



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2009 Annual Report



H1N1 Campaign

April of 2009, in Southern California two children were the first detected cases of “swine” H1N1 flu in the U.S. The same month, there was a case diagnosed in Ohio, but it wasn’t until June of 2009 that Stark County had its first case. June 11, 2009 was the day the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic level to phase 6 indicating a global pandemic was underway. Influenza activity continued throughout the summer and fall peaking in October. The above normal threshold for the season continued into mid-November before it began to decline.

Vaccination and education are the most effective ways of preventing the spread of influenza in a community. One way of getting the vaccine out to the public was through private physician’s offices. The health department was responsible to communicate, inspect and approve private physician offices that wanted to be able to use the vaccine for their patients. The health department inspected 54 offices and communicated with 13 more that would be eligible to receive the vaccine.

After months of planning and the arrival of the first shipment of H1N1 vaccine in October, the Stark County Health Department began to address vaccination efforts for each targeted population. The first vaccination clinics were set up for first responders and healthcare workers. This was rapidly followed by a successful school based clinic campaign. Following the completion of the school campaign, community clinics were held throughout the county. Vaccination moved from only tier one people to being available for anyone who wanted it on December 14, 2009. By December’s end over 55 clinics had been held resulting in the vaccination of over 18,489 people. The success was the result of many groups of people working together for the benefit of those living inside the Stark County community. This campaign brought together many volunteers through the county Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) as well as many different professions working together.

VOLUNTEERS CALLED TO ACTION



The H1N1 public health response required Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. As vaccine became available, volunteers were requested with relatively short notice to assist with over 40 clinics throughout Stark County. By the year’s end, 35 volunteers logged over 240 hours dedicated to this response alone.

Volunteers included: medical professionals administering vaccine, non-medical volunteers assisting with scribing, traffic flow and data entry. The MRC response contributed to the successful vaccination campaign as over 30,000 vaccinations were given throughout the county.

Aside from the H1N1 response, volunteers gave over 100 hours toward exercises, drills and trainings with emergency response partners throughout the year. Those included: the full scale airport exercise, a mock chemical spill in Canton Township, a Volunteer Reception Center training and drill and various office tasks. 2010 will focus on training volunteers and community partnerships.



Swine Flu website

STARTED FOR
STARK COUNTY

The Stark County Health Department along with, Alliance City, Canton City and Massillon City Health Departments, collaborated to create a countywide H1N1 flu website: www.starkflu.org. The countywide collaboration was implemented and developed to provide easy access to the most up-to-date and accurate information on H1N1 Influenza.

The countywide website offers the public easy to navigate information on the new virus, tips for staying healthy, weekly flu updates and media releases. The website also provides links to all of the Health Departments, Hospitals and Schools within Stark County, as well as, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The links make it easier for individuals to find specific pages on H1N1 information on the other sites.

Stark County community members, businesses and organizations have access to downloadable and printable brochures, fact sheets and posters. The website also features a calendar which gives the public all the information needed, regarding when and where the flu vaccination clinics will be held.

The website has been well utilized by the public and has been an effective method to keep everyone updated on the H1N1 flu pandemic.



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- **242,000**, total population served by the health jurisdiction
- **10th**, Stark County Health Departments ranking of the largest health districts in Ohio
- **\$1,653,216**, total amount of grant awards received
- **18,489**, total number of H1N1 Vaccines administered
- **1,640**, total number of food program licenses issued
- **250**, total number of Countywide odor complaints (compared to 1566 in 2006, 770 in 2007 and 590 in 2008)
- **933**, total number of infectious diseases reported
- **76 percent**, the proportion of child safety seats inspected that were improperly installed
- **131**, total number of smoking complaints received (27% decrease from 2008)
- **6,301**, total number of death certificates issued
- **58**, total number of worksites enrolled in Live Well Worksite Wellness Program
- **10,131**, total number of Environmental Health inspections
- **18**, total number of restaurants in nutritional dining guide
- **21.5 percent**, proportion of smokers in Stark county (2008 Collaborative Polls: Stark County)
- **5,516** total number of visits to the dental clinic
- **26 percent**, the proportion of school children vaccinated against H1N1
- **18,876**, total number of Environmental Health consultations
- **5,463**, total number of immunizations administered
- **770**, total number of registered MRC volunteers
- **1,020**, total number of birth certificates issued



William J. Franks, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

Note from the Health Commissioner

On October 19, 2009 we lost a good friend, supporter, and our medical director Dr. Grant Mason. Dr. Mason had been the Stark County Health Department's medical director for 28 years. During his tenure, Dr. Mason was a major player in the development of the first well child clinic, the prenatal clinic, the women's health clinic, the distribution of many of the new adult and childhood immunizations, and the establishment of the department's maternal and child health center.

Dr. Mason provided leadership to the health department staff during the meningitis outbreak, the cider contamination episode, the plain township water well contamination scare, many tuberculosis incidents, and other communicable disease outbreaks. After his retirement Dr. Mason lead an effort to get Stark County physicians to volunteer and organize for the purpose of medical care during emergency situations. This effort eventually became Stark County's Medical Reserve Corps, which is now one of the largest in the state and brings all disciplines into the volunteer effort. The Medical Reserve Corps was most instrumental this past year in helping to distribute the H1N1 vaccine to county residents.



Dr. Mason

Previous to his appointment as medical director, Dr. Mason served a five year term on the Stark County Board of Health and also as the president. Altogether, Dr Mason served 33 years providing guidance and protection to the public's health in Stark County.

Let this tribute be a lasting memory to Dr. Mason for his dedication and support for our health.

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

H1N1 & Schools

Health Departments and School Districts have education as a common goal. Both entities use education to build a healthy and productive community. The Stark County Health District encompasses 13 school districts which include approximately 80 buildings and almost 35,000 students. The superintendents of the Stark County schools districts were invited to discuss the possibility of school based clinics at meetings that were held on September 3 and September 9, 2009. Discussions, questions, and agreements resulted in every school district voluntarily opening up to vaccinate the students whose parents gave signed permission. High school and middle school students (62% of the student population) were vaccinated during the regular school hours. Elementary students were vaccinated during the evening when parents could be present. The elementary clinics also addressed those family members that qualified for tier one of the vaccine priority. The school campaign began on November 3 with Fairless and Tuslaw High Schools and ended on November 21, 2009 with North Canton and Plain Local's elementary school clinics. There are approximately 24,924 middle and high school students that were offered this vaccine during the school day. Approximately 26% or 6,721 received the vaccine at school. The evening clinics for elementary students and their families that fit the first tier criteria added approximately 6,796 more students and families to the fast growing list of those vaccinated. In total, 13,517 people were vaccinated at the school based clinics in the General Health District.



SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REACHED

with Countywide RDF

The Stark County Health Department entered into a Settlement Agreement with Republic Services of Ohio on September 30, 2009. The agreement was in regards to an underground fire that had been occurring at the Countywide RDF facility since 2005. It is estimated that Countywide legally accepted about 600,000 tons of aluminum-process waste between 1993 and 2001. The majority of this material is described as “dross” or “salt cake,” a by-product of the melting of aluminum with a salt product. When the aluminum dross was mixed with water-based liquids, it resulted in a reaction that generated excessive heat and caused noxious odors throughout the community.



Workers unroll heavy plastic liner on the Cell 5 side slope, ultimately connecting the ‘panels’ both to each other and the bottom liner covering the soil berm. The rows of black strips on top of the soil (left side) are ‘geonet’ plastic barriers placed to protect sub-cap gas and leachate collectors.

isolated cell 7 in the expansion area, which has not been affected by the reaction, from cells 1 through 6 located in the original 88 acre footprint, where the reaction is taking place. This V-shaped trench physically separated the facility into two units.

The Stark County Health Department also entered into an agreement with the Ohio EPA which limits the health department’s inspection and monitoring responsibilities to the new expansion area. The Ohio EPA agreed to inspect and oversee compliance of the original 88 acre footprint in which the reaction is contained.

The Settlement Agreement focused on four main issues that the health department wanted the facility to agree on before issuance of the 2009 and 2010 operating licenses. These issues were as follows: the separation of the original 88 acre facility from the new expansion area; maintain financial assurance on the 88 acre area until the entire facility has been closed for thirty years; reimburse the board of health for cost incurred and cost that will be incurred in future odor monitoring inspections; and remain in compliance with all Ohio EPA and US EPA orders.

In order to bifurcate the facility, Republic had to remove approximately 400,000 cubic yards of previously buried garbage and dig a V-shaped trench, called an isolation break, between landfill cells 5 and 7. The project



Workers start excavation of the 400,000 cubic yards of buried garbage between the expansion area and the original 88 acre footprint per the Settlement Agreement.



Isolation Break completed the bifurcation of the new expansion area from the existing 88 acre footprint. Left side of picture is the seeded northern expansion portion of the landfill. Right side of picture is the temporary capped existing 88 acres.

Leading Causes of Death

2009

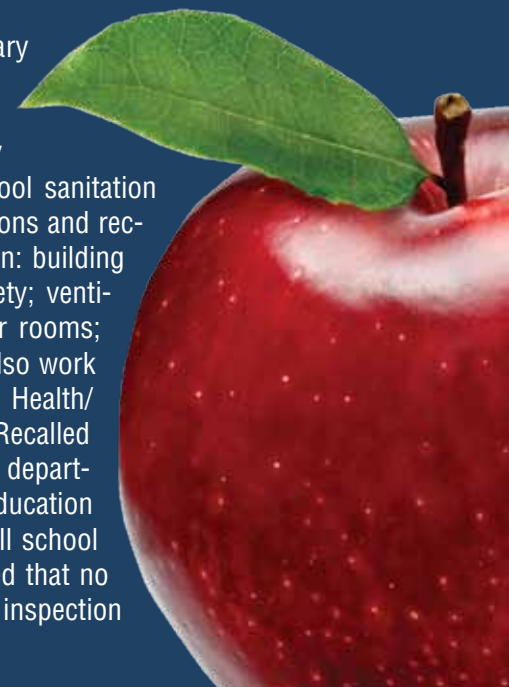
Cancer	398
Diseases of the Heart	325
Alzheimer’s Disease	160
Chronic Lower Respiratory	105
Cerebrovascular Disease	85
Influenza and Pneumonia	71
Diseases of the Kidney	49
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	32
Septicemia	30
Suicide	18
Diabetes Mellitus	6
Other	103
TOTAL	1,382

OHIO REPEALS SCHOOL INSPECTION PROGRAM

In 2009, the Budget Bill (House Bill 1) signed by Governor Strickland repealed the school inspection program, otherwise known as Jarod’s Law. House Bill 1 repealed Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Sections 3701.93 through 3701.936, amended ORC 4736.01 removing enforcement of Jarod’s Law from the definition of Environmental Health practice, and amended language in ORC 3707.26 returning it to its previous language that existed prior to Jarod’s Law. The practical effect of these statutory changes are that the language authorizing Jarod’s Law is repealed, and that statutory language is returned to its original format before Jarod’s Law was enacted, as described in the following code section:

ORC 3707.26 *Board of Health shall inspect schools...semiannually and more often if in its judgment necessary, the board of health...shall inspect sanitary condition of all schools and school buildings within its jurisdiction...*

This means that local health districts are to conduct sanitary school inspections semi-annually or twice per year and there are no rules or standards to which these inspections must adhere. Since there are no rules or standards, the Stark County Health Department will focus our school inspections on school sanitation and protecting public health. The health department’s inspections and recommendations will be based on the following areas of concern: building structure; sanitary conditions of classrooms; playground safety; ventilation systems; sanitation and safety of restrooms and locker rooms; garbage handling; and safe drinking water supplies. We will also work very closely with the schools to maintain and update certain Health/Safety Policies. Among a few of these are the Dangerous and Recalled Products, Chemical Hygiene, and Hand Washing Policies. The department will continue to work with the Stark County Board of Education and provide detailed trainings on our inspection process for all school personnel involved, in February 2010. Also, ODH has reported that no funding or resources have been allocated to support the school inspection program at this time.



Reportable Infectious Disease Summary-Jan.-Dec. 2009

DISEASE	2009	2008	DISEASE	2009	2008
Campylobacteriosis	39	41	Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	12	10
Chlamydia	370	288	Listeriosis	2	3
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2	3	Lyme Disease	3	3
Cryptosporidiosis	11	15	Malaria	3	0
E. coli O157:H7	4	0	Meningitis-Aseptic	15	20
E. coli-Not O157:H7	1	0	Meningitis-Bacterial	2	2
E. coli-unknown serotype	2	1	Meningococcal Disease	1	1
Giardiasis	39	24	Mycobacterial Disease-		
Gonorrhea	76	81	other than tuberculosis (MOTT)	10	12
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	4	6	Pertussis	27	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	Salmonellosis	32	28
Hepatitis B - Chronic	21	17	Shigellosis	13	81
Hepatitis B - Acute	2	1	Streptococcal-Invasive Group A	5	8
Hepatitis C - Chronic	77	89	Streptococcal-Invasive Pneumoniae	26	38
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	2	Streptococcal -Group B in newborn	3	2
Influenza-associated Hospitalizations	83	N/A	Varicella	47	38

Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2009 (unaudited)

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	420,873
Fees for Services	647,139
C&D User Fees	498,978
Inspection Fees	108,298
Vital Statistics	144,141
Permits	1,127,114
Late Charges	22,070
State Subsidy	70,312
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,369,148
Newborn Home Visits	32,727
Public Health Infrastructure	287,991
CFHS State Grant	387,666
Immunization Grant	34,582
WIC Grant	384,117
Dental Grant	72,229
Austin Bailey Grant	15,000
SIDS Grant	2,500
Tobacco Funding	76,266
Women's Health Initiative	29,575
Injury Prevention Grant	45,345
Obesity Grant	50,000
Citizen's Corps Funding	3,739
Sisters of Charity Funding	11,669
NACCHO Funding	5,000
Other Receipts	158,428
Reimbursements	4,957
Carryover from 2008	159,097

TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE 6,168,961

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	3,101,839
Insurance	407,624
Medicare	44,172
PERS	564,070
Workers Compensation	53,240
Unemployment	0
Supplies	139,811
Utilities	20,561
Contracts & Purchased Services	333,086
Phones & Communications	37,693
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	22,791
Rent	318,220
Equipment	17,017
Other Expenses	2,707
State Remittances	687,446
Travel	95,364
Refunds	6,745
Encumbrances Carried Over To 2010	93,870

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 5,946,256

WHOOPIING COUGH CASES ON THE RISE

In 2008 a total of 3 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) were diagnosed throughout all of Stark County. The number of cases diagnosed in 2009 increased dramatically to 47 across all 4 health jurisdictions. Cases ranged in age from 1 month to 70 years, with an average age of 9.5 years. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness that goes through several phases. Symptoms start out similar to those of a common cold, then a worsening cough develops. The cough is sometimes accompanied by a high-pitched whoop (19 of 47 cases, 40.4%). Many cases report coughing fits (40 of 47, 85.1%) or coughing so hard that they vomited (25 of 47, 53.2%). Because pertussis can begin as a relatively mild illness, it is often misdiagnosed in the early stages, when it is most contagious. On average, cases had been coughing for 23 days before they were contacted by the health department. Cases and close contacts of cases are given an antibiotic to help reduce the spread of illness.

Vaccines are available to help protect both children and adults against pertussis. Pertussis-containing vaccines are estimated to be between 80% and 85% effective, but the effectiveness decreases over time. People who have been vaccinated against pertussis in the past can still get sick with pertussis as the immunity begins to wear off. Of the 47 cases diagnosed in 2009, 24 had been at least partially vaccinated against pertussis. Changes to the immunization requirements for 7th grade, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, will increase the number of students with recent pertussis immunizations and thus a higher level of protection from illness. Of the 47 cases diagnosed in 2009, 21 had not been vaccinated against pertussis. 4 had not been vaccinated because of their age, but the other 17 were unvaccinated because of religious or philosophical reasons.

CHANGES IN GRANT FUNDING

The year 2009 included many changes in grant funding for the Stark County Health Department. Aside from receiving considerable reductions to nearly all Ohio Department of Health grants because of the state budget, the department did not receive funding under the tobacco prevention and cessation program. This is the first time in over a decade that funds are not available for prevention activities through this department. The Healthy Ohio Obesity Prevention grant also ended in September 2009, and was not continued by the state. The Stark County Health Department received this one-year funding to expand the ACHIEVE initiative, a chronic disease prevention effort started in 2008. More than \$300,000 in grant funds were reduced or eliminated during 2009. However, there was additional funding provided by the state for H1N1 flu preparation and planning. This included additional funds to vaccinate students and the public through schools and community clinics.

STARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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