



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2006 Annual Report

Smokefree Workplace Act

TAKES EFFECT



On November 7th, voters approved passage of Issue 5 to prohibit smoking in most public places, including bars and restaurants. Despite challenges by opponents, the law went into effect December 7 and remains in effect. The Smoke Free Workplace Act covers all enclosed public places and workplaces. Generally, the law does not apply to homes, cars, or outdoor areas.

Businesses are expected to comply with the law requiring business owners:

- To post the appropriate sign on all entrances
- To remove all ashtrays in the facility
- To prohibit employees and patrons from smoking inside the building

On June 27, 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General's Office released a report stating the serious health hazards of breathing the toxic chemicals in secondhand smoke and confirming that smoking should be eliminated in indoor spaces. With at least 43 known carcinogens, environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is a serious public health threat. Ohio's smokefree workplace

act is a monumental step toward improving the health of all Ohioans.

In the U.S., 16 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico have passed smoke-free laws that include restaurants and bars. There are over 400 U.S. cities with similar laws. Free signs are available at the Stark County Health Department. More information about the law can be obtained at www.odh.ohio.gov or at www.starkhealth.org.

Food Inspection Reports

Now Available On Health Department's Website

The department recognizes that the sharing of information is vital to the community's need and enhancement. Our mission is to protect the health of all foodservice patrons in Stark County as well as those visitors to our area. The Internet offers an opportunity to share information, which may assist the general public in being a better-informed consumer. In order to accomplish our mission, Stark County Health Department's Food Inspection Reports can now be viewed on line. Go to www.starkhealth.org to view reports. Once on the main page go to Programs, then Food Safety, then Food Inspections and a page will come up titled: "View Food Inspection Reports On The Web", this page contains information about the inspection process and some key highlights the general public should be aware of before viewing the reports. At the bottom of the page, the viewer is directed to click "Here" to search Stark County food operation reports. Once the viewer is on the Search Engine page, they are given directions on how to conduct a search for the reports and how to access the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code.

The on-line inspection reports are current since March 2006. While all operations are up to date on their inspections, some reports may not be currently available on-line. Our database is updated on a regular basis, so the public is welcome to check back or contact our office to receive a copy of a food operation's latest inspection report.

Please contact the Food Protection Unit with any suggestions that you may have to enhance the search engine.

Tuberculosis in JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

For the first time in over a decade a child in Stark County has been confirmed to have Tuberculosis (TB) disease. Tuberculosis was confirmed in a Jackson Middle School student. Telephone conversations and meetings took place between health officials and school officials to discuss tuberculosis exposure risks. An informational meeting was given to Jackson Middle School staff and informational packets and forms for parents were sent home. A hotline and a parent information night were also held. Nurses from local health departments administered approximately 1,400 tuberculin skin tests to students and staff of the Jackson Middle School community. The skin tests were done at contact diagnosis and three months after exposure.

Questionable tuberculin skin tests reactions were seen by Stark County Health Department nurses to trace out risk factors and exposure. Eleven children returned with positive tuberculin skin tests and were sent for chest x-rays, referred to physicians, and are being evaluated for preventive treatment.



Health Commissioner's Comments

SmokeFreeOhio

Protecting every Ohioan's
right to breathe clean air



Thank you!



William J. Franks, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

Last year at this time we had asked for your support for a statewide ballot issue called "Smoke Free Ohio". We told you that it was about time our voters passed this issue and you did on November 7th. Ohio can now welcome an entirely new generation of residents that will grow up breathing clean, smoke free air. This may be viewed as one of the most important public health events in our lifetime and we as a community made it happen. Congratulations!

Smoke Free Ohio was so monumental that I could stop there. However, there were many other events of 2006 that could significantly impact public health in Stark County. One of those is the continued preparation and planning for an outbreak of a worldwide bird flu pandemic. It is possible that over 100,000 Stark County residents might come

down with the bird flu if it reached epidemic proportions. This would stretch our public health, healthcare, public safety, and political system far beyond its capacity. The four Health Departments in Stark County along with our public health partners have been working diligently on a response plan to a worldwide flu outbreak. We feel that we are so much better prepared than we were five years ago, but still have a long way to go. But we are close. We are close to dealing with such a monumental event in a manner that can limit human suffering and death.

As the economy of our County is affected by plant closings, job losses, and loss of insurance coverage, the public portion of the healthcare system has never been in such demand by our citizens. Public Health Department clinics in Stark County for WIC, Dental Health, Prenatal, Women's Health, Well Child, Immunizations, lead, and sexually transmitted diseases have never been so saturated. Stark County is proud to be a county of much citizen involvement. I am sure that all of the those entities, both public and private, that constitute our public health system will band together to assure that our residents have access to basic primary healthcare services.

Division Directors



Emily S. Caniford, RN, MSN
Director of Administration & Support Services



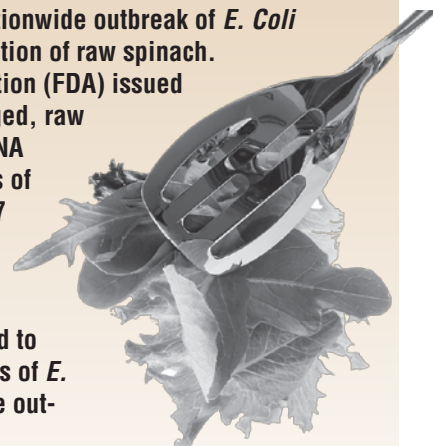
Kirk K. Norris, RS, MPH
Director of Environmental Health



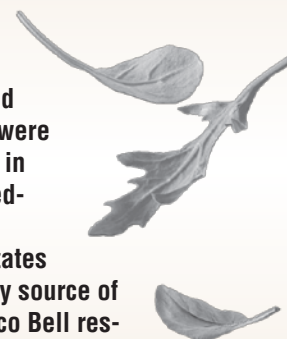
Lynn M. McCoy, RN, MS
Director of Nursing

E.Coli 0157:H7 OUTBREAKS

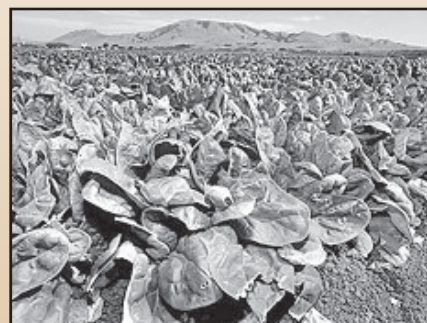
In mid-September the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a nationwide outbreak of *E. Coli* 0157:H7 linked to the consumption of raw spinach. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a recall of most brands of bagged, raw spinach. Using a molecular DNA sequencing technique, isolates of recent and new *E. Coli* 0157:H7 cases were tested to see if they matched the outbreak strain. Nationwide there were a total of 192 cases linked to the outbreak. In Ohio, 25 cases of *E. Coli* 0157:H7 were linked to the outbreak, none in Stark County.



In early December 2006, an *E. Coli* 0157:H7 outbreak was linked to Taco Bell restaurants in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. A total of 71 ill persons were associated with this outbreak, none in Ohio. Based on food histories, shredded lettuce consumed at Taco Bell restaurants in these Northeastern states appears to have been the most likely source of this outbreak. Because multiple Taco Bell restaurants in multiple states were associated with this outbreak, contamination is most likely to have occurred before the lettuce reached the restaurants.



Also in December 2006, Taco John's restaurants in Iowa and Minnesota were linked to a separate *E. Coli* 0157:H7 outbreak involving approximately 81 people. Preliminary evidence indicated that shredded lettuce was the most likely vehicle of transmission. In January 2007 the FDA announced that 2 environmental samples from dairy farms near a lettuce growing area in California had tested positive for the same DNA matched strain of *E. Coli* 0157:H7 that had sickened the restaurant patrons. The FDA is still investigating how the contamination of the lettuce occurred. This outbreak was not linked to the Taco Bell outbreak that was occurring simultaneously.



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Word of Mouth (WOM) – Tobacco Prevention

The Stark County Health Department is working to reduce tobacco use among the youth within the county. Through a grant from the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation, a health educator is working to increase the knowledge of youth on tobacco through Word Of Mouth (WOM), a research based tobacco prevention program.

WOM was created by the American Lung Association and the Cleveland Clinic Health System. The WOM curriculum follows the Guidelines for School Health Programs to Prevent Tobacco Use and Addiction established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Specifically, the program is designed to build refusal, communication, decision-making, and goal-setting skills, as well as, to provide students with an understanding of the consequences of tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Almost 90% of all adult smokers first become regular smokers before the age of 18. For this reason, WOM starts in the fourth grade and builds from grade to grade. The object is to reinforce social skills before and during the time when students are most likely to decide whether to use tobacco.

All Local Superintendents within Stark County have been notified about this program and staff from the Stark County Health Department and Community Drop-In Center will be implementing the program to the students at the interested schools.

WOM is being implemented in the following schools: Allen, Beach City, Compton, E. Canton Middle, Fairmont, Louisville, Navarre, St Joan of Arc and Sauder. We have reached approximately 900 students throughout the county and more schools within the county are continuing to schedule the WOM program.

Leading Causes of Death 2006

	Stark
Cardiovascular	403
Cancer	384
Cerebrovascular Disease	196
Pulmonary	190
Infectious	57
Renal Disorder	56
Trauma	41
Metabolic	28
Suicide	15
All Other Causes	31
TOTAL	1,401

PHASE II Storm Water

Due to an EPA mandate under the Clean Water Act called Phase II Storm water, communities within the “urbanized area” of the County, have contracted services with the Board of Health to conduct an “illicit discharge, detection, and elimination program”. The program is designed to monitor, detect, and remove pollution from the storm sewer systems.

OUR PROGRAM INVOLVES:

- **Creating a database for all sewage system records in the urbanized area, especially those discharging into the storm sewer.**
- **Screening and inspection of storm sewer systems.**
- **Locating Problem Areas. (This includes failing septic systems, but also includes illegal residential or industrial discharges, such as used motor oil or paint).**
- **Determine the Source.**
- **Remove/Correct Illicit Connections, using enforcement and community based solutions when necessary.**
- **Document actions taken and report to the Ohio EPA.**

The Phase II employees have visited outfall sites for dry flow screening in the urbanized areas of Stark County, North Canton, East Canton, Navarre Village, Louisville, Hartville, and Tuscarawas, Canton, Plain, Jackson, Lake, Perry, Lawrence, and Nimishillen Townships. During 2006, 1,714 outfalls were inspected and screened. Also, 34% of the sewage treatment system records in the urbanized area have been entered into a database. Data entry has been ongoing for approximately six months. The department is on track to complete the remaining 66% by the EPA’s deadline of 2008.



Food Defense Workshop a Success

September 11, 2001 has altered the way we live and brought new challenges from National Security to Food and Water protection. Food Defense is now a significant topic that requires a new focus to produce a safe and wholesome product for the consumer. In an effort to educate and prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from non-routine emergencies resulting from intentional contamination affecting food products, The Food Protection Program hosted a Food Defense Workshop at Walsh University’s Conference Center on April 11, 2006 for all food operators in Stark County.

SPEAKERS FOR THE WORKSHOP INCLUDED:

- **Agent Bryan K. Seamour from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who spoke on Food and Agriculture Terrorism**
- **Professor Jeffery T. LeJeune, D.V.M., PhD from The Ohio State University, discussing Agroterrorism**
- **Beth Ransopher, R.S. of the Columbus City Health Department informing on Food Security Planning for Food Operators**

A panel discussion followed that included members from the Stark County Health Department, The Ohio State University, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Columbus City Health Department, Ohio Department of Health, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The food industry has faced many challenges in its history and has succeeded in adapting to a changing environment. Food defense is another of these many challenges that the industry will rise to meet the demands of the post 9/11 world. Together, government and industry will help to minimize the threat of terrorism to our food products and provide a safe product for the consumer.



foodprotectioneducation

Influenza Pandemic

The department has been active with planning for a possible influenza pandemic. Several staff sub-committees are addressing planning issues and a draft of a Pandemic Flu Plan has been completed. The department is collaborating with several other agencies to assure an understanding of each others roles and responsibilities in the event of a pandemic. Hospitals are working to address their Surge Capacity Plans and schools and businesses are receiving guidance from the department in developing their pandemic plans. Educating the public about respiratory etiquette and community containment is essential in these initial planning phases. Some of the pandemic funding will be used to develop educational materials for the schools and to begin purchasing personal protective equipment for the health department staff.

CO-BEDDING?

During the year 2006 the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board analyzed the deaths of all children birth through seventeen years of age that occurred during 2005. In the process of this review it became overwhelmingly apparent that our community continues to need education about the proper sleep environment of infants. In 2005, there were sixty deaths to children birth through 17 years of age; eight of those deaths were sleep related. Sleep related deaths include deaths from causes such as: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asphyxia in a sofa, pillow, or other soft object, or co-sleeping asphyxia (when a child is sleeping with another individual who rolls onto them during sleep accidentally suffocating them). In 2005 there were 3 SIDS (of which one was in bed with an adult), 4 co-sleeping asphyxia’s, and 1 asphyxia in a sofa and pillow. This is an increase from 2004’s 4 SIDS and 2 accidental co-sleeping suffocations.



Currently, there is no known way to prevent SIDS; however, limiting the number of risk factors for SIDS may decrease the chance of a child dying. Providing a safe sleep environment is one of the most important steps to preventing SIDS, and sleep related asphyxia. At least six of these eight sleep related deaths may have been prevented if only the safest sleep environment had been utilized.

During 2007, the Stark County Health Department intends to initiate a coalition of partners in the community to address the infant sleeping safety issue. It is the Stark County Health Departments goal that this will involve educational campaigns to stop parents from putting infants to bed with them or in any other dangerous location such as a sofa or pillow, as well as to help develop a program in the county such as Cribs for Kids that will provide safe baby cribs to needy families.

2006 Reportable Infectious Disease Summary

DISEASE	2006	DISEASE	2006
Amebiasis	0	Lyme Disease	1
Campylobacteriosis	31	Malaria	0
Chlamydia	305	Meningitis-Aseptic	19
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	Meningitis-Bacterial	1
Cryptosporidiosis	11	Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)	1
Cytomegalovirus - congenital	1	Mycobacterium other than TB (MOTT)	8
Dengue Fever	1	Meningococcal Disease	0
E. coli-Unspecified subtype	1	Mumps	1
E. coli O157:H7	6	Pertussis	8
Encephalitis - Primary Viral	1	Q Fever	0
Encephalitis - LaCrosse	0	Salmonellosis	25
Encephalitis - Post Other Infection	0	Shigellosis	2
Giardiasis	25	Streptococcal-Invasive Group A	4
Gonorrhea	92	Streptococcal-Invasive Group B	1
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	2	Streptococcal-Invasive Other	0
Hepatitis A	3	Streptococcal-Invasive Pneumoniae	30
Hepatitis B - Chronic	19	Streptococcal-Toxic Shock	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	5	Syphilis	14
Hepatitis C - Chronic	114	Typhoid Fever	1
Hepatitis C - Acute	3	Varicella	181
Kawasaki	1	Vibriosis	0
Legionella	7	West Nile Virus	2
Listeriosis	2		

**This report includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/06 - 12/31/06.*

Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2006 (unaudited)

SOURCE OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	408,817
Fees for Services	389,626
Inspection Fees	52,883
Vital Statistics	142,232
Permits	1,133,205
Late Charges	4,614
State Subsidy	73,782
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,228,984
Welcome Home Grant	9,638
Public Health Infrastructure	131,137
CFHS State Grant	484,390
Immunization Grant	36,224
WIC Grant	272,742
Dental Grant	53,501
Bethlehem Project Grant	18,000
Austin Bailey Grant	50,000
Tobacco Foundation Grant	203,531
Women's Health Initiative	42,777
Injury Prevention Grant	32,246
Construction & Demolition	807,968
Other Receipts	66,414
Reimbursements	-
Carryover from 2005	277,344

TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE 5,920,055

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	2,767,123
Insurance	328,974
Medicare	39,179
PERS	509,819
Workers Compensation	41,117
Unemployment	3,597
Supplies	170,566
Utilities	13,033
Contracts & Purchased Services	575,654
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	35,756
Rent	270,740
Equipment	51,428
Other Expenses	5,012
State Remittances	798,715
Travel	84,295
Refunds	16,458

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 5,711,466

Countywide RDF Update

Beginning early in 2006, Countywide Landfill in Pike Twp. experienced excessive odors coming from a portion of their 88 acres. The odors were so offensive throughout the summer that hundreds of complaints were filed with the air pollution agency by upset citizens. The odors were found to be caused from liquid leachate being recirculated over a waste product, aluminum dross, which had been disposed of in the landfill.

On September 6, 2006, the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issued Findings and Orders for Countywide to abate the odor nuisance. The Findings and Orders set forth a timetable to complete specific measures, and gave the facility until December 15, 2006, to completely abate the odor nuisance.

On December 29, 2006, the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency recommended that the Stark County Health Department postpone the issuance of Countywide's 2007 operating license. In accordance with the Director's recommendation Countywide RDF Landfill may continue operations as defined in Ohio Administrative Code 3745-27 under the current 2006 operating license. The 2006 operating license will be honored until such time as the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has determined compliance status regarding the Finding's & Order's issued on September 6, 2006.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections

Staphylococcus aureus (staph) bacteria are commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Staph bacteria can also cause many of the most common types of skin infections, including pimples and boils. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph that is resistant to certain types of antibiotics, but can still be successfully treated. MRSA infection has most often been associated with hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Recently, an increasing number of cases have been reported across the country in otherwise healthy individuals who have not been recently hospitalized. Outbreaks have been reported on a number of sports teams, including a local high school football team in the fall of 2006. A total of 6 student athletes were affected by this outbreak, 2 of which were confirmed to have MRSA infections. One case was hospitalized and required surgery to drain and clean his wound. Control measures were taken by the school, including appropriate exclusion of players from practice and games and sanitizing all equipment and locker rooms daily. The school district also sent an informational letter home to the parents of all students in the district. In response to this outbreak, a packet of information about MRSA was prepared and distributed to school nurses throughout Stark County for use in educating trainers, coaches, and athletes. An educational event targeting school nurses and coaches is planned for Spring 2007 to increase awareness about MRSA.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Stark County Health Department has been approved to be the lead coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). MRC units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year. These volunteers may be utilized by various agencies throughout the county such as other health departments, hospitals, emergency management, and others.

The mission of the MRC is to establish, maintain, educate and update a task force of competent medical volunteers. This countywide group will be prepared to provide immediate ongoing assistance in all areas of emergency situations. We anticipate uniting the existing public health resources with our volunteer base to provide creative situations for all of the county's needs. The goal is to foster professionalism and apply it to the knowledge that is already available.

To date the Stark County Health Department has contacted a group of community members who have signified their willingness to assist in emergency situations. Once these volunteers are registered in the MRC unit, volunteer training will be initiated. The next phase of recruiting will consist of all individuals who are willing to be volunteers, both medical and non-medical professionals.

STARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



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**ROW 1: Philip Francis, James Recchio-President,
Michael D. Krebs-Vice President, Lori Mertes, M.D.**

ROW 2: Connie Holmes, Karen Hiltbrand, Blair Zimmerman, Cary Feller

