The Countdown is on for FDH’s Site Visit!!!

Time is ticking as FDH staff is working countless hours getting ready for the PHAB site visit. The site visit will be November 6th and 7th of this year.

Site visits are conducted by a peer team of three to four trained site visitors from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The visit serves several purposes: verify the accuracy of documentation submitted by the health department, seek answers to questions regarding conformity with the standards and measures, and provide opportunity for discussion and further explanation.

Site visits typically last two to three days, depending on the complexity of the application. Following the site visit, the site visit team will develop a site visit report that will describe: how conformity with each measure was demonstrated, or detail what was missing, areas of excellence or unique promising practices and opportunities for improvement.

FluMist is back for 2018-2019 Flu Season

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to allow for the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) to be used for the 2018-2019 flu season. All nasal spray flu vaccines for the 2018-2019 season will contain four flu viruses: an influenza A (H1N1) virus, an influenza A (H3N2) virus and two influenza B viruses.

As many may remember, the FluMist vaccine was not recommended for the 2016-2017 season because data from the CDC showed poor or relatively low effectiveness of LAIV from 2013 through 2016. In response the manufacturer of LAIV4 has made slight changes and the FluMist is available again.

The CDC is recommending to get vaccinated by October, as the flu activity in the U.S. is currently low, but expected to pick up by fall.

Monthly Regular events:

- Board of Health meetings — second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the Health Department.
- District Advisory Council — 7:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Courthouse. DAC meet quarterly. Dates change due to scheduling. If you have any questions, call Kathie Whitlock at (740)652-2805.
- Environmental Review Committee (ERC) meetings — each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department. ERC meetings are a public forum for discussing issues regarding Environmental programs.
- Immunization Clinics — Tuesdays by appointment, at the Health Department. Late clinics on first and third Tuesdays.
  - NEW — FDH will stay open until 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month.

*FDH has the Meningitis B Trumenba Vaccine Now!!

Call (740)652-2802 to schedule your appointment!
Meet FDH’s New Seasonal Vector Monitoring Technician
Claire Donley joined FDH after previously working with the Franklin County Public Health Department in the mosquito control and surveillance program. Additionally, she monitored for invasive insects in the gypsy moth and Asian long horned beetle programs for the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Needless to say that with all of her previous experience, Claire was able to hit the ground running once hired on! When asked why she had chosen this job, Claire responded with, “I recently moved to Lancaster and decided to apply for this position because of my previous insect monitoring experience and desire to assist with environmental management efforts. Some of Claire’s duties include: setting and collecting mosquito traps; processing mosquitoes for lab analysis; updating county ArcGIS map with trap locations and mosquito lab results; responding to mosquito complaints and assisting with outreach and education efforts.

During her last month of trapping, Claire has caught well over 713 mosquitoes and 62 pooled samples throughout the county. In recent news, it was found that three samples that were collected from the Millersport and Thurston area contained mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus. In response, FDH staff used larvicide in those areas to reduce breeding sites and will continue to investigate the areas where the mosquitoes were found and continue to educate on prevention.

Mosquito Facts From Claire
- Only female mosquitoes bite, males feed on nectar.
- Depending on the species, mosquitoes can survive over winter as eggs, larva buried in mud or as adult females.
- An infected mosquito can transmit West Nile Virus and Lacrosse encephalitis to her eggs.

“Anything that holds water is a potential mosquito breeding habitat, as REMEMBER they lay their eggs in water. A few examples include clogged rain gutters, neglected pools, fountains, bird baths, toys, buckets, pet dishes, uncovered boats and tires”

Check out FDH’s web page at www.myfdh.org for up to date facts and news.
Sanitarians from FDH’s Environmental Departments went to the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival and inspected 34 vendor booths.

Sweet Corn Fun Facts

- Sweet corn leaves were used as chewing gum by Native Americans.
- Corn is cholesterol free.
- There is 1 strand of silk for every kernel on a cob.
- One average ear of sweet corn equals 86 calories.
- Corn is 100% whole grain.
- Corn is grown on every continent except Antarctica.

(For more fun facts, visit www.sweetcornfest.com)

FDH still has funds from the Water Pollution Control Fund for 2018 (WPCLF)

FDH received funds through Ohio EPA’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program in the amount of $200,000 for 2018. These funds will allow us to provide assistance to low to moderate income homeowners to repair or replace their failing septic systems. Eligible applicants can receive up to 100% of installation costs covered. Kelly Spindler, RS, Environmental Director, stated that, “The program has been extremely rewarding, and that the department is happy to be able to work with the program to help the environment and the people of Fairfield County.”

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this program, visit our web page at www.myfdh.org or call Kelly Spindler at 740-652-2823.
All New Faces in FDH’s Nursing Division
Over the past year, most of FDH’s entire nursing staff retired and three new nurses joined the team. Pictured from left to right: Judy Scali (BCMH Nurse), Tiffany Nash (Nursing Director), Kelley Ayers (Immunization Coordinator) and Bekah Sutter (Communicable Disease Nurse).

FDH Staff had their Biennial CPR Training
May 17th & 18th
Immunization Coordinator Kelley Ayers and Communicable Disease Nurse Bekah Sutter went to Crown Closures Machinery to be a part of a Health Fair that they were putting on for their employees.

July 26th 2018
FDH, Fairfield County Library and OSU Extension Office teamed up for six successful Food Fun for Families events!

August 4th 2018
Judy Scali, Bekah Sutter and two Nursing Students from Chamberlain College of Nursing participated in FMC’s Health Fest.

A warm thank you to Schultz Valley Farms for providing the fruit and vegetables
FDH Distributes Garden Towers to 9 Schools in Fairfield County

When Mount Carmel agreed to sponsor this event, FDH did not expect a UPS truck to arrive completely FULL of boxes for the garden tower kits! The driver was not kidding when they said that they had an entire truck full of packages as there were 61 in total. The Garden Tower kits were distributed to nine schools in Fairfield County for students to learn about and grow produce that may be used for school lunches in the future. The schools that received a tower include: St. Bernadette, Amanda Elementary, Amanda High School, St. Mary’s, Millersport Elementary, Bloom Carroll Middle School, Bloom Carroll High School, Liberty Union Elementary and Forest Rose.

When you are out and about keep an eye out!

This year has been a busy one for FDH nurses as they have been out and about in the community from doing multiple off-site clinics, to joining forces with other healthcare organizations, and in being a part of trainings and health fairs that are centered towards educating the public. If their faces look familiar to you, now you know why! While most nurses care for one patient at a time, public health nurses care for the entire population. By working with whole communities, public health nurses are able to educate people about health issues, improve community health and safety and increase access to care.
WIC Celebrates Breastfeeding Awareness Month

The W.I.C. program celebrates “Breastfeeding Awareness” during the month of August. This year’s theme is “Breastfeeding, Foundation of Life”. The theme focuses on breastfeeding as a key to preventing hunger and malnutrition by ensuring food security for babies. We strive to work as a TEAM within the community to promote, support and protect breastfeeding. Amy Gabriel and Lucinda Robinson visited local OB/GYN offices, family physicians and pediatrician offices during the month of August and provided them with a goody bag full of breastfeeding information.

Amy Gabriel, Cheryl Hopkins, Stacy Hughes, and Lucinda Robinson will be attending an all-day conference sponsored by the Ohio WIC program on August 30, 2018. Topics covered during the conference include: Illegal Drug Use and Breastfeeding, Breastfeeding & Food Allergies and Working with Mothers of Infant Loss. The W.I.C. program strives to keep staff trained with the most up-to-date information, so we can continue to support our breastfeeding participants.