

STARK HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

*Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community.*



MISSION: “Our mission is to assess, protect, promote, and improve the health of Stark County through leadership, quality service, and community partnerships.”

VISION STATEMENT: “Striving towards a healthier community with public health excellence.”



2020 Annual Report

A Message

from the **HEALTH
COMMISSIONER**



Kirkland K. Norris, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

We started the year 2020 off just like any other. In January, we kicked off the celebration of our 100th anniversary with the theme of, “A Century of Strengthening Health.”

At that time, I reminded our community that there must be a, “continued emphasis on the importance of immunizations, maternal and child health, food safety and vector surveillance, national accreditation, food deserts and cross-sector partnerships, public health is an ever evolving way of life.” Little did we know that our world would see a devastating loss of life due to COVID-19; our hospitals and frontline healthcare workers would be exhausted; our health department staff would spend hours upon hours contact tracing; and finally, we would administer a vaccine to prevent this novel virus. Together, our community has been through a challenging year, but we have persevered.

Our health department has hired additional contact tracers, nurses, and business compliance officers to help with our efforts to address COVID-19. The staff of the department has continued to give their time to lend a hand, even if that means adjusting their schedules to get their primary work completed. Department Services offered to Stark County residents remained available to the public and were maintained throughout our COVID-19 response. Our health department staff has continued to amaze me during some of the most trying days.

Our scientific community has offered hope in the form of multiple vaccines that will combat this enemy and boost the health of our community. Our department has begun administering the vaccine to thousands of first responders, medical personnel, elderly and other vulnerable populations. These vaccines are an achievement unlike anything we have witnessed in the last decade. They are safe and have completed the regular process of the U.S. vaccine safety system of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As we navigate our 101st year as a department, there is hope for brighter days ahead, like time spent in person with our families and friends, thousands of vaccines being administered to help our community heal from an aggressive virus, and the jump start of our business community. I also ask all of you to continue to take precautions until we are all vaccinated and public health experts say that it is safe to resume a normal way of life. It's as simple as, Wash Up, Mask Up, Back Up, and Boost Up for the flu.

I would like to thank all of the Townships, Cities, and Villages for your continued support of the health department. The health of our community is our number one priority and the dedicated health professionals of the Stark County Health Department are working very diligently to assure a healthier and safer Stark County.

We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our community leaders, first responders, health care workers, public health staff, and our residents during this unprecedented pandemic event.

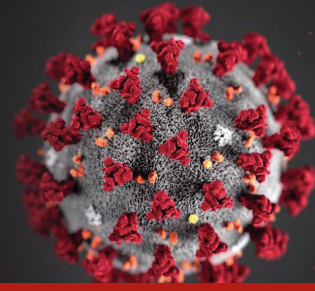
On behalf of the Stark County Board of Health, staff, and myself, it is with great pride that we present the Stark County Combined General Health District 2020 Annual Report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kirkland K. Norris, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner



RESTART STARK

Helping Guide Pandemic Education & Compliance



Let's restart together!

The Restart Stark website was created following the Phases of the Responsible Restart Ohio Plan and for everyone to find answers to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit our site to see what businesses are opening, find resources & guidance, submit a question, file a complaint, and more.



WWW.STARKCOUNTYOHIIO.GOV

Visit Restart Stark

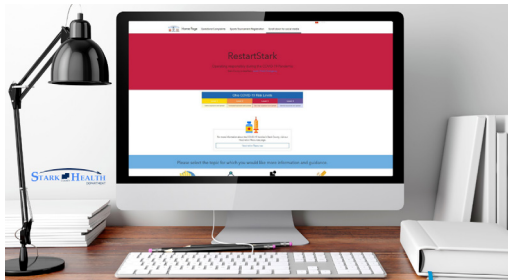
Visit our site to see what businesses are opening, find...

[Learn More](#)

Early in the pandemic SCHD Environmental Health Services realized we needed a website and portal to help manage our response to Director of Health Orders, complaints, and questions from businesses and the general public. A collaboration of partners all interested in supporting the restarting of Stark County created the Restart Stark website to provide timely information and guidance for businesses and the public to access. With the volumes of information available over the internet, the website is intended to bring the most valuable and applicable local, state, and federal information to one location. This collaboration between the Stark County Auditor's Office, Stark County Commissioners, Stark County Economic Development Board, the Stark County Health Department, Stark County IT, Alliance City Health Department, Canton City Health Department and Massillon City Health Department also provides a resource for the State's sector specific operating requirements to reopening businesses and services. Additionally, the website provides a portal for the public to submit questions and complaints. As of January 25, 2021, 2286 complaints and 594 questions have been submitted, this is in addition to the over 1700 calls and emails this Department received during the State closure of businesses portion of the pandemic response. Additionally, our office had to perform over 190 inspections/investigations and has issued 31

Warnings/Educations, 25 Violations, four (4) Public Health Orders signed by the Stark County Health Commissioner for non-compliance and filed one (1) lawsuit in Stark County Common Pleas Court.

In the last few months, the website has taken on a different look as it has incorporated the Ohio Public Health Advisory System into its design to further inform and educate the public on the pandemic.



SERVICE DIRECTORS



Kay Conley, MPA, CHES
Administration
& Support Services Director



Paul DePasquale, RS, MPA
Environmental Health
Services Director



Christina May, BSN, MS, RN
Interim Nursing Services
Director



Maureen Ahmann, DO
Medical Director

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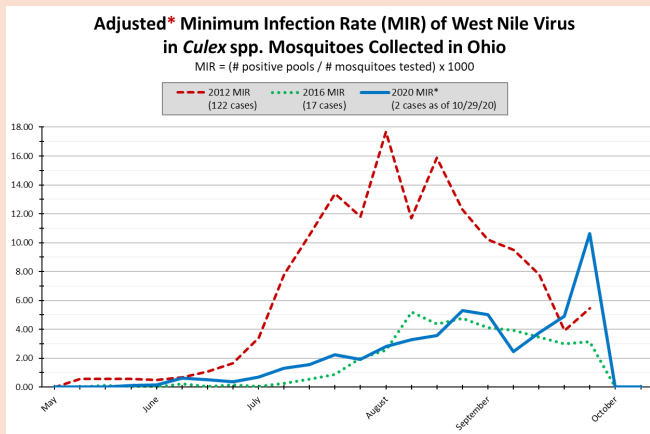


STARK COUNTY MOSQUITO control program

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) conducted limited testing of mosquitoes for WNV in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the State of Ohio hiring freeze. However, local health agencies were encouraged to continue surveillance and submit the mosquitoes to ODH.

ODH reported that only about half of the agencies from 2019 participated in surveillance in 2020. As of October 29, 2020, there were 211,365 *Culex* spp. mosquitoes submitted by 43 agencies in 37 counties. There were 666 WNV positive mosquito pools out of 5,755 state-wide samples. The Stark County Health Department collected 6,641 mosquitoes. Statewide, there were 2 human WNV cases; none in Stark County. Additionally, Ohio had 30 cases of LaCrosse Encephalitis; none in Stark County.

The following chart displays the minimum infection rate for WNV for Years 2012, 2016 and 2020:



LARVICIDING: The Stark County staff made a total of 499 inspections of potential mosquito breeding areas in 2020; staff larvaced 368 locations. Jackson Township had the most inspections at 117. The total larvacide used was 557 lbs. Once again, our staff utilized the larvacide application created by Stark County IT staff. The application has virtually eliminated any paper larvacide records.

ADULTICIDING: In 2020, nine political subdivisions requested extended spray contracts. Six spray contracts were obtained with the Villages of Beach City, Brewster, Hartville, Hills & Dales, and Navarre, and the City of Louisville. Two proposals did not lead to contracts.

The charge per mile was increased to \$42.00/mile in 2020; up from \$35.28 in 2019. This was largely due to increased pesticide costs. Additionally, we were able to secure an employee for the first time in several years to spray at night. He gave our staff a much needed rest. A total of 39 routes were scheduled, and only three were cancelled due to weather. Approximately 527 spray miles were logged. An additional 34 miles were logged in Jackson and Canton Townships as a result of surveillance.

STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2020 ADMIN & SUPPORT AT-A-GLANCE

- **21:** total number of grants received
- **9,362:** total number of death certificates issued
- **3,917:** total number of birth certificates issued
- **116:** number of college students provided COVID-19 response work experience

HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED THE SCHD'S ACCREDITATION JOURNEY

In 2020, the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) continued to meet conformity with the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) standards and measures while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. PHAB recognized the significant burden the ongoing and evolving pandemic was having on health departments across the country. To help alleviate the stress of accreditation-related deadlines and activities PHAB released the *Supplemental Guidance for PHAB Accreditation Procedures*. This document outlines the temporary changes to the process that remain in effect through 2021. Many of the temporary changes will not significantly impact the health department, since the SCHD will not submit reaccreditation documentation until early 2022. The temporary changes the department was able to utilize include:

- A one-time 90 day extension for the submission of the 2020 Annual Report. This allowed the SCHD to submit the 2020 Annual Report in September instead of June.
- More options for how health departments can document reaccreditation requirements. PHAB has developed guidance on what is within their scope of authority when utilizing COVID-19 examples.
- Updated templates for Section 2 of the Annual Report. The revised templates increase the number of optional questions and identifies where COVID-19 work can be utilized.

As PHAB continues to improve the quality and performance of all public health departments throughout the United States, the SCHD, along with the other 42 accredited health departments within Ohio will continue to support and advance the practice of public health.

2020 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Cancer.....	471
Heart Disease.....	401
Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia.....	345
COVID-19.....	228
Cerebrovascular Disease.....	101
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases.....	100
Diabetes Mellitus.....	57
Parkinson's Disease.....	53
Accidental.....	45
Accidental Drug.....	30
Kidney Disease.....	28
Suicide.....	27
Pneumonia.....	17
Sepsis.....	10
Homicide.....	6
Influenza.....	2
*Other.....	521
TOTAL.....	2,442

**This total represents any category not listed above and cause of death not yet available at the time this report was completed*

NURSING SERVICES

COVID-19 RESPONSE


Reporting and Interviewing Positive Cases

Our COVID-19 communicable disease team is made up of registered nurses, epidemiologists, community ambassadors/translators, and contact tracers. We collect and enter all the information on COVID-19 cases and contacts. Our team has been working 7 days a week, including rotating 2- 24/7 emergency communicable disease cell phones for after-hours reporting since the beginning of this pandemic. A COVID-19 case includes confirmed and probable cases and deaths. Healthcare providers must report all positive and probable COVID-19 cases to public health. When a provider administers tests, the results are reported to the provider who then notifies public health or the results are reported directly to public health through electronic lab reporting.

Epidemiological Investigations and Guidance for Individuals Exposed to COVID-19

When public health receives notification of a positive test result for COVID-19; our communicable disease and epidemiology group reach out to the individual who tested positive. They provide education on how the person can protect their health and the health of others, including isolation and quarantine guidance. They then determine the need for additional outreach and notification of people who were in close contact with the person who tested positive.

Starting on 03/15/2020 and throughout 2020, we tracked our communicable disease calls and time spent on the desk phones. Our communicable disease staff spent 2,160 hours on the office phones for COVID-19 response (excluding our cell phones and the Director of Nursing's office phone) and fielded 32,825 calls in regards to case investigation or contact tracing.



Our team, in partnership with the other Stark County health departments, analyzes the COVID-19 data and provides an epidemiological report on COVID-19 two times weekly. This report is posted on our website and social media channels. This report offers the most current information we have at that time. For 2020, Stark County had a total of 20,876 COVID-19 cases,

(which includes 544 deaths). The age range of cases is <1 to 108, with deaths ranging from 21 to 108. The majority of deaths (70%) had a pre-existing condition. Within our health jurisdiction (all of Stark County, except the cities of Alliance, Canton and Massillon), in 2020 there were 14,831 COVID-19 cases.

Contact Tracing

Many hours are spent on contacts that are identified through contact tracing. Contact tracing is the systematic identification and monitoring of all persons who might have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Because these persons are at risk of developing disease, contacts should quarantine for at least 10 days and self-monitor for 14 days (the maximum incubation period) from the last date they had exposure to a COVID-19 case. The goals of contact tracing are to: 1. Rapidly identify all potential contacts, 2. Ensure appropriate medical evaluation and care if the contact becomes symptomatic, and 3. Ensure immediate isolation precautions are implemented if the contact becomes symptomatic.

In order for us to be more efficient and perform our case investigation and contact tracing better we partnered with the Stark County Auditor, Stark County IT and the Stark County GIS team to build and design a Stark County infectious disease case investigation and contract tracing solution named Monitor Stark. Monitor Stark allows us to enter, collect, and analyze data for cases and contacts. This solution also offers geospatial surveillance opportunities and allows the patient to enter in their own temperatures and other details. Monitor Stark will be used for other disease investigations besides COVID-19 in the future.

SCHD hired several public health nurses and contact tracers to assist with the COVID-19 response. Additionally, the SCHD hired Community Ambassadors to assist with connecting with special populations within our health jurisdiction. These individuals have cultural experience and understanding with the Amish, Mennonite and Hispanic communities.

Due to several surges in cases, our process was streamlined to reach the large volume of our COVID-19 cases by phone or by letter to notify them to isolate and for them to inform all their contacts to quarantine. Our team spent the year conducting interviews with cases at an increased risk for spread such as health care workers, those in congregate care settings, first responders, and school staff and students. Cases were asked to share with their close contacts the assigned case number and, if possible, the date the case was last with them (the contact's exposure date). If a case or close contact needed an exclusion or release letter for work or school, SCHD provided these. If a close contact developed symptoms, they were told to follow up with a primary care physician or

continued on page 6

community health clinic and then call the health department. SCHD created a COVID-19 hotline phone number to assist our cases, contacts, labs, and providers.

Infection Control Guidance for Providers and Facilities

We have been working with the Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities in our jurisdiction providing them guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ohio Department of Health detailing measures to be taken to control the spread of COVID-19 among their residents and staff. This investigation includes contact tracing and evaluation of infection control practices. Our epidemiologists and communicable disease specialists maintain contact with facilities with ongoing outbreaks. We have worked to supply or link the LTC's to resources for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to ensure proper infection control practices are being performed.

Access to Information and Resources for Local Healthcare Community

SCHD provides information and resources to our local hospitals, in-patient facilities, long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, dialysis clinics, and other healthcare providers through hosting of a Reportable Emerging Disease Network Committee and through providing updated guidance through emails or by way of the Health Alert Network (HAN). Current guidance and information updates are sent out to providers on an ongoing basis. Additionally, if a healthcare provider is unable to procure PPE or testing supplies through their normal channels or has other needs, this is coordinated through a collaborated effort between SCHD, the Stark County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and/or a coordinating hospital.

Testing Coordination

Testing of COVID-19 in Ohio for providers and local health departments (LHD) has been a challenge due to limited testing supplies, limited labs approved to run the tests, and regular changes in CDC and ODH testing criteria. By the end of 2020, testing was available at many locations throughout Stark County. Additionally, our department has been receiving, storing, and distributing COVID-19 test kits. In 2020, we were provided 10,457 test kits and dispersed 8,707 test kits to long term care facilities, urgent care centers, free standing clinics, hospitals, health centers, and correctional facilities.

Maintaining Essential Services at Health Department Clinics

We are committed to continue providing essential services such as WIC, tuberculosis testing and case management, reproductive health and birth control, sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment, and immunizations. We have limited clients coming to our clinics, only essential health services as directed by ODH, currently at half capacity, and all clinics are by appointment. We have a screening procedure for all clients that include a temperature and symptom screen. We also require facial coverings of staff and recommend facial coverings for all visitors and even supply masks to those that need them. Additionally, we have



First doses of COVID-19 vaccine given to SCHD nurses.

general hygiene rules, a client triage process, follow social distancing guidelines, constructed physical barriers, and have implemented cleaning and disinfecting procedures throughout our clinics.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Planning

SCHD is an approved COVID-19 vaccine provider by the Ohio Department of Health. Our nursing services staff are now in the middle of hosting COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Currently, we have joined forces with the Stark Board of Developmental Disabilities to host the Phase 1B clinics at the Whipple-Dale Center. This is a huge undertaking for all employees of our department and our community partners.

SCHD is committed to making the vaccine widely available but vaccine quantities have been limited. Those who want to receive it will be able to as the state issues new phases. We are committed to an equitable distribution of a safe and effective vaccine. The vaccine is provided with no out of pocket cost, only an admission fee of \$21.00 will be charged to those individuals who have coverage by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance.

The vaccine has been shown to decrease the severity of illness in people who catch this virus. Having a significant portion of Ohioans vaccinated will help us prevent serious hospitalizations and death and will allow Ohioans to get closer to a sense of normalcy. Side effects reported from the vaccine are minimal. The most common side effects include fatigue, headache, soreness or redness at the injection site, and muscle or joint pain, and should not prevent you from getting a vaccine that can prevent you from catching or spreading this deadly virus. To have maximum protection from COVID-19, two doses are required for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

It should be stressed to our community that they must continue to wash their hands, wear masks, and social distance to help reduce the exposure and spread of the virus. We will get to the day where precautions can be dropped once a majority of our community is vaccinated. Proper prevention measures coupled with the vaccine will provide the best protection from COVID-19.

100th Anniversary Message



This year marks the 100th anniversary of two legislative acts that shaped the future of public health in Ohio. The Hughes Act and Griswold Act, both enacted in 1919, established the modern-day organization of

local health departments and laid the foundation for Public Health efforts still in effect today.

The Stark County Health Department was founded on January 30, 1920, when the first meeting of the board of health was held. In the first year of existence the board spent countless hours developing a departmental organization and addressing some of the county's most serious health issues. The most notable measure in 1920 was the ability of the board, in conjunction with the County Commissioners, to provide a place to be used as an isolation hospital for contagious diseases. This was later to become Molly Stark Hospital.

In the 100 years that have followed since the enactment of Hughes-Griswold, public health has had a significant impact on health and quality of life: People are living an average of 25 years longer; Small Pox, once a common, deadly occurrence, has been eradicated; motor vehicle fatalities have been reduced by 90 percent and deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome have decreased 50 percent.

Also, among the accomplishments of Public Health are: immunizations for children and adults, the control of infectious diseases, reduction of tobacco use, safer and healthier foods; better maternal and infant healthcare; increased preventative screenings, and public health preparedness and response.

Hughes-Griswold eliminated the village and township units and based local health administration onto cities and counties.

A uniform structure for each health district was established, including boards of health and who should be on the board of health, plus the creation of the district advisory council which appointed people to the board of health. The process of combing districts was also outlined. A minimum of three full-time employees were required for each district: a health officer, a public health nurse, and a clerk.

The legislation also spoke to specific "duties" for each district including basic services still performed today by local health departments. Those services include data collection, control and prevention of communicable disease, food safety, birth and death records, and "all steps necessary to protect the public's health and to prevent disease."

While the last 100 years have been filled with much success and progress, the next 100 years promise to show the ever-growing presence and importance of public health in our everyday lives. From the continued emphasis on the importance of immunizations, maternal and child health, food safety and vector surveillance, national accreditation, food deserts and cross-sector partnerships, public health is an ever evolving way of life.



SCHD staff (nearly all) gathered for 100th Anniversary Celebration prior to COVID-19. All pictures taken January 30, 2020.

2020

PROPERTY TRANSFER SUMMARY

The year 2020 was unique for many reasons. One of that more property transfer inspections took place in 2020 than in the previous seven years, despite a global pandemic. The 2020 property transfer program statistics shown are sorted by township. With a total of 1013 inspections conducted within the seventeen townships in Stark County, 14% of the systems inspected were considered failing. "Failing" means that the system is causing a public health nuisance, which is defined in Ohio Revised Code 3718.011. An additional 10% had improperly discharging gray water. Each inspection is submitted to the Health Department for review; when the review is completed, additional information and education is provided to the buyer and seller on how to properly maintain the system to maximize its life span. All public health nuisances are required to be corrected, whether the system is failing, gray water is being improperly discharged, or both. Often corrections are made before the transaction closes or soon thereafter; sometimes funds are placed in escrow to be completed later. Unfortunately, occasionally neither is done, and the Health Department must initiate enforcement action against the buyer.

2020 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTION BREAKDOWN

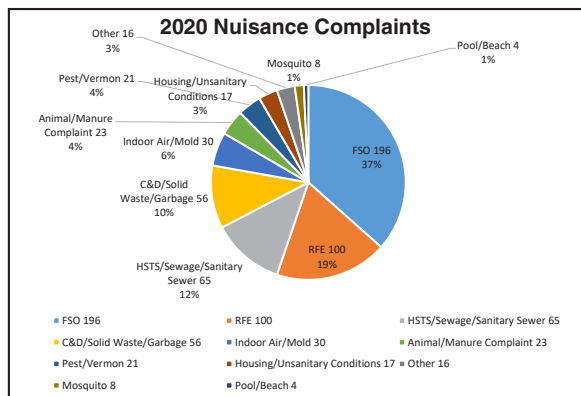
Township	Total Inspections	Septic Failure	Gray Water
BETHLEHEM	23	5	22%
CANTON	68	13	19%
JACKSON	92	9	10%
LAKE	203	18	9%
LAWRENCE	84	12	14%
LEXINGTON	45	14	31%
MARLBORO	31	5	16%
NIMISHILLEN	76	17	22%
OSNABURG	40	7	18%
PARIS	39	2	5%
PERRY	44	7	16%
PIKE	25	5	20%
PLAIN	116	9	8%
SANDY	10	2	20%
SUGARCREEK	18	1	6%
TUSCARAWAS	51	9	18%
WASHINGTON	48	9	19%
Totals	1013	144	14%

2020 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTION BREAKDOWN

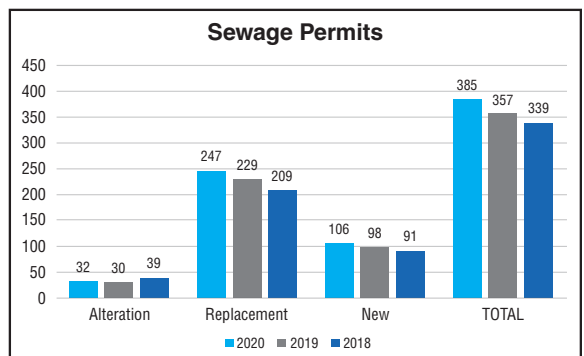
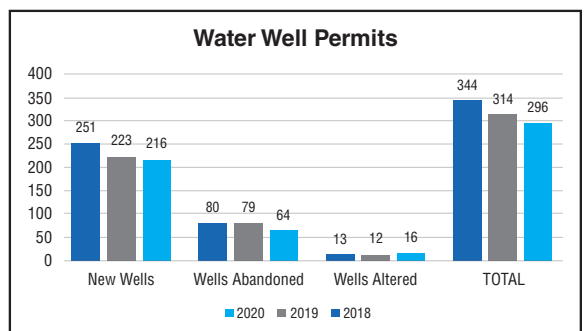
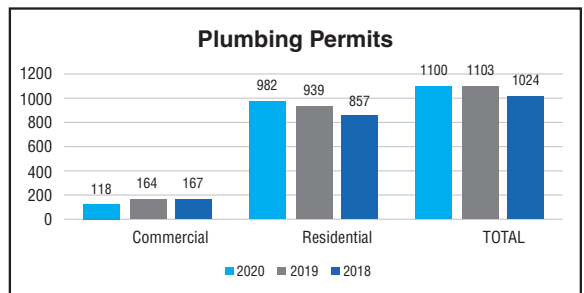
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
836	809	857	917	967	945	922	1013

TRADITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Despite being in a full-fledged global pandemic this past year and presently, the Stark County Health Department Environmental Health Services (EHS) never stopped delivering traditional Environmental Health Program services to our political subdivisions within the health district. EHS was forced to reorganize our structure, which includes: staggered work schedules, restructuring job duties, educate staff on a novel coronavirus and the variety of businesses we have never before regulated, reassign staff to Nursing Services and to enforce/educate the public and businesses on the Governor's and Director's Orders. Because of these reassignments, this has caused some delays in traditional services provided by EHS, but nothing significant. You can be assured our staff of dedicated public health sanitarians and plumbing inspectors have never stood down within your political subdivision during this crisis. Along with enforcing the Director's Health Orders, we continue to permit and/or inspect food facilities, private water systems, home sewage systems, landfills, commercial and residential plumbing, and nuisances/complaints all while staff



As you can see by the charts provided, production either increased or remained consistent through the 2020 pandemic. Each permit and complaint, depending on the program, complaint and permit category, requires one to multiple inspections and consultation time to complete or abate.



2020 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi cause communicable diseases (also known as infectious diseases). A person can contract a communicable disease from an infected person, an infected animal, and/or another infected source such as water or food. Stark County Health Department (SCHD) communicable disease staff keeps track of the number of persons infected by different communicable diseases throughout the year. They also conduct follow-up investigations on all reported diseases by collecting demographic and clinical information, as well as exposures to potential sources of disease. By collecting this data, we are able to determine potential sources of disease, quickly implement control measures, detect trends and outbreaks, and create targeted policies and programs to protect or improve the health of the community.

This annual summary represents the 2020 communicable disease data required by Ohio law reported to state and local health departments. Only those communicable diseases determined to be of public health importance are reportable therefore, this summary does not reflect all communicable disease in our community. Additionally, the summary represents only cases of disease for residents of Stark County Health Department jurisdiction therefore does not include disease data for the cities of Alliance, Canton, or Massillon.

1) In 2020, SCHD reported and/or investigated several communicable disease outbreaks. Among these were:

- 1 outbreak of Influenza virus (associated with a long-term care facility)
- 1 outbreak of Norovirus (associated with a healthcare facility)
- 49 outbreaks of COVID-19
 - ✓ 35 associated with long-term care facilities
 - ✓ Others associated with workplaces, day service programs and large gatherings such as weddings and/or group vacations

Each of these outbreaks was managed utilizing the guidelines and regulations developed by the Ohio Department of Health, and in conjunction with other health departments.

2) During 2020, several reportable infectious diseases increased in the number of cases reported in the Stark County jurisdiction compared to that of 2019. These diseases are as follows:

- **Hepatitis A** – Cases of Hepatitis A within Stark County’s health jurisdiction increased from 11 to 20 between 2019 and 2020. Hepatitis A is spread by ingestion of the virus, but can be prevented by the Hepatitis A vaccine. The Ohio Department of Health declared a statewide outbreak in late 2018 after observing an increase in reported cases across the state.
- **Lyme Disease** – Lyme Disease cases increased this year, from 46 cases in 2019 to 51 cases in 2020. Stark County experienced warmer winter weather in 2020 which may have contributed to an increase in ticks. Tick-borne illnesses can be prevented by taking specific precautions in wooded or grassy areas (long sleeved, light colored clothing, spraying tick repellent, routine tick checks, etc.)
- **Hepatitis B - Perinatal** – Stark County experienced an increase in perinatal Hepatitis B infections, with 4 cases reported in 2020 compared to 1 in 2019. Identifying Hepatitis B positive pregnant women and immunizing their infants with the Hepatitis B vaccine helps prevent infection.
- **Meningitis – Aseptic/Viral** – Stark County saw 8 cases of aseptic/viral meningitis in 2020, compared with just 5 cases in 2019. Viral meningitis the most common type, is caused by infection with one of several types of viruses including enteroviruses, herpes simplex virus, mumps, measles, varicella and adenovirus.
- **West Nile Virus** – There were 2 cases of West Nile Virus in Stark County in 2020 compared to no cases all of 2019. The mild winter months in 2020 could have contributed to the increased burden of disease.

Reportable Infectious DISEASE SUMMARY

Stark County Health Department Jurisdiction

DISEASE	2020	2019
Amebiasis	0	0
Anaplasmosis	0	0
Babesiosis	0	1
Campylobacteriosis	34	65
Chlamydia	532	695
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0
COVID-19	14832	0
Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease	0	2
Cryptosporidiosis	13	34
Cyclosporiasis	3	3
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-producing	5	8
Giardiasis	9	16
Gonorrhea	149	161
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	3	4
Hepatitis A - Acute	20	11
Hepatitis B – Acute	1	1
Hepatitis B – Chronic	30	37
Hepatitis B – Perinatal infection	4	1
Hepatitis C - Acute	4	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	82	136
Hepatitis E	0	1
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	192	269
Influenza-associated pediatric mortality	0	0
LaCrosse Virus Disease	0	0
Legionellosis	11	10
Listeriosis	0	2
Lyme Disease	51	46
Malaria	0	0
Measles	1	1
Meningitis – Aseptic/Viral	8	5
Meningitis-Bacterial (Not N. Meningitidis)	3	1
Meningococcal Disease	0	0
Mumps	2	3
Mycobacterium Other Than TB	0	0
Pertussis	8	24
Psittacosis	0	1
Q Fever	1	0
Salmonellosis	24	32
Shigellosis	2	21
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	2	1
Streptococcal – Group A invasive	1	11
Streptococcal-Group B Newborn	1	1
Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)	0	0
Streptococcal – Invasive Pneumoniae	12	19
Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Varicella	8	16
Vibriosis	0	2
West Nile Virus	2	0
Yersiniosis	4	5
Zika Virus Disease	0	0
Total	16,055	1693

**This report includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2020. The following numbers may not be up to date due to a lag in data reporting.*

3) Influenza season stretches from October of one year until May of the next. Across all of Stark County (including all four health jurisdictions), the 2020-2021 influenza season thus far has seen 1 case of hospitalized influenza.

Last year at the same time there were 60 cases reported, while the previous five-year annual average was around 84 cases. It should be noted that flu activity is unusually low nationwide, and surveillance data may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time influenza data should be interpreted with caution due to the minimal number of specimens tested. The predominant strain for this season is influenza B, which is uncommon as influenza B normally predominates in the latter half of the season. The influenza vaccine remains the primary and most effective form of protection against the influenza viruses circulating this season. Common symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. Complications may include conditions such as bronchitis or pneumonia and may make chronic health problems, such as asthma, worse. Staying home while sick and practicing proper hand hygiene are the best ways to stay healthy this season.

4) There were several diseases reported in 2020 that are not commonly seen within Ohio and/or the SCHD jurisdiction, and are briefly discussed below.

- **Coronavirus Disease 2019** is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. This virus was first discovered in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in 2019 and has since contributed to a global pandemic. COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus, meaning it's different than coronaviruses that have been identified in people before. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and new loss of taste or smell. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread very easily from person to person and transmission is sustainable via respiratory droplets.
- **Q Fever** is an infection caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. Although this disease is found worldwide, many people infected with Q fever show mild or no symptoms so it's unknown how many cases truly occur each year in the United States. In Ohio, only 23 cases were reported from 2000 to 2012. Cattle, sheep and goats are most likely to carry this bacterium and it can be found in the milk, urine and feces of these infected animals. Humans typically become infected by

inhalation of organisms in airborne barnyard dust and very few organisms may be required to cause infection. Direct human to human transmission is rare and only about 50% of all people infected show symptoms including high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and chest pain. Full recovery can take up to 1 to 2 months. The best way to prevent Q fever is to eat and drink only pasteurized milk and milk products, avoid contact with birth related tissues of sheep, cattle and goats and to quarantine imported animals. There is no vaccine currently approved for use in the U.S.

- **Coccidioidomycosis** is a fungal disease caused by *Coccidioides* species that primarily causes respiratory symptoms and a fever. In 2020, Stark County reported 1 case of coccidioidomycosis, compared to 0 cases in 2019. The fungi that cause this disease live in the soil in the southwest United States (Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas or Utah), Mexico, Central and South America. Those who acquire the disease are typically people who live in or visit places where the fungus is in the soil and engage in activities that expose them to dust such as construction, agricultural work, military field training and archeological exploration. The majority of people infected may not show any symptoms. Those who develop symptoms often present with flu-like illness, some develop chronic lung infection and 1 in 1,000 develop more widespread infection which could affect spinal nerves, soft tissues, joints and/or bone. Coccidioidomycosis is rare among Ohioans, and infection is not spread from person to person or from animals to people.
- **Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis** is the most severe and most frequently reported tick-borne illness in the United States. This disease affects humans and dogs and is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. To prevent Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, avoid areas where ticks might be present, wear long pants and shirts and spray with insect repellent, conduct visual tick checks, check pets for ticks and keep yard and play areas well mowed to discourage ticks.

The Communicable Disease Unit continues to provide information and resources to schools, healthcare facilities and the community regarding infection prevention and control. Common topics that foster significant public interest include influenza, scabies, head lice, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), tuberculosis, enteric (intestinal) illnesses, sexually transmitted diseases and now COVID-19.

2020 AT-A-GLANCE

- **2,026:** Total number of immunizations administered
- **421:** COVID Vaccinations
- **16,055:** Total number of infectious diseases reported
- **288:** Cribs distributed within the safe sleep program
- **3,698:** Total number of visits completed with WIC clients
- **406:** Nursing Services home visits completed (CMH/Public Health Nurse/NICU, CHW HV)
- **305:** Naloxone kits distributed to law enforcement (number includes expired kits replaced)
- **65:** Overdose reversals reported to SCHD by first responders
- **414:** Reproductive Health and Wellness visits
- **31:** Maternal Home Visit Birth Outcomes with 0 infant deaths (both THRIVE and Moms & Babies First)
- **7:** Provider Office Based Immunization Education Sessions Provided
- **148:** Baby & Me Tobacco Free sessions
- **13:** Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) visits

ELIMINATING HEALTH INEQUITIES THROUGH STARK COUNTY'S COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

In 2020, Stark County was faced with many obstacles from the COVID-19 pandemic to racism as a public health crisis. While the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Advisory Committee focused on improving the health of the community by addressing health disparities and inequities, additional unmet needs were identified widening gaps for high risk populations. All four priority health implementation plans were updated to include more specific activities to address cultural diversity & awareness, inclusion, racism & social justice. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was updated to include community-wide initiatives implemented to help eliminate these health inequities.

Below are the initiatives that were incorporated in 2020:

The Unity Challenge to Dismantle Racism is a 15-day challenge designed to develop and build more effective social justice habits through daily activities that explore racial equity and social injustice. The Unity Challenge may be utilized at any time by universities, businesses and organizations to help individuals explore race, power, privilege and leadership. The Dismantling Racism Coalition of Stark County is committed to dismantling racism and creating racial equity. The Coalition provides guidance to individuals and organizations on their journey to promoting equitable and just outcomes through advocacy, education, investment and community outreach. Information about the movement and community partners can be found at dismantlingracismstarkcounty.org

The National Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards give organizations action steps to advance health equity, improve quality and help eliminate disparities by offering guidance in:

- Governance, Leadership & Workforce
- Communication & Language Assistance
- Engagement, Continuous Improvement & Accountability

Tailoring services to an individual's culture and language preference can help close the gap for health outcomes. CLAS is about respecting the whole individual and responding to each individual's health needs and preferences.

The Ohio Health Equity Group and Health360 administered Ohio's COVID-19 Populations Needs Assessment and created a Stark County specific data analysis report. The assessment describes critical barriers vulnerable populations face and how to address those barriers through specific recommended strategies. The recommendations center on the COVID-19 response in organizations and cultures of local communities by minimizing the impact of the pandemic and building a foundation for health equity. The Stark County Data Analysis Report will be used to support local interventions for those most vulnerable to COVID-19. The analyses utilize several different data sets to identify where vulnerable populations are clustered and who is most at risk for worsened health outcomes from COVID-19.

To review the CHIP & Priority Health Implementation Plans please go to:
<https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/community-health-assessment>

Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2020 (unaudited)			
SOURCES OF REVENUE		EXPENDITURES	
Contract Fees	315,955	Salaries	3,848,949
Fees for Services	301,495	Insurance	825,209
C&D User Fees	675,826	Medicare	56,140
Inspection Fees	236,047	PERS	717,934
Vital Statistics	343,284	Workers Compensation	17,250
Permits	1,472,292	Unemployment	5,672
Fines/Late Charges	84,990	Supplies	292,847
State Subsidy	102,344	Utilities	31,922
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,496,054	Contracts & Purchased Services	1,288,492
Coronavirus Response Grant	1,508,383	Phones & Communications	33,836
Contact Tracing	952,811	Equipment / Vehicle Rental	25,068
Public Health Infrastructure	283,551	Rent	383,554
Prescription Drug O.D. Grant	190,790	Equipment	17,382
Prescription Drug Abuse Action	51,000	Other Expenses	1,745
Maternal Child Health Grant	96,236	State Remittances	915,285
Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant	34,550	Travel	59,905
WIC Grant	382,415	Refunds	16,938
Reproductive Health Grant	187,926	Payouts For Sick & Vacation Leave	15,031
Moms & Babies First Grant	94,662		
Injury Prevention Grant	281,326		
Thrive Medicaid Support for CHW	60,517		
Joint Solid Waste District Grant	127,500		
Moms Quit for Two Grant	42,429		
Area Health Education Grant	24,128		
Creating Healthy Communities	116,259		
Cribs for Kids Grant	67,599		
Occupant Protection Coordinator	55,380		
Water Pollution Control Grant	234,711		
Homeowner Contributions-HSTS	34,519		
Mosquito Grant	21,270		
Other Receipts	159,812		
Reimbursements	-		
Carryover from 2019	939,069	Encumbrances Carried Over To 2021	2,013,225
TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE	10,975,130	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,566,384

STARK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving the cities, villages, and townships of Stark County since 1920:

TOWNSHIPS

Bethlehem
Canton
Jackson
Lake
Lawrence
Lexington
Marlboro
Nimishillen
Osnaburg
Paris
Perry
Pike
Plain
Sandy
Sugarcreek
Tuscarawas
Washington

VILLAGES

Beach City
Brewster
East Canton
East Sparta
Hartville
Hills & Dales
Magnolia
Meyers Lake
Minerva
Navarre
Waynesburg
Wilmot

CITIES

Canal Fulton
Louisville
North Canton



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Environmental Health Services, Vital Statistics, and Administration & Support Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite B
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-493-9904 | Fax: 330-493-9920

Nursing Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite C
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-493-9928 | Fax: 330-493-9932

www.starkhealth.org

Survey Link: <https://starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/customer-service-survey>



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