

2006 ANNUAL REPORT:

Public Health Pandemic Influenza Planning Takes Center Stage in 2006

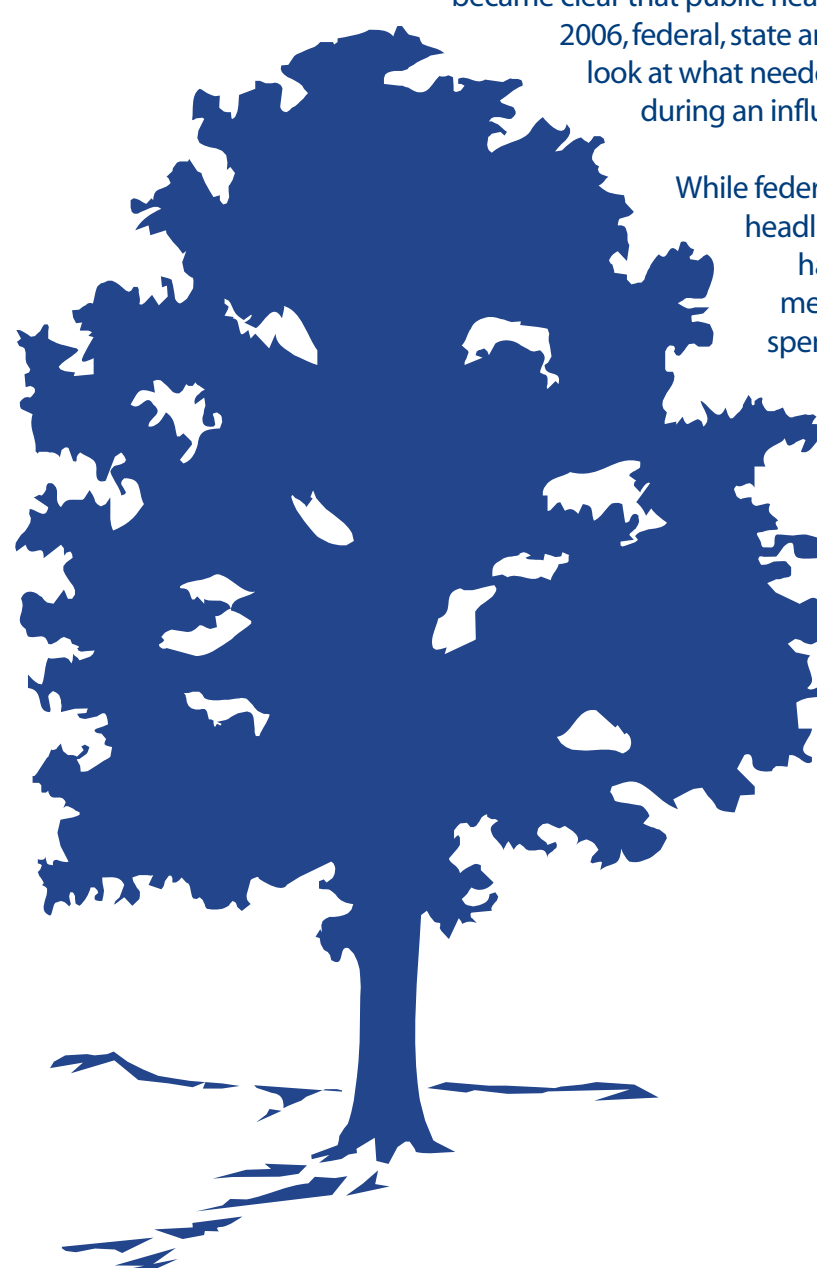
Since 2001, public health's role in this country's emergency response system has become more defined, including tasks such as disease surveillance and widespread distribution of medications and vaccinations. Public health departments work with partners at local fire and police departments, emergency management agencies and hospitals to respond quickly and efficiently to emergency situations.

Public health emergency planning and response took center stage when President Bush released his National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza in November 2005. It became clear that public health would be on the front lines of this battle and in 2006, federal, state and local public health agencies began taking a close look at what needed to be done to meet the challenges that could arise during an influenza pandemic.

While federal and state agencies have appeared in many of the headlines related to pandemic planning, much of the work has been done at the local level. Public health departments like the Hamilton County General Health District spent time in 2006 reviewing existing emergency response plans, drafting new plans specific to pandemic response, practicing those plans and engaging the community.



HAMILTON COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



At the Hamilton County General Health District, pandemic influenza planning included the following key components:

- **Pandemic Influenza Response Plan:** The Health District's plan addresses the many stages of an influenza pandemic, including cases of pandemic influenza locally, nationally and globally. It focuses on several key functions: surveillance; prevention and education; containment; distribution of medicines; and partnerships with hospitals, schools and social service agencies. To be successful and to assure that the needs of all sectors of our community are addressed, the Health District's plan will include input from: police, fire, EMS, hospitals and other first responders; representatives from special needs populations; and representatives from business, school and faith-based advisory councils.
- **2006 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Conference:** Forming partnerships with key community agencies and engaging the public will be vital to our region's ability to limit the effects of an influenza pandemic. With this in mind, the Hamilton County General Health District partnered with health departments in Cincinnati, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale to host a pandemic influenza conference in July. Officials from state and local public health agencies presented information to more than 200 individuals representing businesses, schools, faith organizations and special needs groups in Hamilton County.

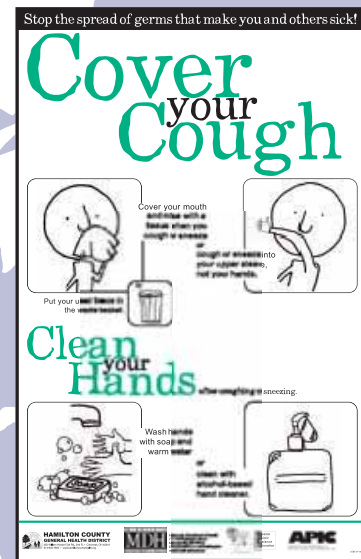


- **Regional Pandemic Influenza Exercise:** Over the course of three days in October, 805 participants from more than 50 agencies in Southwest Ohio, including public health districts, hospitals, emergency management agencies, media outlets and schools, used their pandemic influenza plans to respond to a simulated influenza outbreak. The exercise tested public health departments' capabilities in responding to a pandemic; area hospitals' surge capacity in accepting patients from the region; and the ability of all involved agencies to release timely,

coordinated emergency information. Analysis of the exercise led to a review of pandemic influenza plans, additional training for public health and emergency response staff, and development of an accountability system to track personnel and resources across the region.

- **Community Education:**

Preventing the spread of pandemic influenza and other communicable diseases will depend largely on the health practices of the general public. Simple habits like covering our coughs and washing our hands are effective at preventing common illnesses such as colds and seasonal flu, and they will also prove vital in limiting the effects of an influenza pandemic. To encourage



these behaviors in our community, the Health District collaborated with area school districts and student volunteers to distribute over 18,000 educational posters to Hamilton County businesses, schools, churches and communities. In 2007, community education efforts will continue with a campaign to teach families the importance of being prepared before an emergency strikes, including how to compile and use an emergency kit.

- **Alternative Care Center Exercise:** During an influenza pandemic, our region's health care system will face tremendous pressure to keep up with the demands of a rapidly growing ill and worried well population. To help alleviate overflow at hospitals during such an emergency, public health departments in Southwest Ohio can deploy an Alternative Care Center (ACC). The ACC is a sophisticated, 210-bed, mobile field hospital that can be used to triage patients; provide acute care and inpatient treatment; serve as a command center, housing for volunteers or quarantine/isolation point; or simply create additional physical space to increase hospital capacity. In September, the Health District led a team of public health volunteers in a successful exercise to deploy the entire ACC in 12 hours. Similar field hospitals have been used in disaster response efforts around the world, including wildfires, tsunami relief and hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Public health's proven capacity to rapidly deploy such a resource will help assure that our region is prepared to meet the health care challenges presented by an emergency such as pandemic influenza.

While there is currently no influenza pandemic in the world today, health experts believe it's not a matter of if, but when the next pandemic will occur. In the meantime, planning, preparing and practicing for such a scenario makes our region better prepared to deal with a variety of emergency situations – natural disasters, terrorist attacks or disease outbreaks. The collaborative relationships that the Health District and other first responders have built over the last several years will help assure a healthier, safer community for our residents for years to come.

DIVISION UPDATES

Division of Water Quality: Years of collaborative work with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), Hamilton County Commissioners and township and community officials, led to the extension of sanitary sewer lines into communities in Green, Miami and Whitewater townships. These sewers will eliminate 345 failing or outdated Household Sewage Treatment Systems. By the end of 2006, 54 percent of the homes in targeted communities had connected to sanitary sewers. It is expected that all homes in these areas will be connected by March 2007.

Division of Plumbing: Staff stepped outside their traditional public health roles to help improve living conditions for residents at the Valley Homes apartment complex in Lincoln Heights. Upon inspection, plumbing staff found sewage leaking from broken pipes and sinks that did not work. Staff repaired and installed plumbing fixtures to help correct or reduce nuisances commonly associated with these problems.

Division of Waste Management: Staff in this division also addressed public health needs at the Valley Homes apartment complex, working with property managers and community leaders to address waste disposal issues and secure vacant units to prevent entry by vandals. Additionally, staff oversaw the removal of more than 19,000 tires from several sites in Hamilton County; presented information about landfill inspections and environmental enforcement laws to business, academia and industrial representatives from the Ukrainian government; and worked with the EPA, MSD and City of Cincinnati Health Department to monitor water quality of area recreational waterways.

Division of Epidemiology and Assessment: Young children can spread germs to peers, teachers and household contacts because they have not fully mastered healthy practices like hand washing. Shigella, a bacterium that causes diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps, is easily spread when proper hand washing techniques are not followed. In 2006, staff worked to successfully control two separate outbreaks of Shigella at area daycare centers. Investigation identified 33 positive cases in one center alone; found that most cases were occurring in full-day attendees; and determined the strain causing the illness was resistant to an antibiotic being used to treat it. Ill children

were excluded from school until they no longer had the bacterium. Staff provided education to parents and daycare staff about the illness, hand washing, and disinfection and cleaning methods. This work effectively prevented the illness from spreading outside of the daycare centers.

Division of Environmental Health: Staff responded to nuisance complaints and performed more than 11,000 inspections in areas including food service; manufactured home parks; motels; marinas; swimming pools/spas; schools; housing; jails; and dog/animal bites. Additionally, Environmental Health staff assisted the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the remediation of two methamphetamine labs discovered in Hamilton County. Staff also led trainings or delivered lectures to peers on subjects including emergency planning, food-borne illness investigations and playground safety.

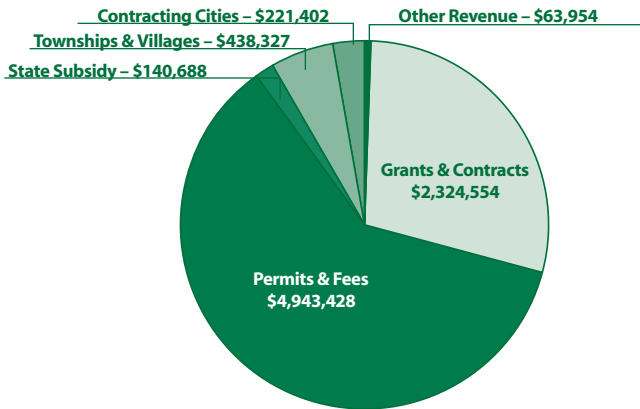
Division of Nursing: Public health nurses continue to impact the health of Hamilton County children. The Health District's Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) provided educational sessions to child care centers in Hamilton County on topics ranging from medication administration and nutrition to disease transmission control through proper hand washing and diapering techniques. By providing free training and resources to area child care centers, the CCHC helps assure a safe and healthy environment for children who are away from home. Also in 2006, public health nurses and several local pediatric practices were honored by the Ohio Department of Health for improving immunization rates among Hamilton County children aged 24-35 months. Among children in this age group who visit Health District immunization clinics, 89 percent are vaccinated at levels recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Division of Health Promotion and Education: Senior health continues to be a priority for the Health District and in 2006, a four year study funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to assist adults 50 and older in becoming more physically active, came to a successful close. Offered through a partnership with the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio, Active for Life served more than 950 residents throughout Southwest Ohio during the four years. In 2006, results from the project's first year were published in the July edition of the American Journal of Public Health. Results showed increases in physical activity levels and satisfaction with body appearance and function, as well as decreases in depression, stress and body mass index. The program continues to be available throughout Southwest Ohio.

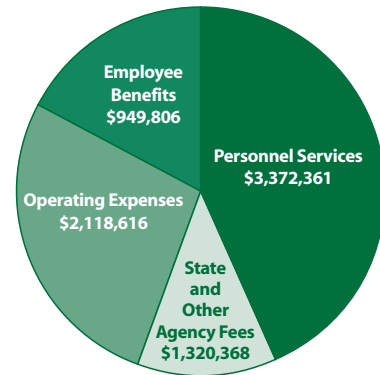


2006 Financial Report of the Hamilton County General Health District

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest dollar.



2006 Total Revenue and Resources – \$8,132,354



2006 Total Expenditures – \$7,761,151

Epidemiology and Assessment

Birth Records Recorded	6,337
Birth Records Issued	11,968
Death Records Recorded	4,608
Death Records Issued	26,632
Communicable Diseases Reported	1,061

Environmental Health

Food Inspections	7,229
FSAP - Individuals Trained	202
FSAP - Facilities Participating	33
Jail Inspections	20
Manufactured Home Park & Camp Inspections	207
Marina Inspections	2
Motel Inspections	138
Housing Inspections	1,053
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	927
Rabies Control Cat & Dog Bites	452
School Inspections	670
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,118

Nursing

BCMh Home Visits	579
IAP Home Visits	161
Immunizations Given at Clinics	5,924
Flu Shots Given	1,256
Patients Visiting Regular Clinics	1,378
Public Health Nursing Referrals	17
Tuberculosis Screenings	195

Plumbing

Backflow Surveys/Inspections	544
Testable Backflow Devices	7,911
Plumbing Inspections	10,847
Plumbing Investigations	417
Plumbing Permits Issued	2,980

Waste Management

Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills	213
Closed Landfill Inspections	11
Compost Site Inspections	115
Infectious Waste Generator Inspections	234
Lead Assessments	6
Lead Clearances	18
Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Inspections	53
Open Dump Inspections	290
Sampling	21
Solid Waste Nuisance Inspections	564
Tire Site Inspections	48

Water Quality

Aeration Inspections	9,600
Aeration Re-inspections	1,556
Construction Repair Reviews	250
Household Sewage Code Variances	37
Installer/Repairer Registrations	68
Non-mechanical Inspections	1,724
Non-mechanical Re-inspections	234
Nuisance Compl. Inspections & Re-inspections	528
Installation Inspections	360
Private Water Inspections	59
Semi-public Inspections	459
Semi-public Re-inspections	75
Septic Hauler Registrations	12
Septic System Application Permit to Install	186
Subdivision Reviews	23

Health Promotion and Education

Active for Life Participants	299
Chair Volleyball Participants	356
Falls Presentations	27
Resisting Muscle Loss Participants	334
You Hold the Key Participants	4,244
Youth Tobacco Prevention Participants	1,852
Adult Tobacco Cessation Participants	488
Senior Driving Academy Participants	12
Walk Club Participants	243

Contact Us:



HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

250 William Howard Taft Rd., 2nd FL • Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-946-7800 • www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org

Frequently Requested Information

Hamilton County General Health District Online

On the Health District's Web site, you can find an immunization clinic or walking club; search for a plumbing contractor or septic system installer/repairer; read recent public health news and announcements; file a nuisance complaint; request a birth or death certificate; track your child's immunization records; and much more... Visit us today at www.HamiltonCountyHealth.org.

Health District Main Number (513) 946-7800
Health District Fax Number (513) 946-7890

Departments

Health District Administration (513) 946-7822

Department of Community Health Services

Division of Epidemiology and Assessment (513) 946-7923

Office of Vital Statistics (513) 946-7815

Emergency Preparedness (513) 946-7889

Division of Health Promotion and Education (513) 946-7802

Division of Nursing (513) 946-7882

Department of Environmental Health Services

Division of Environmental Health (513) 946-7832

Division of Plumbing (513) 946-7852

Division of Waste Management (513) 946-7879

Division of Water Quality (513) 946-7862

Other Important Phone Numbers and Web sites

Environmental Health Information Line (513) 946-7844

Report a Dead Bird

Report High Mosquito Activity

Report an Animal Bite

File a Nuisance Complaint (513) 946-7800

www.HamiltonCountyHealth.org/contactus/

Get a Plumbing Permit (513) 946-7852

Report Storm Water Pollution (513) 946-7000

Find a Flu Shot (seasonal) (513) 931-SHOT (7468)

www.931SHOT.org

Hamilton County Safe Communities Coalition www.HamiltonCountySafeCommunities.org

Hamilton County Tobacco-Free Partnership www.TobaccoFreeHamiltonCounty.org

Hamilton County Fall Prevention Task Force www.FallPreventionTaskForce.org



HAMILTON COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Health District Mission

The purpose of the Hamilton County General Health District is to work with the community to protect the public health and environment. By providing education, inspections, health care coordination, and data analysis we strive to assure that the citizens of Hamilton County are safe from disease, injury and contamination.

Health District Vision

The Health District will revolutionize the way it provides services to a changing community. We will provide a network of information to be used as a tool to improve public health. Communities will develop new and innovative ways to solve problems. Together we will be uniquely equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow and provide an environment in which we will be proud to live and work.

District Advisory Council

Members include presidents of township boards of trustees, village mayors, and the President of the Board of County Commissioners. Members are required by law to meet annually in March. They select four of the five members of the Board of Health, make recommendations to the Board of Health, and authorize city contractual agreements.

Chairman **Joe Sykes**
Secretary **John Waksmundski**

Licensing Council

The Licensing Council provides input on rules and fees regarding business entities licensed by the Hamilton County Board of Health. It meets at least annually and appoints one member to the Board of Health.

Chairperson of Licensing Council **Larry Riddle**
Vice Chairperson **Jim Brett**
Secretary **Bill Mowery**

Board of Health

The Board of Health is the governing body of the Hamilton County General Health District. It has the authority to adopt rules and regulations which have the same status as law, enact policies within the Health District, and hire a health commissioner. Meetings are held at the Health District office the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

President **Mark Rippe**
Vice-President **Thomas Chatham**
Board Members **Kenneth Amend, M.D.**
Jim Brett
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

Health Commissioner and Staff

Health Commissioner **Timothy Ingram**
Assistant Health Commissioner **Kathy Lordo**, Department of Community Health Services

Divisions

Environmental Health **Chris Eddy**, Director
Epidemiology and Assessment **Cynthia Yund**, Director
Health Promotion and Education **Stacy Wegley**, Director
Nursing **Mary Sacco**, Director
Plumbing **Lisa Humble**, Director
Waste Management Services **Chuck DeJonckheere**, Director
Water Quality **Chris Griffith**, Director



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