with these existing facilities to help them receive the proper required licensing. If you have any questions, contact Megan Keller at the Darke County General Health District at 937-548-4196 x 206 Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm.



Accreditation

As we continue the lengthy process of accreditation, 2017 proved to be a productive year for DCGHD. With most of the larger, necessary documents completed, such as the Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan, staff have been meeting to gather required documentation for the twelve “domains” or topics that must be satisfied by PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) to achieve accreditation status. The first ten of the domains are related to the 10 essential services of public health.

Domains 11 and 12 require documentation of the management and administrative functions. A little more than half of all documentation has been collected. Once all documentation is approved by the Health Commissioner, it will be submitted to PHAB. This will happen spring of 2018.



We are looking for two energetic individuals with excellent communication skills who enjoy working outdoors. Both positions are in our Sewage Treatment Systems Operation and Maintenance Program. The positions require the individuals to maintain a valid driver's license and lift up to 50 lbs. Associate degree is preferred but not required! One position is full-time with benefits, a great opportunity for someone. The other is a summer/ intern position. Visit our website for more details at <http://darkecountyhealth.org/>

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



Laura Schwieterman, SIT

Staff Highlight: Laura Schwieterman

As some have told me, I have been blessed and received a promotion, as this summer I will sadly be departing the Health Department to stay home with our children. I have truly enjoyed everything I have been involved with such as the food program, child lead investigations, school inspections, and assisting with the operating and maintenance program. I will miss seeing all the individuals that I was regularly able to see while performing inspections and being able to better enrich their understanding of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code and other information. With that being said, I hope once the children are in school I can return to work in public health.

If you see Laura, say goodbye! She plans to leave us the end of May. We will miss her!

Tdap/ Menveo Clinic held March 24, 2018

On March 24th the Darke County General Health District held a Tdap and Menveo clinic offering no cost immunizations to kids entering 7th and 12th grades next school year. The clinic was quite successful. Twenty three percent of Darke County kids entering those particular grades took advantage of this opportunity to get their immunizations.

There were 298 kids vaccinated with a total of 465 vaccines. We would like to thank Spirit Medical Transport for allowing us to use their facility. We would also like to thank all of the parents and kids who came to the clinic for supporting their health department nursing staff with their goal of helping protect our community against vaccine preventable disease.

Regular Clinic Hours: Tuesdays

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

Clinics are walk-in with no appointments needed. Most insurance are accepted. Call 937-548-4196, extension 224, with questions or concerns.



Remember our Food Inspections are online!

The online list includes currently licensed facilities and the last two Standard Inspections reports. Previous inspection reports as well as reports for complaints, licensing, and consultations can be found by filling out a public record request at the Health Department. Sanitarians conduct routine inspections to help prevent foodborne illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year foodborne illness occurs in 1 out of 6 Americans (or about 48 million people) resulting in 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. Find the link off of our Food Service page at <http://darkecountyhealth.org/services/environmental-health/food-service/>.

The Darke County General Health District's Public Health Services 2017 Annual Report is ready to view at <http://darkecountyhealth.org/about/annual-report/>.

Protect yourself from ticks!

Do you know how to prevent yourself from tick bites? Some species of ticks may transmit diseases, which can result in mild to serious illness or death. Cases of Lyme disease have steadily increased in Ohio over the past four years.

Proper protection from ticks and prompt removal are crucial to preventing infection. Visit <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/zdp/animals/ticks.aspx> for more information!



Early Intervention

Positive early experiences are essential prerequisites for later success in school, the workplace, and the community. Services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including motor skills, language and communication, cognitive development, and social/emotional development. Families benefit from early intervention by being able to better meet their children's needs from an early age and throughout their lives.

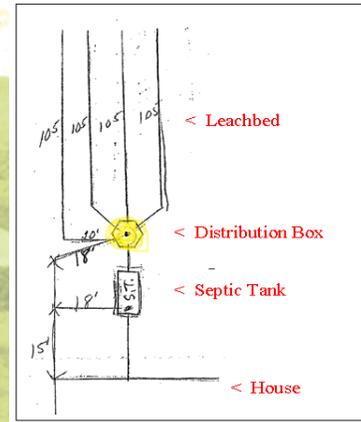
WHY INTERVENE EARLY?

Decades of rigorous research show that children's earliest experiences play a critical role in brain development. The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University has summarized this research:

- Neural circuits, which create the foundation for learning, behavior and health, are most flexible or "plastic" during the first three years of life. Over time, they become increasingly difficult to change.
- The brain is strengthened by positive early experiences, especially stable relationships with caring and responsive adults, safe and supportive environments, and appropriate nutrition.
- Early social/ emotional development and physical health provide the foundation upon which cognitive and language skills develop.
- High quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.
- Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later.

Early Intervention services are available through the collaborative efforts of the Darke County General Health District and the Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

If you have a child between the ages of zero and three, you are a Darke County resident, and you have concerns about your child's development call (937) 548-4196 ext. 224. Your child may qualify for FREE physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, or early intervention services.



Septic System Maintenance – Update

As most rural Darke County residences are aware, the Health Department has implemented an Operation and Maintenance (O/M) program for septic systems in the county. The Health Department is required to issue an operating permit and make sure every system is maintained properly and not creating a nuisance per Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29-09 (I).

For all types of systems, part of septic system maintenance is to have risers on the inlet and outlet sides of your tank. This allows the health department or service provider to monitor the condition of the tank, condition of the baffles, and water levels.

For all leachbed and sandfilter systems after the tank, there is a distribution box and/or a splitter box present to disperse the sewage to several different lines. The Health Department needs to evaluate the condition and water levels inside all distribution/ splitter boxes to ensure the system is working properly. All distribution and splitter boxes are now required to have risers on them, no matter the age or type of system.

Above is an example leachbed diagram. Highlighted is the locations of the distribution box in relation to the tank, house, and leachbed.

For more information on the requirement of distribution boxes, the O/M program, or our sewage grant money that is still available, please contact Sophie Hurley, RS at the Health Department: 937-548-4196 ext. 208.

Have you taken our customer satisfaction survey yet?

Visit <http://darkecountyhealth.org/customer-satisfaction-surveys/> or stop by the office to submit one of your own! This quarter, 98% of the surveys submitted were satisfactory for Overall Experience with Service. Thanks to everyone who took the time to let us know how we are doing!

