

# 2009 Annual Report

## H1N1 Flu: From Practice to Reality

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.



**HAMILTON COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.



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!<sup>sm</sup> 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

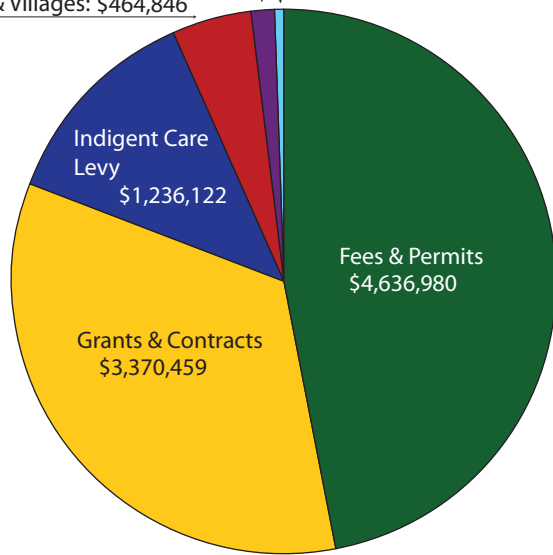
**Disease Prevention** Pat Allingham, Director  
**Environmental Health** Greg Kesterman, Director  
**Health Promotion and Education** Stacy Wegley, Director  
**Nursing** Mary Sacco, Director  
**Plumbing** Lisa Humble, Director  
**Waste Management** Chuck DeJonckheere, Director  
**Water Quality**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

# Financial Report

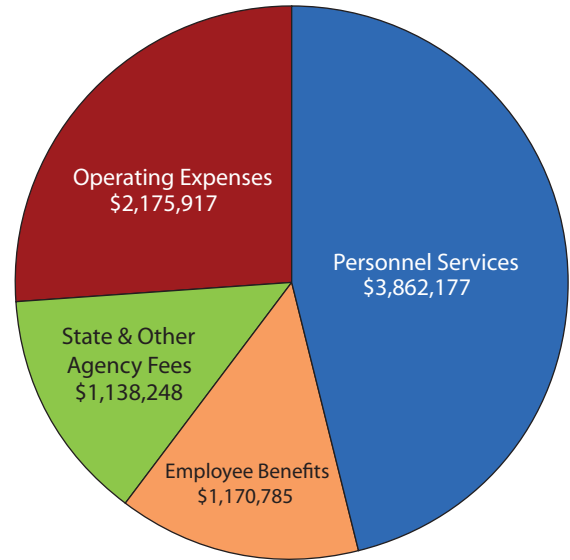
## 2009 Financial Report of Hamilton County Public Health

Numbers rounded to the nearest dollar

State Subsidy: \$134,072  
 Other Revenue: \$32,104  
 Townships & Villages: \$464,846



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



**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)



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