Greetings! The Defiance County Health Department has been busy engaging partners and our community to promote the health and well-being of Defiance County. As an agency we continue to work on our strategic goals outlined in the strategic plan: Improve Community Outcomes, Ensure Financial Sustainability, Deliver Effective Services, and a Capable Workforce. As you read the department updates you will see evidence of this work strung throughout. The agency is also working internally on updating program plans and evaluations to ensure effective services and workforce development opportunities internally and externally to ensure a capable public health workforce. I want to thank Tina VanderMade for her service on the Board of Health, her term is expiring this year. We are thankful for the four years Tina served on the board. Anita Schwartbek appointed as a new Board of Health member at the District Advisory Council Meeting in March.

Jamie Gerken, Health Commissioner

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT - MEET THE INTERNS

Paige Rohloff is studying Exercise Science at Defiance College and completing her internship with us. Paige will graduate from DC in Spring 2024. Great Job Paige!

Andrew Burwell is a Masters of Public Health student from Ohio University and is completing his Applied Practice Experience with us. Andrew will graduate from OU in Fall 2024. Great Job Andrew!
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ServSafe Food Trainings for Food Safety Manager & Person-in-charge were completed in February with 5 Managers and 4 Person-In-Charge attendees receiving their certifications. Our next sessions begin in April with 10 registered for the Manager Certification.

To learn more about or to register for this certification, visit our website.

Operation & Maintenance Program - When working correctly, septic systems are an excellent way to treat wastewater. In order to prevent septic system failure, the state of Ohio created a set of rules to help monitor and maintain septic systems. These state wide rules have made it so Defiance County Health Department had to develop its Operation and Maintenance program to include all septic systems in Defiance County. Defiance County Operation and Maintenance Supplemental Sewage Rules were adopted May 2019.

Applications have been mailed out to properties in Adams, Delaware, and Highland townships to apply for the 2024-2028 O&M permit cycle. Homeowners are encouraged to return a completed application with the fee and take an action, if necessary, before July 1st.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion Staff & Intern Paige Rohloff provided several different presentations to the Defiance City Schools Teacher In-Service on February 16.

Taylor Jessing presented Hidden In Plain Sight Display.

Paige Rohloff helped teachers experience the fatal vision goggles and how impairment effects your responses & reaction time.

Jessica West presented CATCH My Breath, the evidence-based vaping prevention program that can be provided for students in grades 5 - 12.

To learn more about these program or schedule a presentation, please call DCHD Health Promotion Staff.
Thank you Fairview Elementary!

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN THE NEXT QUARTER

MyPlate Program - Kaylee Williams, PH Nurse, presented the MyPlate Program to 3rd grade students at Fairview Elementary and Hicksville Elementary in February. This program provides education on the five food groups, healthy eating, and physical activity. Thank you to our friends at the United Way of Defiance County for supporting and assisting with this program!

Know Your Numbers Event at Defiance College - On Thursday, February 15th, DCHD & Defiance College partnered to offer Know Your Numbers, a FREE Heart Health Screening Event for the community. 26 community members participated in this event.

WIC

March was National Nutrition Month and also the celebration of 50 years of WIC. In celebration of these events, our WIC office handed out cutting boards, cookie cutters, stickers, and tips/recipes. Soon, our local Farmer’s Markets will be opening up (in May). Our WIC office will have Farmer’s Market coupons for their families served available in July to save on these fresh fruits and vegetables.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN THE NEXT QUARTER

- First Session of NEW Stepping On Program
- DCHD Workforce Development Day
- MyPlate Program & CATCH My Breath Presentations
- Lilac Festival
- DDVB Family Fun Fridays
- Safety Town & more!