



Tuscarawas County Health Department

2018 Quarterly Report
to the District Advisory
Council

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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO KICK OFF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

Dr. Clint J. Koenig, Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Health, visited with the staff of the Tuscarawas County Health Department to applaud them for their collaborative work in program planning and quality improvement. Dr. Koenig also wanted to lend his ear for any thoughts on how the state and local health departments continue collaboration and joint partnerships.

Commissioner Seward shared her gratitude with Dr. Koenig for taking time out of his schedule to come and meet with the staff at the health department, "to know that the work you do locally means something to those at the state level means so much to the staff, the Board of Health, and myself. This is certainly a day to remember." Dr. Koenig spent about 2 hours with Commissioner Seward and the Department Directors and went on a tour of the building. He took time for a photo opportunity as well.

Commissioner Seward added further, "Dr. Koenig's visit coincides nicely with our 100-year celebration that will start January 1, 2019. To think the Tuscarawas County Health Department has been serving the residents of Tuscarawas for 100 years is astonishing!" 2019 holds many exciting events for the Tuscarawas County Health Department: GuardCare, the long-awaited outcome of their Accreditation Site Visit, a potential redesign of programming so as to bolster population health for the county, and many more

things to come for the health department and the county.

Did you know that TCHD was established in 1919, 100 years ago? In the 1918s and the 1919s, each municipality or township in Ohio could choose to operate as its own health district, employing part-time, informally-educated public health employees on salaries averaging \$4-10 a week. More than 2,100 health districts existed in Ohio in the first two decades of the 1900s, with little oversight from the State Board of Health.

The Hughes Law and subsequent Griswold Act, which received widespread support from labor unions, women's organizations and medical professionals, created a public health model for the country by organizing local health districts into city and county areas of populations of 25,000 or more. This law was a direct response to the influenza epidemic (pandemic) of 1918-19 in which more than one-half million people died in the United States and more than 20 million worldwide.

At a minimum, each district was required to employ a full-time health commissioner, a nurse and a clerk. In addition, each district was required to have a five-member board of health, with the health commissioner serving as administrative or executive agent of that board. A newly reorganized State Department of Health was given more oversight over local health districts, though local health officials retained the authority to resolve local issues.



Medical Director for ODH Visits TCHD

From Left to Right: Valerie Wilson, Director of WIC; Caroline Terakedis, Director of Environmental Health; Loretta Pinchek, Director of Medical Records; Clint Koenig, ODH Medical Director; Katie Seward, Health Commissioner; Andrea Dominick, Director of AAP and Health Education; Amy Kaser, Director of Nursing

GuardCare Coming to Tuscarawas County in 2019

The Ohio Adjutant General's Department and the Ohio Department of Health have created a unique partnership to allow Ohio National Guard medical personnel to provide free health services in Ohio communities while providing training and professional development opportunities for members of the National Guard.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau enters into an agreement with Ohio's Governor and state or county health departments or other service agencies to carry out two weekend-long GuardCare events. Services are typically provided by more than 70 certified doctors, dentists and qualified health care personnel.

Services typically provided include: All medical screenings, Physicals, Complete Blood Counts, Pap Smears/Cervical Examinations, Prostate Specific Antigen Tests, Examinations, Blood Sugar Screenings, Dental Examinations/Screenings, Cholesterol Screenings, Vision and Glaucoma Testing

All services are free to all Ohio residents, with no income requirements or restrictions.

Stay Tuned for More Information!!

**Communicable Disease Cases Reported to the
Tuscarawas County Health Department*
2018 Quarter 4: October - December**

	Quarter 3 Cases	YTD Cases
Chlamydia	65	204
Gonorrhea	7	28
Campylobacteriosis	1	16
Chronic Hepatitis C	3	16
Acute Hepatitis B	0	2
Varicella	0	2
Strep Pneumonia	3	7
Hospitalized Influenza	1	84
Streptococcal (A)	0	5
Pertussis	3	4
Salmonella	1	11
Haemophilus Influenza	0	1
TB	0	1
Lyme Disease	4	15
Giardiasis	0	4
Shigellosis	0	2
Listeriosis	0	1
Legionellosis	2	4
Yersiniosis	1	2
CP-CRE	0	3
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1
Viral Meningitis	0	2

** Numbers are subject to change based on case confirmations

Hepatitis A Statewide Outbreak

Did you know that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) declared a statewide community outbreak of hepatitis A after observing an increase in linked cases since the start of 2018? Several other states including neighboring states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia are also experiencing hepatitis A outbreaks.

As of December 31, 2018, the total number of hepatitis A cases related to the outbreak in Ohio is 1311, including 4 deaths. Although Tuscarawas County has not yet experienced an outbreak-related case, 66 of the 88 counties in Ohio have reported 1 or more outbreak-related cases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hepatitis A is a virus causing a highly contagious liver infection lasting a few weeks to several months. Symptoms can include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, diarrhea, clay-colored stools, joint pain, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes).

Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person ingests the virus, even in microscopic amounts, from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated with small, undetected amounts of stool of an infected person. Hepatitis A can also be spread by close personal contact with an infected person such as through sex or caring for an ill person. Anyone can get hepatitis A, but people at higher risk for infection in this outbreak according to ODH include: - People with direct contact with individuals infected with the virus - Men who have sex with men - People who use street drugs whether they are injected or not - People who are incarcerated - People experiencing homelessness - People who have traveled to other areas of the U.S. currently experiencing outbreaks.

If you are or know someone who is at higher risk for infection with hepatitis A, contact your healthcare provider or local health department for information about vaccination.

The Tuscarawas County Health Department offers the hepatitis A vaccine in 2 doses 6 months apart. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 330-343-5555.

Third Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies in Tuscarawas County, Warren Township

On December 18, 2018 the Tuscarawas County Health Department was notified by the Ohio Department of Health that a deceased raccoon that was collected the previous week tested positive for rabies. The raccoon was collected after a pet exposure from Henderson School Road in Warren Township. This is the third confirmed case of raccoon rabies reported in Tuscarawas County to date.

The Carroll County Health Department has reported that two rabid raccoons have been identified in the Sherrodsville area. While, the New Philadelphia City Health Department have had laboratory confirmation of several bats with rabies inside the city limits.

The raccoon cases signify an immediate and potential threat of raccoon rabies variant to new areas of eastern and central Ohio.

Common signs that a raccoon, or other wild animal has rabies include agitation, disorientation, excessively drooling, wobbling when walking and biting or snapping at people or objects.

Tuscarawas County Health Department will continue to work with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to



perform enhanced surveillance sample collections near the areas where the rabid raccoon was found.

We are asking residents report any raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes or bobcats displaying strange behavior found in Tuscarawas County and surrounding areas to the Tuscarawas County Health Department by calling (330) 343-5550 or emailing director@tchdnow.org.

All of the cases in Sherrodsville, New Philadelphia and Tuscarawas County with the exception of one had pet exposures.

TCHD would like to remind residents that it is vitally important to vaccinate all cats and dogs for rabies. Indoor cats should also be vaccinated.

Unfortunately, the only way a pet can be tested for rabies after an exposure is via brain tissue after elective euthanasia. If pets are not vaccinated and owners do not wish to euthanize pets for testing a mandatory quarantine of 45 days to 6 months is imposed.

If established, this strain of rabies could lead to a dramatic increase in rabies exposure to people and pets. To protect Ohioans and their domestic animals, the Tuscarawas County Health Department is partnering with the Ohio Department of Health, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Wildlife Service (WS) to determine the best response.

If you have questions regarding the recent raccoon positive case or about rabies, in general, please feel free to contact the Tuscarawas County Health Department at 330-343-5550 or the ODH Zoonotic Disease program at 614-752-1029 or by emailing at director@tchdnow.org or zoonoses@odh.ohio.gov.