

Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department

Yes, we do that.

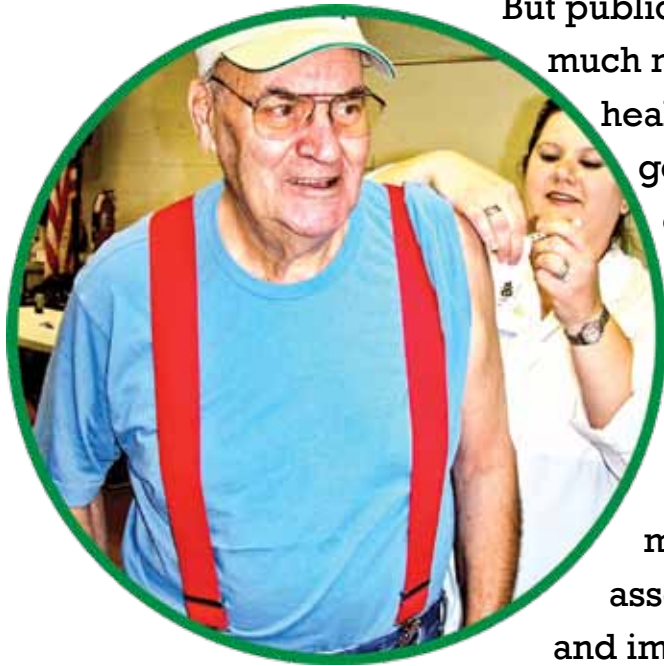
Well, sure, we give flu shots and organize the flu clinics throughout Richland County each year.

But public health is so much more. Public health is the local government's efforts to protect everyone's health and well-being.

Our mission is to assess, maintain, and improve the health and safety of the

environment and community through quality public health services. Our goal is to have the healthiest community possible where residents can enjoy optimal physical, emotional, and environmental health.

The Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department has services focused on disease and injury prevention; access to health care; environmental protection; health screening and monitoring; emergency preparedness and response; health education and health promotion; enforcement of health and safety codes; and access to county birth and death records.



Look inside and see what we've done and what we can do for you:

- General Health Services
- Adult and Child Immunizations
- International Travel Program
- Prenatal Services
- Child Physicals
- Reproductive Health & Testing
- Pregnancy Tests
- HIV Testing & AIDS Clinic
- Newborn Home Visits
- Community Health Screenings
- Senior Health Screenings
- School Nurses
- Inspections of Restaurants
- Lead Paint Investigations
- Sewage Treatment Systems Program
- Plumbing Services & Inspections
- Private Water Program
- Mosquito and Vector Control
- Rabies Prevention
- Child Car Seat Program
- County Employee Wellness Program
- Senior Driver Refresher Courses
- Traffic Safety Information
- Health Resources
- Nutrition Education
- TB Testing
- Communicable Disease Investigation
- Hearing Clinics
- Inspections of Tattoo Parlors
- Emergency Preparedness
- Health & Wellness Presentations
- WIC Program
- Foodborne Illness Investigation
- Solid & Infectious Waste Program
- Radon Program
- Healthy Homes Program
- Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Project
- Sports & Work Physicals
- Smoke-free Ohio
- Campgrounds, Pools and Spas

And many more programs and services.

Your Health is Our Department



2012 Annual Report

Internet: www.richlandhealth.org
Facebook: Richland Health Department
Twitter: #RichlandHealth1

Public Health Clinic

The public health clinic is open to all people for the purpose of providing health care, promoting wellness, providing education and treating illness. These health services are provided by our staff doctor, nurse practitioner, staff nurses, social worker, health educator, and clerical staff. These health services are for people of all ages from Richland and surrounding counties.

[www.richlandhealth.org/
departments-and-services/public-health-clinic](http://www.richlandhealth.org/departments-and-services/public-health-clinic)

Clinic Visits in 2012..... Total

Adult Physical Exams.....	222
Child Health	156
General Health	2,319
Reproductive Health*	524
Prenatal.....	284
Nurse: Follow-up Orders.....	556
Nurse: Treatment.....	317
Nurse: Immunizations (includes TB)	4,130
International Travel (visits/consults).....	459
Woman's Care	329
All other categories	1,534
Total Visits	10,844

*Combines STD & Pregnancy Test with Women's Health

BCCP (Breast & Cervical Cancer Project)

Case Managers for the **Breast and Cervical Cancer Project** (BCCP) link low-income, uninsured women age 40 and over to cancer screening and diagnostic services.

BCCP Region 5* Cancer Screenings

2012 Totals

Pap Smears	607
Mammograms.....	828
New Women Enrolled	1,095

*Serving women in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot counties.

Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nurses fulfill a unique role in promoting a healthy community. They are a valuable resource for education, information and referral assistance. Based at the Health Department, they also work in schools and other sites in the city and county. Public Health Nurses provide services to all ages, from newborns to senior citizens.

[www.richlandhealth.org/
departments-and-services/public-health-nursing](http://www.richlandhealth.org/departments-and-services/public-health-nursing)

Public Health Nursing in 2012 Total

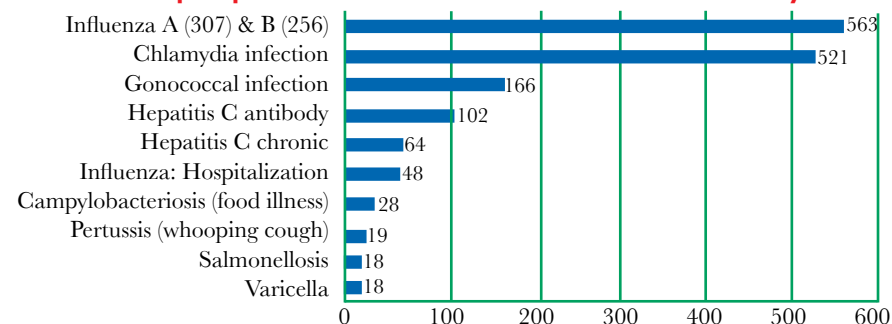
BCMh Contacts.....	4,323
Community Health Screenings	717
Infectious Disease Investigations*	395
Influenza Shots (seasonal, Sept. - Dec.).....	2,835
Hearing Clinic	71
Lead Investigations.....	20
Newborn Home Visits.....	183
Referrals to Community Agencies.....	153
School Health Nurses (Hours).....	11,867
Senior Health Screenings	1,649
Sexually Transmitted Disease Investigations.....	695

*Other than STIs

Communicable Diseases

Communicable Disease Investigations are conducted by Public Health Nurses and are lead by our staff epidemiologist. The Health Department investigates disease outbreaks that could affect the health of our communities. 1,795 disease investigations were conducted last year, with a dramatic increase in the number of influenza cases.

2012 Top Reported Infectious Diseases in Richland County



Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Services division provides services that prevent, protect and educate our community about potentially harmful effects and diseases in our environment. Our sanitarians, plumbing inspectors and other staff work to keep the public safe from disease, illnesses and injuries.

www.richlandhealth.org/departments-and-services/environmental-health

Environmental Health in 2012.....Total*

Campgrounds.....	124
Communicable Diseases	66
Emergency Response	95
Foodborne Investigations	3
Food Operations.....	5,003
Hazardous Materials.....	60
Healthy Homes.....	142
Indoor Air Quality	228
Lead Contamination.....	511
Manufactured Home Parks ¹	207
Nuisance - food.....	125
Nuisance - housing.....	59
Nuisance - insects & rodents	172
Nuisance - sewage	78
Nuisance - solid waste.....	240
Nuisance - other	60
Plumbing - residential.....	841
Plumbing - commercial	2,297
Plumbing - other	580
Private Water Systems.....	1,326
Rabies Control	620
Schools	180
Sewage Systems (all types).....	1,662
Smoke-free Workplace	276
Solid Waste.....	1,678
Swimming Pools/Spas	627
Tattoo/Piercing Parlors	54
Vector Control	1,120
All Other (not categorized)	4,685
Totals All Contacts.....	23,951

*Inspections, investigations and consultations

¹As of December 1, 2012, the Health Department is no longer overseeing Manufactured Home Parks. That program is now under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission.

Health Promotion/Education

Health Promotion/Education works to help people in Richland County gain more control of their personal health as well as the health and well-being of the community and the environment.

Under the category of “other duties as assigned” you might be able to define a Health Educator at the Health Department. In addition to publicizing our programs and events through the media and internet resources, Health Educators work on a variety of grant programs in health and wellness.



You'll find people in this department doing car seat checks, health and wellness lectures, traffic safety awareness programs, working with other agencies involved in health and public welfare, promoting County Employee Wellness through cholesterol screenings and healthy living programs, hosting senior driver refresher classes, and even doing puberty talks to Richland County public schools. Of course, they are also in charge of booths and tables for summer fairs and special health fairs and local parades.

If you have a question about the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department, this is the department to call: 419-774-4544. Or go to our website at www.richlandhealth.org and ask a question online. If you go to the website, you'll notice the links to Facebook and Twitter at the bottom of the page. You can join us there and “like” us for regular updates.

www.richlandhealth.org/departments-and-services/health-promotioneducation

Emergency Preparedness

The Health Department is the lead agency in the event of a county emergency of a biological nature, either through an infectious disease or terrorist act. We also prepare for chemical, radiological and natural disasters. Everyone should have their own plan to be prepared in case of emergencies.

There is a prominent link on the Health Department website to our Emergency Preparedness page. That page contains information on making emergency plans, preparing for emergencies, and dealing with health crisis situations such as floods, tornadoes, pandemic flu or power outages as well as links to some of our favorite resources. There are also many printable documents from the American Public Health Association, broken into convenient categories.

The Health Department also has two important documents at this online link. First, there is a “Voluntary Needs Form.” Completing this form allows us to find citizens with special needs during an emergency. Second, the Health Department’s “Mass Medication Plan” is available for review. Other plans will be available for review in the future.

Emergency Preparedness is one of the essentials in the Health Department’s prevention message of “An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure.”

www.richlandhealth.org/emergency-preparedness

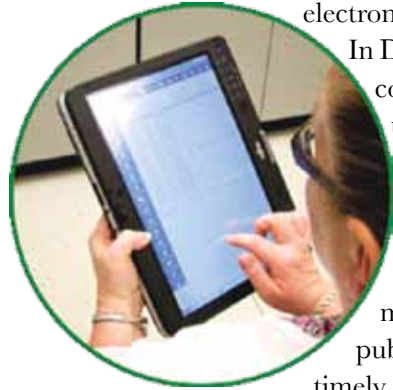
Clinic transitions to electronic medical records

In 2010, Health Department staff began planning for and researching electronic medical information management software.

In December 2011, the Board of Health approved a contract with E-Clinical Works, which is number two in the nation for medical records and the most cost effective choice for our clinic. The transition took place throughout 2012.

Using electronic medical records means better health information to improve our medical care and maintain efficient services for public health clinic patients. It helps us ensure timely payments from Medicare and Medicaid, and

helps us keep clinic services available to the public.



Bedbug nuisance continues to vex

The Health Department conducted a seminar for businesses on how to handle bedbugs, a continued nuisance for many property owners in Ohio. While bedbugs have never been known to carry diseases, the Health Department stepped in to offer advice and information.

A “bedbug” page was created on the Health Department’s website (find it listed under Environmental Health) primarily to provide updated guidance on eliminating the pest. Sanitarians may check infestations (picture at right) and work with licensed pesticide operators to help our citizens with this problem.



Richland County Community Health Assessment report released

The Richland County Partners Community Health Assessment Collaborative introduced the 150-page 2011 Richland County Community Health Assessment Report at a kickoff on February 23. (The report is available online at: www.richlandhealth.org/pages/resources/county-health-assessment).

The assessment, completed in 2011 by the Healthy Communities Foundation of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio and the University of Toledo, is the result of the collaborative efforts of 21 organizations in Richland County. This involved the survey of over 700 residents in Richland County from birth through maturity. Britney Ward, from the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, presented an overview of the report.

One hundred and thirty-four individuals representing county agencies, educational institutions, health services, and business professionals attended the kickoff at the Mid-Ohio Educational Services Center. Funding for the report was provided by Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, MedCentral Health System, Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department, Third Street Family Health Services, Richland County Newhope, Mansfield YMCA, Richland County Children Services, and Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

The report updates and expands the information presented in previous community health assessments. A group of county organizations and agencies designed this assessment, meant to capture the medical, behavioral and community issues that affect the health of county adults and children.

The overall purpose of this study is to identify the health status of the residents of Richland County. With this data, agencies can choose priorities, address gaps in services, and implement programs that will improve the overall well being of the residents of Richland County.

Quick reaction to potential threat of swine flu

On August 1, the Ohio Department of Health reported ten (10) sick people whose illnesses had similarities to a swine flu virus. All had attended the Butler County Fair and had direct contact with swine. Soon sicknesses began showing up elsewhere in the state.

With the Richland County Fair set to start the following week, the Health Department worked closely with the Richland County Fair Board to make sure the public was protected. Signs were posted at every vendor location urging handwashing. The Health Department’s hand sanitizing station was moved closer to the swine barn and warning signs were posted there not to touch the swine.

“We kept in contact with other Health Departments in monitoring outbreaks of flu symptoms (classified as H3N2 variant flu),” said Health Commissioner Stan Saalman. “The Richland County Fair Board was very cooperative and we remained vigilant in making sure the public was safe while not having to close the Fair down.”

The Health Department reported four cases of H3N2 variant flu in 2012 but only one of the cases came from Richland County fairs.



County Fair Swine Barn



Health Commissioner Stan Saalman and Britney Ward, Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, spoke at the Health Assessment Report kickoff.

Public Health: It's all about Prevention, Protection and Health Promotion

Seasonal Flu numbers increase late in season

The Health Department began its annual seasonal flu shot schedule earlier than ever this year, starting in the first week in September. Demand was low at all 14 clinics throughout Richland County.

In December, however, a late onslaught of flu-like illnesses caused hospitals in several large cities to become overwhelmed and make "State of Emergency" announcements.

The Health Department was prepared, opening several holiday clinics and walk-in clinics to assure the community was protected.



2012 saw reports of 265 Influenza type-A cases and 153 Influenza type-B cases with 32 hospitalizations. As in 2010 when the flu season evolved into an H1N1 pandemic, the Health Department was prepared to respond.

Surveillance system monitors disease outbreaks

Foodborne and waterborne diseases have the potential for causing a large amount of illness in the community. These cases often require hours of case investigation and follow-up to stop the spread of illness in the community. Foodborne and Waterborne Disease reported in 2012 included Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, E.Coli, Giardia, Hepatitis A and Salmonellosis. Epidemiology and Surveillance routinely monitors electronic surveillance databases to be on the watch for increase of disease in our community. Epicenter is a statewide syndrome surveillance system that monitors complaints from emergency room visits. MORCHD received over 20 automated alerts leading to investigations.



Environmental Health has busy year

Bed bugs weren't the only items keeping Environmental Health hopping.

The annual rabies vaccine clinic was a howling success. The mosquito control program was buzzing to stay on top of an active season. Solid waste (pictured left) was involved in 1,678 inspections or consultations and is actively involved in the safe prescription drug disposal program. Sanitarians did 2,000 inspections of food operations to keep Richland County citizens safe from foodborne illnesses.

The Health Department is actively working with Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health in an ongoing investigation of possible contaminated well water in the Bahlville area of Madison Township.



Solid Waste Inspection

Staying on top of communicable diseases

The Department of Public Health Nursing (PHN), Epidemiology and Surveillance section is charged with responsibilities related to disease surveillance and Emergency Preparedness and Response.



A total of 916 cases of confirmed or probable reportable infectious disease were recorded in 2012. In addition a total of 66 outbreaks and other investigations of public health concern were investigated including: H3N2 Novel Influenza (Swine Flu) associated with the county fairs, Strep throat cluster in school age children, MRSA, Staph, and Herpes Simplex 1 outbreak among county school wrestling teams, scabies outbreak in schools, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, cancer cluster investigation, fungal meningitis related to contaminated injectable medication and resulting in a national investigation and recall, perinatal transmission of Hepatitis B in newborn infants, pertussis, LaCrosse encephalitis, Lyme disease, and West Nile virus.

Minority Health Fair celebrates 15th year

The Health Department is one of the lead agencies in coordinating the Minority Health Fair, which enjoyed its 15th anniversary at the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center. The health fair brings health care agencies and medical providers together in a collaborative effort to promote health services to the minority community. More than 50 Richland County agencies and businesses provided information and services on a fun-filled day that included activities and health screenings for all ages.



Programs and care for our senior citizens

In addition to health fairs, the Health Department has many services for senior citizens. Our Senior Health Screening program goes throughout Richland County and provided 1,649 check-ups in 2012. Our clinic has a popular Travel Immunization program for seniors interested world travel. For those staying locally, the Health Department has a senior driver refresher course to keep mature drivers' skills up-to-date. Adult immunizations are available in the Public Health Clinic.



Yes, we do that.



WIC

WIC (Women, Infants, Children) is the nation's premier public health nutrition program. With nutritious foods, counseling, and referral to health care, WIC has helped to decrease anemia among pre-school children and improve pregnancy outcomes.

The total number of WIC coupons issued for 2012 was 171,078. The value of these coupons was \$2,263,288.70, greatly contributing to our Richland County economy. The number of WIC clients active in Richland County during 2012 averaged 3,298 per month.

During 2012 the WIC Program experienced serious funding cuts. The local WIC budget was reduced by \$151,789. This deficit resulted in the closing of the Shelby WIC office on October 1. Staffing changed with the loss of two intermittent registered dietitians, two breastfeeding peer helpers and the vacancy of a part-time registered dietitian position. All special classes, such as the WIC Café, the

Breastfeeding Tea, WIC Baby Showers, and Halloween and Easter Nutritious Snacks, were cancelled. Fiscal uncertainties for WIC and other

federally-funded programs may extend through 2014. Richland County WIC continues to advocate for adequate WIC funding so that all at risk women, infants and children can be served.

WIC Clients for 2012

New Participants	2,173
Recertifications	5,105
Other Contacts	5,515
Total Contacts	12,793

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births in Richland County and deaths (excluding Shelby) since 1908. Since 2011, Vital Statistics has been able to provide birth certificates for anyone born in Ohio (not just Richland County).

DEATHS (excludes Shelby) 4-Year Trends

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Deaths	1,067	1,107	1,078	1,055
Male	540	555	568	542
Female	527	552	510	513
Causes of Death	2009	2010	2011	2012
Heart Related	364	402	398	413
Male	184	194	204	221
Female	180	208	194	191
Cancer	227	219	205	191
Lung Diseases	79	100	101	84
Strokes/CVA	77	71	51	48
Flu/Pneumonia	40	55	46	50
Alzheimers	77	52	64	60
Renal/Kidney Disease	49	50	48	47
Accidents	40	39	47	25
Accidental Drug OD	17	15	15	7
Falls	9	8	14	3
Traffic-related	14	11	10	12
Suicide	13	11	12	17
Stillbirths	5	12	1	3
Homicides	4	6	4	3
AIDS	0	2	1	2
Pending Autopsy	10	2	3	3
Other (not above)	77	86	97	108

BIRTHS (excludes Shelby) 4-Year Trends

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Births	1,306	1,147	1,167	1,161
Total to Teens	195	142	126	151
Unwed Teens	179	130	120	136
Repeat Teens	40	16	26	16
Total Unwed (All Ages)	407	404	465	424
Repeat Births (All Ages)	760	710	679	728
Teen Births % of Total149	.124	.107	.130
Unwed Births % of Total312	.352	.398	.365

Protecting our littlest clients

The Health Department has several programs to make sure healthy infants are born and cared for.



The Public Health Clinic's prenatal care had 284 visits last year to help assure healthy pregnancies.

After babies are born, there is follow-up assessment by a Public Health Nurse during a newborn home visits (183 visits last year).

WIC is available for qualifying families and also assists in healthy pregnancy outcomes as well as providing nutritious food for newborns and pre-school children.

Having healthy pregnancies and healthy newborns reduces the cost of healthcare for everyone.

Funding - 2012

SUPPORT: \$6,271,699

Levy (37.65%).....	\$2,361,239
Fees, Licenses, Permits (22.46%).....	1,408,345
State/Federal Grants (21.72%).....	1,362,456
Contracts (12.13%).....	760,984
State Subsidy (5.65%).....	354,581
All Other Sources (0.38%).....	24,064

SERVICES: \$6,735,983

Public Health Clinic (27.84%).....	\$1,875,518
Public Health Nursing (25.37%).....	1,708,881
Environmental Health (22.0%).....	1,482,215
WIC (14.71%).....	991,171
Health Promotion/Education (6.32%).....	425,545
Vital Statistics (3.75%).....	252,652

GRANT INCOME: \$1,362,456

WIC – Nutrition and Education (52.67%).....	\$717,657
Child & Family Health Services (14.5%).....	197,522
PHEP* (12.04%).....	164,091
Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening (10.59%).....	144,317
Creating Healthy Communities (4.52%).....	61,633
Immunization Action Program (2.66%).....	36,273
Senior Health Screenings (1.72%).....	23,496
Safe Communities (1.28%).....	17,467

*PHEP = Public Health Emergency Preparedness

www.richlandhealth.org/about-us/mission-statement

www.richlandhealth.org/about-us/what-is-public-health

Printed by the *Mansfield News Journal*. For additional copies or inquiries, contact Reed Richmond, Health Educator, 419-774-4544 or www.richlandhealth.org.

Management Structure

Board of Health

Mansfield: Robert Exten, MD; John F. Leech, DDS; Matthew Maiyer, R.Ph.; Frank Russo, Donald Bartlett; **Ontario:** Barbara Cinadr, RN, Vice Chair; Carla Pindel, R.Ph. **County:** Thelda Dillon; Janice Reed, RN, PhD; Steven Phillips, DVM, Chair; Jean Swartz; Violet Wetzel; Beauford T. Williams.

District Advisory Council

This council meets annually in March to bring health concerns and recommendations to the Board of Health and to appoint new members from the county. Members include the chair of each township's board of trustees, village mayors, mayors of Mansfield and Ontario, and the chair of the county commissioners.

Townships - Bloomingrove: Danny E. Adkins • Butler: Matthew Pickworth • Cass: Joseph Miller • Franklin: Jeffrey L. Kuhn • Jackson: Steven E. Schumacher • Jefferson: Mark Gatton • Madison: David Spain • Mifflin: Roger D. Cook • Monroe: Michael Switzer • Perry: Walter Burg • Plymouth: Charles E. Miller • Sandusky: Thomas Glauer • Sharon: Dale Schroeder • Springfield: Robert W. Currens • Troy: Wayne E. Weirick • Washington: Kay Leitenberger • Weller: Thomas Oswalt • Worthington: E. Clark Swank.

Mayors - Bellville: Darrell Banks • Butler: Kevin Carr • Lexington: Eugene Parkison • Lucas: Todd Hall • Mansfield: Timothy Theaker • Ontario: Larry Collins • Plymouth: Timothy Redden • Shiloh: Timothy Wireman. **Chair, County Commissioners** - Ed Olson.

Retail Licensing Council

Micah Ortega (Tattoo & Body Piercing Establishments); Brenda Martin (Food Service); Gayle Meadows (Food Establishment); Bob Chapman (Manufactured Home Parks); Dave Carver (Swimming Pools, Spas & Special Use Pools); Terry Conard (Campgrounds & Parks); Grant Milliron (Solid & Biomedical Waste Facilities); Bo Christiansen (Plumbing Industries).

Health Department Administration

Stan Saalman, MSEP, JD, RS, Commissioner; **Daniel Burwell**, D.O., Medical Director; **Selby Dorgan**, LSW, Manager of Health Promotion/Education; **Tina Picman**, MS, RDLD, WIC Director; **Richard Grega**, Esq., Director of Human Resources and IT; **Kevin VanMeter**, Director of Fiscal Operations; **Amy Schmidt**, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing; **Matt Work**, RS, Director of Environmental Health.

www.richlandhealth.org/about-us

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Public Health Day Awards



Left: Friends of Public Health Awards (L-R) went to Rudy Flores and Christine McQuillen. Tony Mitchell from WVNO received the Media Award.

The Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department honored two individuals and a Richland County media personality at its annual Public Health Day breakfast and awards program on April 4.

“Friends of Public Health” awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to either the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department or to public health and health awareness in Richland County, were awarded to Christine McQuillen and Rudy Flores.

McQuillen, a native of Mansfield and a graduate of Mansfield Senior High, has been an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) participant for 10 years. She has helped the Health Department with the annual Hikes for Health, flu clinics, and the senior health fair. A retired rural carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, she has also been a volunteer with Malabar Farm for 27 years and has done volunteer work for the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library, Gorman Nature Center, Red Cross and the Ohio Bird Sanctuary.

Flores, also a Mansfield Senior High graduate, is an Army veteran who retired after 20 years at U.S. Steel. He has assisted the Health Department over the last 15 years with the annual Minority Health Fair. He is also a court interpreter and serves on the Human Relations Committee and Charter Commission with the City of Mansfield.

The 16th annual “Media Award” for coverage of the Health Department and health-related issues in Richland County was presented to Tony Mitchell, Operations Manager at WVNO Mix 106.1.

Mitchell may be most recognizable as a radio personality for the WVNO morning drive-time show “Tony & Chelley” with Chelley Kemper, a previous Public Health Day Media Award winner. He frequently arranges morning show interviews with Health Department employees, and focuses on health topics for discussion on the show to offer advice and expertise on health and safety issues.

National Public Health Week is celebrated annually, recognizing the contributions of public health to the nation’s well being as well as helping focus public attention on health issues.



Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County
Health Department

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From the Health Commissioner



Stan Saalman

This year, like most recent years, the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department budget continued to take major hits. As we have in other years, we adjusted our services and staffing to offset those losses. We lost \$150,000 in levy dollar revenue due to local property values decreasing. We also received a \$150,000 cut in federal funding for our WIC grant. Numerous personnel positions were cut from that program. We were forced to eliminate branch offices in Shelby and Loudonville to offset the cuts in the WIC program. In addition, several clerical positions were reduced to part time while health insurance deductibles increased.

In spite of these losses in revenue and staffing time, the Health Department continued to provide our community with the best protection against diseases and unsafe environmental practices possible. We have never wavered in regards to that policy.

This Annual Report is filled with a small sampling of our efforts to protect the health of our community. Please take the time to read them, and feel free to let me know how you think we are doing.

This year, the American Public Health Association has chosen as its theme “Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money.” ROI is short for Return On Investment and there are few investments that reap the far-reaching and life-changing results that investments in evidence-based public health do. Consider just these two facts:

- U.S. health care costs rose tenfold from 1980 to 2010 and are expected to rise faster than national income during the foreseeable future. However, investing just \$10 per person each year in proven, community-based public health efforts could save the nation more than \$16 billion within five years. That’s a \$5.60 return for every \$1 invested.
- Routine childhood immunizations save \$9.9 million in health care costs, save 33,000 lives and prevent 14 million cases of disease.

However, these successes cannot sustain and grow on their own. It takes a robust public health system to protect the gains we’ve made and ensure that all future generations have opportunities for good health and well-being. Plus, confronting today’s big health threats, such as obesity and chronic disease, will require a public health approach if we’re to truly turn around these alarming trends.

At the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department we have more than 60 program services protecting your health every day. Our programs in prevention, protection and health promotion benefit everyone.

That’s what we do.