

Highland County General Health District

2019 Annual Report



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Highland County Health Department

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Highland County General Health District is to provide public health services that promote, protect, and improve community and environmental health.

Mailing Address:
1487 North High St., Suite 400
Hillsboro, OH 45133

Phone: (937) 393-1941
Fax: (937) 393-4694
Email: info@highlandcountyhealth.org

Web Address:
www.highlandcountyhealth.org

Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/highlandcountyhealth/>

Highland County Health Department 2019 Annual Report

Introduction

This report contains an overview of the Highland County Health Department's 2019 public health program activity. The report is broken down by division and program, and contains general information and activity numbers for each area. Please contact the health department with any questions or for more information about any public health activities conducted by the health department.

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Board of Health Members

Original Appointment Date	Members	Current Term Expires
2014	John Holt (President)	March 31, 2022
2001	Robert McCray (Vice President)	March 31, 2021
1997	John Griffith	March 31, 2024
2016	Dr. Julie Karnes	March 31, 2023
2016	Craig Edgington	March 31, 2020

Health Department Staff as of 2/20/2020

Name	Title
Jared Warner, MEM, RS	Health Commissioner
Richard Mizer, MD	Medical Director
Anna McCoppin, RS	Director of Environmental Health
Bonnie Rusch, BS, RN	Director of Nursing
Kate Lewis, RN	Public Health Nurse
Barb Eaglin, RN	Public Health Nurse
Ebbie Van Pelt	Public Health Aide
Shirley Cox	Registrar / Receptionist
Chris Shope, RS	Sanitarian
Philip Webb, RS	Sanitarian
Connie Page	Fiscal Officer
Brittane Dance, MBA	Emergency Response Coordinator

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2019 Fiscal Report

The Health Department was able to operate at a profit in 2019 for the second time in 7 years. This is a result of the many cost savings efforts that the health department has undergone in the last few years, and also due to having a vacant Sanitarian staff position for all of 2019. This allowed the health department to save funding to offset operating losses expected in 2019 and 2020. Due to state mandated program requirements, this position must be filled moving forward. The Nursing Director position was also vacant for several months in 2019, which also allowed for some cost savings.

A 0.5 mill levy, originally passed in 1989, expired at the end of 2019. The health department continues to work on cost savings efforts, but without a significant change in levy revenue, the long-term financial outlook for the agency remains concerning.

Health Department General Fund	
January 1, 2019 Beginning Balance:	\$267,287
Revenue Sources	
Levy and Inside Millage:	\$593,615
Operating Revenue:	\$337,348
Grant Funds:	\$317,526
Total Revenue:	\$1,248,489
Total Expenditures:	\$1,187,997
Ending Balance:	\$107,751*
December 31, 2018 Ending Balance	\$375,038
*1 RS position unfilled for 2019, DON position empty for ~5 months	

Every dollar spent at the health department is accounted for monthly at the Board of Health meeting and listed in detail for each board meeting packet. This information, as well as the Auditor of State Financial Report, is available upon request.

Environmental Health Division Report

Anna McCoppin, RS, Director of Environmental Health

The Environmental Health (EH) Division of the Highland County Health Department is responsible for managing a wide variety of state and local programs designed to promote a healthy environment for Highland County. These services include food inspections, household sewage treatment, private water sources, nuisance complaints (trash, open burning, etc.), environmental disease monitoring, school and institution safety inspections, swimming pool inspections, and many other programs.

The following section provides an overview of many of the program areas of our Environmental Health Division.

Operation and Maintenance Inspections

New sewage regulations require the health department to inspect every household sewage system in the county. 164 Operation and Maintenance inspections were completed in 2019, with a total of 1,185 inspections since 2016.

Visibility of EH Programs

In mid 2018, the EH Division started a new food service window cling program. Every licensed food facility in Highland County is offered a window cling with the health department logo on it. This is another way that we can show our community the work involved in providing safe food to Highland County.

Highland County also continues to provide online inspection results for our Food, Campground, and Recreational Water (Pool) programs. This allows the public to have direct access to the over 650 inspections conducted in these programs each year.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Highland County has been awarded an additional \$150,000 of grant funding for 2020 aimed at helping home owners pay for household sewage system repairs and replacements. In 2019, approximately \$180,000 out of \$200,000 of available grant money was used to support local homeowners. Homeowners can contact the health department for more information about this grant opportunity.

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Household Sewage Treatment

Sixty-nine household septic system installations were completed in 2019, nearly doubling the amount from 2018. Seventy-six site evaluations were conducted at properties across the county.

Completed Installations

TOWNSHIP	2018	2019
Brush Creek	1	4
Clay	2	3
Concord	7	0
Dodson	1	2
Fairfield	3	7
Hamer	0	1
Jackson	2	2
Liberty	3	15
Madison	3	8
Marshall	2	3
New Market	1	1
Paint	0	8
Penn	2	2
Salem	4	3
Union	1	4
Washington	4	3
White Oak	0	3
TOTALS	36	69

Site Evaluations

TOWNSHIP	2018	2019
Brush Creek	6	3
Clay	5	3
Concord	6	3
Dodson	5	5
Fairfield	9	6
Hamer	3	4
Jackson	3	6
Liberty	13	9
Madison	7	4
Marshall	8	3
New Market	8	2
Paint	12	8
Penn	4	3
Salem	3	4
Union	4	7
Washington	3	2
White Oak	0	4
TOTALS	99	76

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2019 Environmental Health Division Activity Report

Private Water Systems	2019
Inspections	30
Consultations	462
Completed	5
Sealed	2

Public Water Supplies	2019
Inspections	0
Consultations	18

Water Samples	2019
Total Samples	180
Safe Samples	74
Unsafe Samples	46

Water Hauler	2019
Inspections	3
Consultations	16

Animal Bites	2019
Number Reported - Dogs	90
Number Reported - Other	21
Investigations	98
Consultations	220
Heads to Lab	6
Positive for Rabies	0

Food Service	2019
Inspections	606
Consultations	1275

Nuisances	2019
Reported	32
Inspections	76
Consultations	262
Abated	24

Sewage Systems	2019
Inspected	402
Consultations	2048
Completed	69
Site Evaluations	76
Minor and Large Lot Subdivisions Approved	26
Operation and Maintenance Permits	164

Solid Waste	2019
Inspections	7
Consultations	28
Abated	3

Schools	2019
Inspections	34
Consultations	90

Vending Food Service	2019
Inspections	11
Consultations	47

Septage Haulers	2019
Inspections	1

Resident Camps	2019
Inspections	6
Consultations	27

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Body Art	2019
Inspections	5
Consultations	23

RV Parks and Camps	2019
Inspections	24
Consultations	109

Swimming Pools	2019
Inspections	18
Consultations	73

Other Services	2019
Mold Consultations	15
Jail Inspections	3
Jail Consultations	11
Lead Water Consultation	2
Bed Bug Consultation	10

Permits and Licenses Issued	2019
Food Service Total	234
Food Service - Vending	13
Private Water Systems	20
Private Water Alteration	2
Private Water System Sealing	2
Sewage Treatment System	39
Sewage System Alteration	9
Sewage System Installer	26
Sewage System Service Provider	9
Septage Hauler	15
RV Parks and Camps	19
Resident Camp	6
Swimming Pool	10
Body Art	4

Public Health Nursing Division Report

Bonnie Rusch, BS, RN Director of Nursing

The Public Health Nursing Division works to improve and protect the health of Highland County residents through a variety of programs. The Nursing Division provides communicable disease tracking, epidemiology, health education, immunization clinics, health screening, and many other services to the community.

Immunization Clinics

The Public Health Nursing Division provides vaccination clinics and immunizations for a variety of childhood and adult diseases. Regular immunization clinics are held each week, and appointments are available throughout the week if needed. Walk in clinics were moved to Wednesday in 2019 to allow for better customer service and improved client accessibility.

Disease Investigation and Epidemiology

The Public Health Nursing Division saw another increase from 2018 in infectious and communicable disease reports. Many of these cases were connected to the Statewide Hepatitis A Outbreak, injection drug use, and sexually transmitted infections. The Public Health Nursing Division works hard to identify, track, and prevent disease outbreaks in Highland County.

Care-A-Van Stops Added

The Nursing Division revised the Care-A-Van schedule in 2019 to include stops in additional parts of the county. The Care-A-Van now makes stops in Greenfield, Leesburg, Marshall, and the Rocky Fork Lake.

Juul and Vaping Talks

The HCHD Nursing Department worked with local school systems to provide student education on the dangers of vaping. Local schools have seen a significant increase in student vaping over the past few years, and the health department has worked with schools to address this issue.

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2019 Public Health Nursing Activity Report

Report Item	2019
Office Visits	2,521
Phone Calls	2,088
Pregnancy Tests	12
Children Services Exam	11
Newborn Screening	2

Immunizations Given (Totals)	4,337
Children Immunizations	2,575
Adult Immunizations	1,328
Adult Influenza	416
Adult Pneumonia	18

Care-A-Van (Totals)	2019
Total Visits	182
Children Immunizations	187
Adult Immunizations	4

PHN Visits	3
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Tuberculosis - PPD Skin Test	151
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Pediculosis (lice)	69
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Laboratory Tests Collected	134
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Clinics	People Seen
Senior Citizens BP	243
Immunization Clinics	995

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps

BCMh Program	2019
Home Visits	5
Office Visits	28
PHN Referrals	1
Active Cases	132

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2019 Disease Reporting

Disease	Total Cases
Campylobacteriosis	12
Chlamydia	92
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Gonococcal	17
Hepatitis A	45
Hepatitis B	29
Hepatitis C - New	95
Hepatitis C - Recheck	127
Lyme Disease	11
Meningitis - Aseptic/Viral	4
Pertussis	9
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, Including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)	2
Streptococcal Pneumoniae	7
Varicella	5
Other Reportable Diseases	58
Total	514

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Vital Statistics Division Report

Highland County Health Department's Vital Statistics Division is responsible for maintaining and managing official records and documentation related to births and deaths in Highland County.

Highland County Births	2019
Total Births	223
Twin Births	2
Homebirths	8

Highland County Deaths	2019
Total Deaths	363
Suicides	8
Accidents	11
Homicides	6

Leading Causes of Death in Highland County	2019
Cardiac Related	105
Cancer	82
Respiratory	36
Alzheimer's / Dementia	18

Certified Copy Type	2019
Births Certified from HCHD	2,104
Deaths Certified from HCHD	1,070
Total	3,174