



Lorain City Health Department's 2008 Annual Report for the City Of Avon Lake



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Commentary from the Health Commissioner...

I respectfully submit the 2008 Annual Report of the Lorain City Health Department for the City of Avon Lake. This report is prepared by the staff of the Lorain City Health Department, in an effort to make the public become more aware of the services provided by the health department.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me at your convenience; (440) 204-2315.

Terrence J. Tomaszewski



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This past year, Lorain City Health Department began a partnership with ALCTV and produced informational programs relating to current health issues. The first program titled "The Dark Side of the Sun" was designed to increase awareness of Melanoma skin cancer and prevention and provide information on services for skin cancer detection and support. Avon Lake City Schools Health teachers received the Mollie Biggane Melanoma foundation educational DVD and corresponding CD Lesson Plan. A separate skin cancer awareness campaign was run throughout the summer with the help of city council and the recreation department. The program addressed the need for sun protection, the dangers of tanning beds and the importance of mole identification. The second

ALCTV program was produced in time for the holidays and focused on the obesity epidemic and choices that we can make when cooking. A representative from the OSU extension service discussed several healthy alternatives when cooking. Two additional programs aired which were designed to share information about the Nursing and Environmental divisions at Lorain City Health Department.



ADMINISTRATION

Terrence J. Tomaszewski
Health Commissioner

Dr. Craig Chapple, MD
Medical Director

Steven Tostrick, MPH, RS
Director of Environmental Health

Kathy Loughrie, BSN, MS, RN
Director of Nursing

Ann Boehnlein
Administrative Assistant

Essential Public Health

Services:

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Mobilize community partners
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws & regulations
- Link people to needed services
- Assure competent workforce
- Evaluate services
- Research insights & solutions to problems.

Lorain City Health Department

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www.lorainhealth.com

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

Steven J. Tostrick, M.P.H., R.S.—Director of Environmental Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS

Field Sanitarian Inspections

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Garbage | 1 |
| Refuse | 1 |
| Sewage | 4 |
| Animals | 9 |
| Insect/Vector | 1 |
| All Other | 2 |

RABIES CONTROL

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Animal Bites Reported | 23 |
|-----------------------|----|

INSTITUTIONS, POOLS, ETC.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Schools | 20 |
| Public Pools/Spas | 154 |
| Institutions | 1 |

FOOD PROTECTION

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Food Service/Retail Food | 221 |
| Vending Machine Locations | 8 |
| Temporary Food Operations | 13 |

OTHER SERVICES AND REGULATIONS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Smoke Free Ohio | 2 |
| Mosquito Control | 18 |
| Solid & Infectious Waste | 5 |
| Home Daycare | 1 |
| Flu Clinics/Immunization clinics | 1 |
| Disaster Prep-Mass Clinics | 3 |
| Tattoo/Body Piercing | 4 |

The Environmental Division, in working towards protecting the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Avon Lake, administers a broad range of regulatory, inspection, consultation and direct service programs. These programs are designed to protect the public's food supply, manage municipal wastes, eliminate public health nuisances, assure safe housing, assure safe recreational water use and control and eliminate vector-borne illnesses. The Environmental Division is staffed with Registered Sanitarians who through education, inspection and consultation, ensure all environmental programs meet minimum standards as established by law.

Program Highlights

Food Safety

The Food Safety Program provides assistance in all aspects of food safety within the Lorain City Health Department's jurisdiction to the food industry and the public. This specific program is overseen by both the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Sanitarians and Sanitarians-In-Training are available to provide current information on food safety as it applies to licensable food service operations (e.g., restaurants, vending machine locations, mobile and temporary food service operations) and retail food establishments (e.g., grocery stores, retail food sales, mobile and temporary retail food establishments). The local food safety program provides professional assistance and guidance to licensed food operations and the public when at all possible. Inspections of licensed facilities are conducted by utilizing the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The Food Safety Program also provides assistance with plan reviews involving new operations or any operations that conduct major renovations. The following links can provide the updates to the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code that are effective March 1, 2009.

- <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3717-1.aspx>
- <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FoodSafety/foodsafety.aspx?div=food-lawsrules.htm>

Smoke Free Workplace Program

Issue 5, passed on November 7, 2006, which made Ohio the 12th state to protect all workers and the public from exposure to secondhand smoke in workplaces and public places. The law took effect December 7, 2006 and the enforcement of the law began May 3, 2007. This law is meant to protect and improve the health of all Ohioans by prohibiting smoking in workplaces and public places. To adhere to the law, affected businesses and public places must do three things:

- **Prohibit smoking** in any "public place" or "place of employment"
 - **Post no-smoking signs** with the toll-free enforcement number, 1-866-559-OHIO (6446), at all entrances or areas of transition between non-regulated and regulated areas.
 - **Remove ashtrays** and other tobacco receptacles.
- The Lorain City Health Department is the designated local enforcement agent for Ohio's Smoke Free Workplace Program in the cities of Lorain and Avon Lake. The Environmental Division staff conducts investigations regarding complaints filed through the State's designated toll-free enforcement number for violations of Chapter 3794 of the Ohio Revised Code.

School Environmental Health and Safety Program - Jarod's Law

In 2008, the Lorain City Health Department conducted school inspections/annual facility assessments as required by the Ohio Department of Health within our jurisdiction. The annual assessments are required under Ohio General Assembly House Bill 203 and is commonly known as "Jarod's Law". The law was named



Jarod's Law after six-year-old Jarod Bennett was killed when a 290-pound cafeteria table fell on him. In an effort to help support school districts and local health departments in their implementation of Jarod's Law, the Ohio Department of Health developed a comprehensive inspection manual for use by Sanitarians while conducting inspections of school buildings and environment. The Lorain City Health Department will continue the mandatory inspection process in 2009.



NURSING DIVISION

Kathy Loughrie RN, BSN—Director of Nursing

The nursing division of the Lorain City Health Department works towards fulfilling the three core functions of public health: assessment, assurance and policy development. Our mission is to improve the health status of the community at all levels in a manner that maintains their dignity, promotes their self-reliance and cultural integrity in order to enable individuals, families and communities to be healthy and productive. Public health nursing services are available to all citizens of Lorain but in particular very young children, medically under-served families and the elderly. It is our intent to offer services in a manner that maintains the dignity of individuals while promoting their self-reliance and cultural integrity. Service priorities are based on community needs, available resources, and staff capacity. The division provides a wide variety of health assessment, health promotion, and disease prevention services and program management in the broad categories of:

- ♥ Infectious Disease
- ♥ Health Data Assessment
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children 0-3 years of age
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children who have Medical Disabilities
- ♥ Quality Assurance
- ♥ Policy Development

In 2008, the agency welcomed Yvonne Sproule RN to the nursing division. The challenge for the division in 2008 was to provide high quality public health services in an economically challenged community with diminishing resources for services. It is with pride and a sense of accomplishment that we respectfully submit a summary of our program highlights and acknowledge the importance of partnerships with community agencies that has lent to our successfully maintaining our current level of service provision.

Program Highlights

Well Child Care Clinics and Services: During 2008, well-child care for infants, children and adolescents up to age 21 years continued to be offered at the Administration Building in Avon Lake on the first and third Friday of each month. Certified pediatric nurse practitioners provided 33 children with physical examinations, blood and urine tests, immunizations, developmental testing, and hearing and vision screening. Families received guidance and counseling on growth and development, parenting, nutrition, and management of childhood diseases. Children were referred to; speech and hearing therapy through Easter Seals, Help Me Grow, Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps and to nutritional support programs through WIC. Referrals were also made to community based social service agencies for families in need of those services. This clinic is funded in part by the Ohio Department of Health. Child Health Clinic fees for services are on a sliding fee scale based on the ability to pay; however, no one is refused care. An integral component of this initiative is our focus on preventing childhood obesity through nutritional education and encouraging physical activity. Eat Well Play Hard (EWPH) is an educational program that the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners provided to daycares, preschools and school age children that is designed to increase awareness of healthy food choices and encourage increased physical activity. The public health nursing division works with other child care providers in our county to examine the community health needs of families with children to ensure that services are appropriate and access to care is seamless.

HIV Education and Prevention: The health department receives HIV grant funding to provide educational outreach programs utilizing evidence based interventions identified by the Centers for Disease Control and free anonymous or confidential HIV testing. Testing is done

in collaboration with other community organizations. Testing is available Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 PM at Lorain County Health and Dentistry, 1800 Livingston Avenue, Lorain and 9-12 Noon Wednesday at Family Planning Services of Lorain County, 602 Leona Street, Elyria. No appointment is necessary. A total of 425 individuals received free testing in calendar year 2008 with referral to community based resources as necessary.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS: Local health departments have strong mandates and broad authority to control communicable diseases. This responsibility is carried out by collecting and analyzing disease reports, investigating cases and outbreaks of disease, and applying established control measures. These activities require understanding of disease processes, administrative processes, and contemporary measures for prevention and control. The Lorain City Health Department is an active member of the Lorain County Tri-Health Department Communicable Disease Task Force. The Lorain City Health Department participates in regional bio-terrorism and communicable disease surveillance and response planning to coordinate response to naturally occurring or artificially introduced threats in our community and the 5-county region of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake County. A listing of the total cases that received services is included in this report.

Immunizations for Children: Lorain City Health Department continues to work to prevent childhood diseases and the negative outcomes associated with vaccine preventable disease. Immunizations for children are available on the First and Third Friday of each month by appointment at the

Administration Building in Avon Lake. Immunizations are available for children at a charge of \$14.00 per vaccination; however, no child is refused due to an inability of the parent to pay. In 2008, 2569 vaccinations were administered to children accessing services through our agency.

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh): This is a state program in the Ohio Department of Health that receives federal, state and county funds. The mission of BCMh is to assist children with special health care needs and provide their families access to health care services that supports optimal growth and development. Public Health Nurses work intimately with the Ohio Department of Health field liaison who keeps the nurses updated on this complex bureaucratic system. Their main purpose is to guide families into and through the system to ensure that their health care needs are met.

HELP ME GROW: Help Me Grow is a home-visiting program funded in part by Ohio Department of Health grant funds. Its purpose is to help families whose children are birth to 3 years of age. The program links families to existing early childhood programs and services and supports Ohio's school readiness goal. Professional nurses provide in home visits, supportive counseling, parenting education and care coordination. Parents are linked to existing services in the community based on their needs.

Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities for 2009

In 2009, the nursing division will continue to work in conjunction with the Board of Health and Community Stakeholders to ensure that the focus of services is consistent with the agency's Strategic Plan. Priorities identified through the Strategic Planning process will shape the direction and composition of the

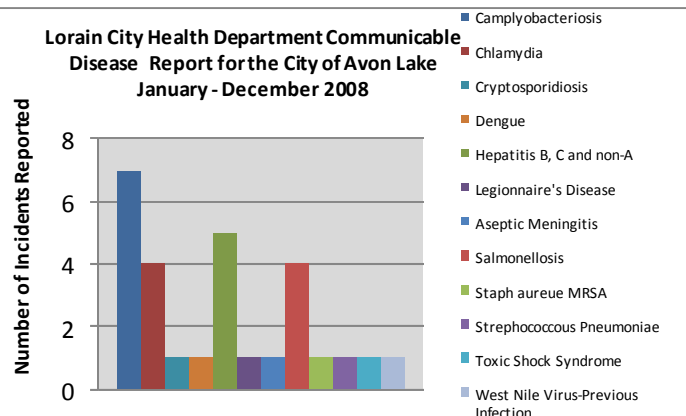
NURSING DIVISION—continued

Kathy Loughrie, BSN, MS, RN— Director of Nursing

Nursing division in 2009. The ever changing and challenging economic climate in Ohio and Lorain County in particular continues to place the health and safety needs of our citizens at the forefront for providers. During calendar year 2009, we will continue to work at improving partnerships, identify gaps in care/services, and expanding care capabilities for vulnerable populations in our community.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

| | |
|---|------------|
| HELP ME GROW | 301 |
| BCMh visits | 115 |
| Child Health Clinics visits (0-21 years) | 33 |
| Adult Immunizations | 278 |
| Child Immunizations | 612 |



HEALTH EDUCATION

Nancy Toth, B.S.— Health Educator

The City of Lorain's Health Educator promotes, maintains and improves individual and community health by assisting its residents to adopt healthy behaviors. The practice of Health Education collects and analyzes data to identify community needs, and implements, monitors and evaluates programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies and environments, influence changes in policy and the environment to address health problems and give individuals, groups and their community the opportunity to acquire the information and skills needed to make quality health decisions. Call (440-204-2317) for more information or to schedule a health prevention/promotion program for your organization.

Program Highlights

Coalition Involvement: Lorain City Health Department participates in Lorain County H.E.A.R.T. (Heart Education Awareness and Resource Team). The H.E.A.R.T. coalition is a cardiovascular health initiative with a mission to increase heart health among Lorain County residents through education, advocacy and awareness. The coalition presents programs and seminars to professionals and the public throughout the year. Other coalitions in which the Lorain City Health Department actively participate include: Safe Communities (a partnership that combines efforts to help local communities plan interventions, increase public awareness, collect local data and control loss) Lorain County Task Force for the Homeless (which seeks to eliminate homelessness in Lorain) and Lorain County Prevention Connection (a collaborative association and informational network using the school community to promote healthy lifestyles for youth through the abstinence of alcohol and illegal drugs and violence prevention).

Tobacco Prevention Initiative:

In May 2008, the Ohio state legislature voted to abolish the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation. As a result of the vote, the foundation ceased to exist effective June 30, 2008. Affected programs include www.debunkify.com, www.standonline.org, www.otpf.org, www.ohioquits.org, and www.standohio.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Lynn Rebman, B. S.— Coordinator

The Lorain City Health Department continues to strengthen its efforts in improving preparedness for all types of public health emergencies. A strong, integrated, and flexible public health infrastructure is the best defense against any disease outbreak, natural and/or human-made disasters. The Lorain City Health Department works to ensure that all emergency response plans addressing natural and human-made disasters including terrorist events are developed, structured and completed. The capacity continues to be developed to rapidly identify diseases and initiate prevention and control activities for response to bio-terrorism, terrorism, unintentional, or naturally occurring events that result in public health threats or emergencies. The development and coordination to release accurate and timely information to the public including alerts, warnings, and emergency response and recovery processes remains a goal. In addition to educating the community on prevention, protection and recovery from all threats and hazards; staff preparedness training is recognized and continuing education is available to maintain and improve knowledge and enrich skills.