

DCHD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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WIC

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The Defiance County General Health District has stayed busy through the late winter and spring months, keeping up with day-to-day work while also responding to community needs as they arise. Even with some challenging weather—including recent storms, one of which led to a partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center—staff stepped up to support response efforts and help keep residents informed. It's always a good reminder of how strong our local partnerships are when situations like that happen.

We've also stayed engaged at the state and regional level. Leadership attended Statehouse Day in Columbus, which was a great opportunity to connect with our elected officials and share the importance of public health work happening locally.

We continue to collaborate with neighboring health departments as well, including planning for upcoming workforce development programs, Staff Development Institute and Leadership Development Institute.

On the governance side, the District Advisory Council recently took action to support the Board of Health. Dr. JD Reeves was elected to fill the physician seat following Dr. Richter's passing, and Deb Hench was re-elected to serve another five-year term. We appreciate both of them for their willingness to serve and support the health district. Jamie Gerken attended the statewide Spring Public Health Conference in April. It is always good to meet up with peers from across the state and engage in a couple days of learning from experts and each other. Overall, the health district remains focused on its mission and is committed to serving Defiance County, working together to navigate challenges and keep moving forward.

Jamie Gerken, Health Commissioner

Mission:

To promote and protect the health & well-being of all people and places in Defiance County

Vision:

A Healthy and Safe Defiance County

Core Values:

Collaborate, Respect, Educate, Empower, Make a Difference



<http://DEFIANCECOHEALTH.ORG>



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health It's What We Do



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

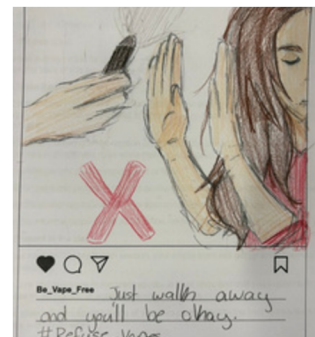
May - Jessalyn Adkins, Sarah Medford, and George Ivory provide an Operations and Maintenance Homeowner Training at Fairview High School on May 15th. This meeting is for homeowners interested in doing their own septic system evaluation. The meeting provides the information and education necessary to then complete an inspection on their system. Homeowners can then turn in the O&M permit with fee by June 30th.



June - Jessalyn Adkins staffed the DCHD table at the Downtown Family Fun Friday event provided by the Defiance Main Street and Visitors Bureau. Families could get "The Dragon Bakery" book for free from the DDVB and then learn about food safety and the importance of proper hand washing from Jessalyn. Thank you Jessalyn for sharing these health tips with these families!

HEALTH PROMOTION

April/May - Taylor Jessing and Jessica West provided the CATCH My Breath program to Tinora's 7th and 9th grade Health classes. This program offers information needed to make an educated choice to not choose to use e-cigarettes or vapes. At the end of their program, 7th graders create an ad to share what they've learned with their classmates.



May - Jessica West presented to around 600 kids in Defiance Elementary School's 3rd - 5th grades at their May BARK Day. Jessica spoke about being kind to others, kind to yourself, forgiveness, and emotional intelligence. The kids and teachers appreciated the information, especially the breathing tips for when your emotions are too big.

May - Jessica West attended the 13th Annual Trauma Informed Care Summit in Columbus, OH. She learned a lot of information and made connections in the Mental Health world. She also networked with Sarah Nsiah, Putnam County Health Dept. and Jessica Runkel, Willams County Health Dept.



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COMMUNITY HEALTH

April - Our Public Health Nurses partnered with Defiance College to provide the FREE Know Your Numbers screening event. This offers any adult community member the opportunity to learn about their heart health through 5 key health screenings and a consultation with our nurses after.



May- Katie Marbaugh tabled for DCHD at the Legacy Living Senior Resource Fair. Legacy Living had a variety of resources to meet the overall health and wellness needs of seniors. Katie provided information on our fall prevention programs and senior driving tips.

May- Kaylee Williams wrapped up MyPlate in May. This nutrition education program provides education and a produce taste-test to our 3rd grade students around Defiance County. Kids also receive a voucher for \$10 of produce at Chief Supermarkets to further their interest in fresh fruits and veggies.



May- Defiance County Safe Communities hosted Motorcycle Ohio at the Lilac Fest in presenting "Saved By the Helmet" awards to 2 local men. These men shared their stories of how wearing their helmet saved their lives and received a new helmet from Motorcycle Ohio so they could continue to ride safely.



Send resumes to:

1300 E. Second St.
Ste 101, Defiance, OH
43512

For more information:

Melinda Kuhlman - 419-782-7770

WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITION: BREASTFEEDING PEER HELPER

- Part-time (14 hours per week)
- Have breastfed an infant exclusively or substantially for at least 6 months
- Current/Past participant of WIC or eligible for WIC Services
- Valid OH Driver's License

OPEN POSITION WIC CERTIFYING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

- Full-time (32 hours per week)
- Registered & Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN/LD) preferred
- Will also accept Registered Nurse (RN), Dietetic Technician Registered (DTR), Dietetic Technician (DT), or four year nutrition/dietetics graduate or Physician's Assistant
- Valid OH Driver's License



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DCHD IN THE COMMUNITY - SAFETY TOWN 2026

Defiance County Health Department & Defiance County Safe Communities Coalition hosted FREE Safety Town events in Defiance and Hicksville for kids ages 4.5, 5, and 6 years old. Participants learned about different safety topics, met first responders, and toured vehicles.



WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN THE NEXT QUARTER

- Summer Fun in the Sun
 - Community Events
 - Back to School
 - & much more!