

Stark County Health Department

Quarterly Report to the District Advisory Council

Stark County Health Department
www.stark.health.org

ENVIRO EXPO 2005

Once again the Stark County Health Department is the forerunner in extending community services. The Health Department will be presenting an Environmental Health Exposition on September 9 and 10, 2005. Our latest endeavor is unprecedented in the State of Ohio. The event's major objective is to exhibit the numerous programs that the Environmental Division implements. The exposition will focus attention on the role of public health in addressing environmental issues such as the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and how we protect the community we serve.

The event will be located at The Strip in North Canton, within the Lowe's parking area. This venue was selected in order to display such exhibits as water well drill rigs, septage pumpers, the National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team as well as indoor exhibitors that will be housed in a "big-top" tent. Other possible exhibitors may include the Stark County Licensing Council, the Stark County Restaurant Association, ODH, ODA, the Ohio EPA, and representatives from within the industries we regulate. So pass the word along, and we look forward to seeing you at the event!

NEW ARENA – METHAMPHETAMINES

Environmental Health has taken another new twist. Now the Health Department plays a role in the arena of illegal narcotics. Recently, the manufacture of methamphetamine has become more and more common locally. Methamphetamine is also known as meth, crank, chalk, L.A., ice, crystal, and quartz. It can be injected, ingested, snorted, or smoked. Chronic abuse of the drug can lead to irritability, severely increased blood pressure (strokes), nervousness, and psychological disturbance. There are several different recipes for producing meth, which are readily available over the internet. Some ingredients may include: pseudophedrine, red phosphorus, drain cleaner, battery acid, antifreeze, metals, and anhydrous ammonia. Following a drug bust the bulk chemicals are removed by law enforcement, but the

residue from production remains. The Health Department must ensure that future occupants are not exposed to these remaining hazardous chemicals.

Chemical contaminants may remain in a home in varied quantities, depending upon the chemicals used, the quantity made, its handling during production, and ventilation. Residues are most commonly found on carpets, walls, and other surfaces, as well as, drains, sinks, and the ventilation system. The health effects on future occupants of a structure used for the production of meth can include: throat irritation, respiratory difficulties, and headache. Chronic exposure can lead to gastro-

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Smoke Free Ohio Campaign Underway

The American Cancer Society and Tobacco Free Ohio, with the support of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, have launched a petition campaign to bring clean indoor air into all of Ohio's public places. That campaign is called Smokefreeohio. Because second hand smoke contains at least 43 cancer causing chemicals, it is deemed a threat to the public's health.

Smoke Free Ohio is advocating for a 100 percent, clean indoor air standard for all of Ohio. This includes all workplaces, including bars, bingo halls, bowling alleys and restaurants. 100,000 names need to be collected and submitted to lawmakers by November of 2005. If the legislature does nothing or tries to weaken the proposal, an additional 100,000 names will need to be collected for the issue to be put on the ballot in the November 2006 election.

Eight states as well as hundreds of cities in the U.S.A. have similar laws. Several countries, including Ireland, are smoke free as well. Ohio is attempting to adopt this to protect all employees and patrons from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.

For more information on signing a petition, contact David McCoy at stopsmoking@soon.com or call the American Cancer Society at 330-497-7100. Also check out www.smokefreeohio.org. For information on second hand smoke, call 330-493-9904, ext. 284.



Kick Butts Day 2005

On April 13th, 2005 over 150 students, teachers, volunteers and community groups from across Stark County conversed on Malone College to celebrate the national 10th anniversary of Kick Butts Day. Kick Butts Day is a nationwide initiative that is celebrated all over the country by organizations working to raise awareness about the effects of smoking and tobacco use.

Many displays were on hand to educate youth on the dangers of tobacco use. Table displays included: ingredients found in tobacco smoke, to-

Release of new Meningitis Vaccine: Menactra

A new meningitis vaccine manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. was licensed in January 2005. The new vaccine, Menactra (MCV4), is for use among persons 11 – 55 years of age for the prevention of meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is a serious illness which can lead to loss of limbs, deafness, problems with the nervous system, seizures or strokes and ultimately death. Menactra covers serogroups A, C, Y, and W-135. It is given intramuscular and has a longer duration of protection than the previous vaccine Menomune.

The Stark County Health Department will be offering Menactra beginning July 1, 2005. Menactra will be offered to the following individuals: all children beginning at their routine preadolescent visit (11-12 years of age), adolescents who wish to decrease their risk of getting meningitis, college freshmen living in dormitories, household, institutional or school contacts of person's with meningococcal disease, person's having cochlear implants, and persons without a spleen or with terminal component deficiency upon written recommendation of their physician. The fee for the vaccine is \$95.00. The vaccine will be offered in the pediatric immunization clinics as well as in the adult immunization clinics. Please contact the Maternal Child Health Center at 330-493-9914 ext. 100 to reserve a shot or call 330-493-9928 ext. 241 to schedule a shot on Thursday or Friday in the adult health clinic.

bacco ads station, smokeless tobacco, the **stand** 53 K bracelets, a graffiti wall, and many others!

Participants were also treated to many cool tobacco incentives, pizza, treats, and music provided by DJ Jeff Brandon. Malone College & Eta Sigma Gamma hosted this event! It was sponsored by the Stark County Health Department, Stark County Tobacco Prevention Coalition, Stark County Medical Society Auxiliary, SARTA, Aultman Hospital, Blimpie Subs and Salads of North Canton, ACME, Taggarts Ice Cream and Sams Club.

Communicable Disease Update

- In January, the Communicable Disease Program, along with staff from the Environmental Health Division, investigated an outbreak of gastroenteritis in a local nursing home facility. The organism responsible for the outbreak was Norovirus, which causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain, and typically lasts about 48 hours. Only one wing of the facility was implicated and control measures implemented early on in the outbreak appear to have halted progression to other areas. Environmental Health staff inspected the facility to ensure that the disease, which can be spread through contaminated food, did not pass to other areas within the facility by this method.
- Pertussis numbers remain high; to date in 2005 the Stark County Health Jurisdiction has investigated 16 out of 28 (57%) cases reported in all of Stark County. Pertussis follow-up requires Health Department staff to identify people who might have come into close contact, or live with a known case of Pertussis. It is recommended that these people be treated with preventive antibiotics.
- Information pertaining to Communicable Diseases has now been added to the Stark County Health Department website. Visitors can access disease surveillance information for Stark County, Ohio, and the US. They can also find information on several Communicable Diseases by clicking on links that will take them to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

Industrial Waste Sampling Program

The Stark County Health Department has developed an Industrial and Liquid Waste Sampling Program to assure that wastes being disposed of within Stark County comply with local, state, and federal regulations for solid waste disposal. The program is a first of its kind in the state of Ohio and is not being initiated due to any wrong or illegal activities on behalf of the facilities in Stark County. The sampling plan includes random inspections and sampling of industrial and liquid waste streams that are being disposed of at licensed facilities within Stark County. Health department personnel that have been properly trained conduct the inspections and sampling, a copy of the report and analytical results will be provided to the disposal facility and filed at the department.

SAFE KIDS Day 2005

“Follow the Leader. . . Safety Starts With You!”

The Stark County SAFE KIDS Coalition, in conjunction with the Stark County Health Department, North Canton Fire Department and the City of North Canton, hosted the 2005 SAFE KIDS Day event on May 7th at Dogwood Park in North Canton. Over 300 children, 300 parents and 100 volunteers attended!

The event provided parents, caregivers and children the opportunity to learn about safety together, through interactive displays and games. Safety stations encouraged parents and children to ride safe, wheel safe and walk safe.

Interactive areas included a car seat check up, scooter obstacle course, safety bingo, fire safety house, a DJ, a yo-yo demonstrator and refreshments.

Sponsors included: Aultman Hospital, Doctor's Hospital of Stark Co., McDonalds, Mercy Medical Center, Ohio Troopers Coalition, Stark County Dental Society, Stark County Medical Auxiliary, Stark County Safety Council, Stark County Bicycle Club, Babies R Us, City of North Canton, Ernie's Bicycle Shop, Go Jo Industries, National SAFE KIDS, North Canton Fire Dept., Stark County Health Dept., Sam's Club and Wal-Mart.

If you have questions regarding the Coalition, please call 330-493-9904 x 282!

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METHAMPHETAMINES continued...

intestinal problems, visual-speech disorders, and even chromosomal damage. Again, dependent upon the chemicals used, the Health Department orders various degrees of testing, so that the type and extent of clean-up can be determined. The owner is then ordered to clean-up the interior of the structure, and may also be required to conduct post clean-up testing. As one can readily see from recent years, public health is dynamic. With all emerging health threats, adequate protection of our citizens must come through diligent recognition and adaptation to the community's needs.

Whooping Cough Update

Large numbers of Pertussis cases continue to be reported both locally and nationally. Twenty-eight cases of Pertussis have been reported in Stark County this year. The disease begins with cold-like symptoms including, runny nose and a dry cough. It will then progress to violent fits of coughing, and the patient will make a high-pitched, "whoop," sound between coughing bursts. Pertussis is a vaccine-preventable disease, which was a major cause of childhood illness and deaths prior to wide-spread vaccine use in the 1940s. The vaccine is given in a series of shots which typically begin at two months of age. The last dose is given before a child enters kindergarten. Although the disease is vaccine-preventable, it is well-known that the protection provided by the vaccine declines about 8 years after the last dose is given, or when a child reaches adolescence. Adults and adolescent children can carry the bacteria that causes Pertussis, sometimes not even developing symptoms, and pass it on to young

children who haven't received a full vaccination series, or elderly people whose bodies are unable to fight off infection. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently approved two new booster doses of Pertussis vaccine, which will be available in the near future. The new doses are aimed at the adolescent and adult populations, which will minimize disease in these groups as well as reduce the possibility that the groups will pass the disease on to young children who are not yet fully vaccinated.

Pertussis is treatable with antibiotics and other medicines, and treatment is recommended for case patients, as well as family members and other people who have spent 3 hours or more with the patient while they were sick. To reduce the spread of transmission, Ohio Law requires that anyone who is considered a case of Pertussis be isolated from work, school, or other activities until they can be effectively treated with medicine.

Industrial Waste Sampling Program continued...

The random sampling occurs at a frequency equal to one (1) sample per month per facility. The plan addresses waste identification based upon sampling of industrial and liquid wastes that have been accepted at a licensed facility. The plan also serves as a tool to evaluate the composition of industrial and liquid waste being accepted and disposed of at the licensed facilities. Adjustments may be made at any time during the implementation of this plan to further enhance the plan if necessary. The department initiated the sampling program in May of 2005. After one (1) year of implementation, the plan will be reviewed and evaluated.



Mosquito Spraying

The Stark County Health Department is first once again. However, it's a dubious first. A crow collected on June 3, 2005 was the first West Nile Virus (WNV) positive bird in the State of Ohio. The crow was collected from Plain Township. Through June 20, 2005, our department has collected only 11 birds for submittal to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Our mosquito control crew has also trapped 1,373 mosquitoes at 23 locations. No positives yet!

There is good news though. Mother Nature has been very kind to us this year in regards to nuisances. The average high was 66.4 ° F for May and 80.2 ° F for June. Precipitation is well below normal so far this season. May was 1.58" below normal and June is 1.82" below normal. Needless to say, it has been very dry. Just look at your lawn. This weather pattern is very kind to our

phones, but it is conducive to the spread of WNV. Don't let the pleasant nights fool you.

To help the control of WNV, the Stark County Health Department is once again offering a cooperative purchasing program with our political subdivisions. Our department will pay \$300.00 and the shipping and handling charges towards the purchase of larvaciding products. This year, only two have chosen the option. Of those who participated last year, many said they had product left-over. Please note, our mosquito control garage has moved from Louisville to Perry Township. Their cooperation has allowed us to have more space and closer proximity to our problem mosquito areas. And finally, our mosquito spray schedule, as well as chemical information is available on the Stark County Health Department's website www.starkhealth.org.

Odor Control

The Stark County Health Department acknowledges that failure to control off-site odors is disruptive, disturbing and revolting to the communities surrounding solid waste landfills. The department has been working with the solid waste facilities to minimize the off-site migration of these odors. Odors emanating from the landfills are caused by the decomposition of placed waste. American Landfill and Countywide Landfill have taken aggressive steps towards limiting landfill odors. These steps include expansion of the existing landfill gas recovery and conversion systems, operation of a mechanical perimeter and portable odor suppression systems, the maintenance of a working face as small as possible, the

placement of daily cover, and the closing and capping of filled areas.

The Stark County Landfills have also discontinued the acceptance of certain sewage sludge streams that in the past increased the intensity of the odors at and around the landfills. The Stark County Health Department has been proactive in dealing with the community's concerns regarding the Solid Waste Landfills. The steps enacted by the landfills to minimize odors are currently the best available technology within the solid waste industry. Monitoring will continue and implementation of new technology will be discussed as it comes on line.