In last year’s annual report, we highlighted our advancements in emergency preparedness planning since 2001. Just a few months after the 2008 Annual Report was published, our planning efforts were put to the test when H1N1 (swine) flu emerged. Public health authorities, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), took an aggressive approach to dealing with this new strain of flu. As CDC initially confirmed cases of H1N1 flu in the U.S., Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) closely monitored the situation – increasing surveillance, prevention and education. In April and May, constant media attention allowed public health experts to disseminate public information about controlling the spread of disease in our community.

Flu is always serious and this outbreak posed the potential to be at least as serious as seasonal flu. No one could predict the severity, timing or spread of the disease – a true challenge for our response efforts. Throughout the summer we monitored and prepared for the reemergence of H1N1 flu in the fall and winter. We raised awareness, emphasizing that reducing H1N1 spread was a shared responsibility among public health, government, schools, municipalities, businesses, churches and the public. Everyone was encouraged to do their part to prepare for H1N1 flu by learning and practicing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

As H1N1 flu continued to circulate both locally and nationally, HCPH worked to prepare for vaccine distribution. Since 2001, public health agencies have been preparing to handle emergency situations that might arise from natural disasters, terrorist attacks or disease pandemics. While vaccine was being manufactured, HCPH initiated the Point of Dispensing (POD) model to vaccinate residents, starting with school-age children. The federal government worked with vaccine manufacturers to produce ample supply of H1N1 flu vaccine and we prepared to exercise our vaccine distribution plan. However, in September we learned vaccine would be available in limited, staggered quantities. To manage the limited supply and rising demand, CDC identified priority groups to guide vaccine distribution.

HCPH worked with more than 80 public school districts, private schools and parochial schools in our jurisdiction to organize school-based vaccination clinics modeled after community PODs. H1N1 flu affected younger populations more often and since schools are often common places of disease spread, this was a natural place to start. We estimated the possibility of vaccinating nearly 93,000 school age children. Vaccine became available in October, but shipments were sporadic and unpredictable. The availability of vaccine made it difficult to schedule vaccination clinics in advance and demand for the vaccine exceeded the supply. HCPH’s staff demonstrated problem solving skills and flexibility as schools accommodated our deadlines and set up clinics on short notice. This was a significant undertaking and the cooperation of school personnel was invaluable.
Additionally, HCPH conducted community clinics for residents at highest risk for serious complications from flu. HCPH staff – sanitarians, nurses, health educators and secretaries – worked all positions at PODs while maintaining their everyday workload. This is was a testament to the reliability, professionalism and dedication of HCPH staff.

For the last few years, HCPH worked with local cities, villages and townships to develop a plan that would utilize familiar local places as PODs should the need for mass medication or vaccine distribution arise. H1N1 flu put into action years of planning, recruiting volunteers and exercising community PODs.

By activating PODs throughout the county, residents had convenient access to H1N1 vaccine. With the help of fire and police departments, municipal administration and Tri-State Medical Reserve Corps (TMRC) volunteers, H1N1 vaccine PODs were held in:

- Harrison
- Green Township
- Montgomery
- Anderson Township
- Springfield Township
- Woodlawn
- Madeira

We also had the opportunity to test our plan to deliver vaccine to homebound individuals. HCPH coordinated an effort to determine if homebound individuals were in need of H1N1 vaccination. Homebound individual refers to a resident of Hamilton County who is unable to leave home, and, consequently, leaving the home would require a considerable and taxing effort. HCPH screened individuals requesting H1N1 vaccination and partnered with Visiting Nurse Association and American Mercy Home Care to provide free in home access.

H1N1 flu took Hamilton County Public Health’s emergency preparedness from practice to reality. Our response effort was the culmination of years of planning, partnerships across the county and hard work by our staff. While we hope situations like pandemic flu occur rarely, we are confident in our ability to distribute mass medication and vaccine to ensure the citizens of Hamilton County are protected.

**Hamilton County Public Health was first in the region to ...**

- provide vaccine for EMS workers
- conduct school-based vaccination clinics

**H1N1 Flu By the Numbers:**

113 school-based vaccination clinics
8 HCPH vaccination clinics
7 community vaccination clinics
198 TMRC volunteers activated
15 vaccine deliveries to homebound individuals
61,891 people vaccinated
Programs and Services Updates

Division of Health Promotion and Education
Health educators began building the foundation for Lincoln Heights, Lockland and Woodlawn residents to improve their wellness. The We Thrive! campaign, funded by a $1.5 million CDC grant, aims to improve lifestyle behaviors associated with increased risk of certain chronic diseases. In 2009, a five-year community action plan was developed by a Community Consortia of over 70 residents and stakeholders. The plan includes shared-use agreements so residents can use community centers and school grounds for physical activity. Community gardens will provide access to affordable fruits and vegetables. Tobacco-free policies for outdoor venues will reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

Epidemiology and Vital Statistics
Vital Statistics offered educational sessions on proper compliance of record completion. The goal was to improve efficiency to ensure a quicker turnaround time for customers receiving birth and death certificates. Physician residents from Bethesda North Hospital learned guidelines and responsibilities mandated by CDC. The death certificate was reviewed to ensure proper completion and to address common errors that physicians make when filling out death certificates. Addressing continual errors decreases wasted HCPH staff time previously spent dealing with corrections. Additionally, more than 60 people attended a training session on Death Certificates, Electronic Death Registration System, and Emergency Preparedness.

Division of Nursing
Nursing coordinates the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) program that provides comprehensive care and services to eligible families of children (under 21 years of age) with special health care needs. BCMH visits increased to 2,251 from 1,555 in 2008. The increase occurred with each family receiving at least two nurse visits and complicated cases receiving more attention. Public health nurses assist with navigating the medical system, explaining billing and serve as a link to community services.

Division of Disease Prevention
Disease Prevention continued to pay special attention to preventing and treating tuberculosis in the homeless community and provides weekly on-site TB screening at the Drop-Inn Center during cool-weather months. During November and December we tested 148 residents. TB testing information is entered into the Homeless Management Information System, which allows us to locate homeless TB suspects, cases and contacts. We also expanded services at a drop in center for young, homeless adults. Controlling TB in high-risk populations reduces outbreaks of the disease from occurring elsewhere in Hamilton County.

Division of Environmental Health
While housing complaints rose this year, Environmental Health saw a surprising reduction in bed bug complaints compared with previous years. Only 20% of complaints pertained to bed bugs compared to 24% in 2008. We have worked towards controlling the bed bug problem, specifically focusing on compliance with landlords and tenants. The Board of Health adopted the new Public Accommodation Facility Regulation which updated language from the previous code and addressed issues such as requirements for dishwashers and sanitation equipment, as well as pest management and chemical storage.

Division of Plumbing
Plumbing continued to focus on backflow devices, adding 220 devices and increasing backflow revenue. One of the most important components of a clean, safe drinking water supply is a backflow device. The Plumbing Division issues permits and conducts inspections to assure backflow devices are installed correctly and operating properly in order to prevent contaminants from entering the potable (drinking) water supply.

Division of Waste Management
Waste Management saw an increase in recycling of Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) materials. While this is good conservation, a high potential of illegal disposal exists due to little regulation over recycling. The problem lies in mixed loads. Once loads are mixed at a demo site, it is very difficult to separate materials. For example, clean untreated/unpainted dimensional lumber can easily be turned into mulch and concrete can be used as road base. However, if a mixed stream of concrete and wood is crushed and ground the resulting product is considered a waste. Sanitarians oversaw solutions by operators to separate mixed loads and ensure compliance.

Division of Water Quality
Water Quality teamed up with Hamilton County Community Development to capitalize on funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Joint efforts resulted in $392,666 to help lower income families in Hamilton County repair or replace failing septic systems. These funds allowed for the replacement of 27 septic systems and major repair of two systems. By leveraging resources, Hamilton County garnered the most ARRA funding statewide for septic system repairs/replacements.
Hamilton County Public Health Mission
The purpose of Hamilton County Public Health 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.

Hamilton County Public Health Vision
Hamilton County Public Health 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.

Our Core Values
Our service will be prompt, reliable and professional. Our staff will be caring and responsible.

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

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

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

Divisions
Disease Prevention Pat Allingham, Director
Environmental Health Greg Kesterman, Director
Health Promotion and Education Stacy Wegley, Director
Nursing Mary Sacco, Director
Plumbing Lisa Humble, Director
Waste Management Chuck DeJonckheere, Director
Water Quality Chris Griffith, Director
**Financial Report**


Numbers rounded to the nearest dollar

**Total Revenues & Resources: $9,874,583**

- **Personnel Services**: $3,862,177
- **Operating Expenses**: $2,175,917
- **State & Other Agency Fees**: $1,138,248
- **Employee Benefits**: $1,170,785
- **Other Revenue**: $32,104
- **Indigent Care Levy**: $1,236,122
- **Grants & Contracts**: $3,370,459
- **Fees & Permits**: $4,636,980

**Townships & Villages**: $464,846

**State Subsidy**: $134,072

**Total Expenditures**: $8,347,127

**Epidemiology and Assessment**

- Birth Records Recorded: 5,922
- Birth Records Issued: 11,917
- Death Records Recorded: 4,584
- Death Records Issued: 24,667
- Communicable Diseases Reported: 931
- Confirmed Cases of Tuberculosis: 22
- Directly Observed Therapy Visits: 2,656

**Environmental Health**

- Food Inspections: 7,574
- FSAP – Individuals Trained: 244
- FSAP – Facilities Participating: 21
- Jail Inspections: 21
- Manufactured Home Park & Camp Inspections: 139
- Marina Inspections: 2
- Public Accommodation Facility Inspections: 107
- Housing Inspections: 1,128
- Nuisance Complaint Inspections: 894
- Rabies Control Cat & Dog Bites: 541
- School Inspections: 387
- Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections: 1,286
- Smoke Free Ohio Inspections: 269

**Nursing**

- BCMH contacts: 2,251
- IAP Home Visits: 54
- Immunizations Given at Clinics: 3,570
- Flu Shots Given: 292
- Patients Visiting Regular Clinics: 1,804
- Public Health Nursing Referrals: 14
- Tuberculosis Screenings: 57

**Plumbing**

- Backflow Surveys: 160
- Backflow Inspections: 182
- Testable Backflow Devices: 9,025
- Plumbing Inspections: 6,613
- Plumbing Investigations: 272
- Plumbing Permits issued: 1,584

**Health Promotion and Education**

- Active for Life Participants: 43
- Chair Volleyball Participants: 340
- Fall Prevention Presentation Attendees: 1,102
- You Hold the Key Participants: 5,185
- Mocktail Event Participants: 307
- School Wellness Teams: 8

**Waste Management**

- Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills: 183
- Compost Site Inspections: 79
- Infectious Waste Facility Inspections: 124
- Lead Risk Assessments: 12
- Municipal Solid Waste Facility Inspections: 91
- Open Dumping Investigations: 193
- Environmental Sampling at Waste Facilities: 40
- Solid Waste Nuisance Inspections: 682
- Tire Site Inspections: 130
- Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections: 61

**Water Quality**

- Mechanical STS Inspections: 9,889
- Mechanical STS Re-inspections: 3,236
- STS New Construction/Repair Reviews: 130
- Household Sewage Code Variances: 13
- Installer/Repairer Registrations: 91
- Non-mechanical STS Inspections: 1,111
- Non-mechanical STS Re-inspections: 110
- STS Installation Inspections: 440
- Private Water Inspections: 62
- Semi-public STS Inspections: 399
- Semi-public STS Re-inspections: 164
- Septic Hauler Registrations: 29
- STS Permit to Install: 105
- Subdivision Reviews: 8
Frequently Requested Information

**Hamilton County Public Health Online**
On the HCPH Web site, you can review your favorite restaurant’s latest inspection report; find an immunization clinic; search for a plumbing contractor or septic system installer/repairer; file a nuisance complaint; request a birth or death certificate; and much more. Visit us online at [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org).

Main Number……………………………...….(513) 946-7800
Fax Number……………………………….......(513) 946-7890

**Departments**
Administration……………………………….....(513) 946-7822

**Department of Community Health Services**
Division of Disease Prevention......................(513) 946-7809
Division of Epidemiology and Assessment.........(513) 946-7924
Office of Vital Statistics......................(513) 946-7932
Division of Health Promotion and Education.....(513) 946-7811
Division of Nursing......................(513) 946-7881

**Department of Environmental Health Services**
Division of Environmental Health................(513) 946-7831
Division of Plumbing...........................(513) 946-7851
Division of Waste Management..................(513) 946-7875
Division of Water Quality......................(513) 946-7866

**Other Important Phone Numbers and Web sites**
Environmental Health Information Line..........(513) 946-7832
  *Report High Mosquito Activity*
  *Report an Animal Bite*

File a Nuisance Complaint..........................(513) 946-7800
  [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org)

Get a Plumbing Permit..............................(513) 946-7852

Report Storm Water Pollution...................(513) 946-7000

Hamilton County Fall Prevention Task Force.....[www.fallpreventiontaskforce.org](http://www.fallpreventiontaskforce.org)