



# Putnam County Health Department

*Working Towards a Healthy and Safe Putnam County*

## PCHD Implements New School Screening Requirements

The Ohio Department of Health revised the school vision screening guidelines with some of the changes beginning in the 2018-19 school year. Students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be screened with different instruments to see if their eyes work together. Also, new equipment is used to cover the eyes to test one at a time for distance acuity. Muscle balance will no longer be checked at any time. The previous requirement was for vision screening in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 11<sup>th</sup> graders will need to be screened as well.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, Kindergarten Vision Screening CANNOT be done before April 1 of the previous school year to still count for the mandate that all Kindergarteners be screened for vision before November 1. So, if schools typically have Kindergarten screening in March, they will need to decide if they do not want vision screening included or wait until after April 1 for the Kindergarten Screening Day. Watch for more information about Kindergarten screening from your school.

| By The Numbers<br>Nursing<br>Jan 1–Sept 30, 2018 |      |
|--|------|
| Immunizations (including TB tests)               | 4844 |
| School Vision Screenings                         | 1479 |
| School Scoliosis Screenings                      | 509  |
| BCMh Visits                                      | 68   |
| Car Seats Distributed                            | 37   |
| Car Seat Checks                                  | 19   |
| Reportable Diseases                              | 168  |

| By The Numbers<br>Environmental Health<br>Jan 1–Sept 30, 2018 |     |
|---|-----|
| Food Service/Retail Food Licenses Issued                      | 174 |
| Mobile Licenses Issued  | 59  |
| Temporary Food Licenses                                       | 85  |
| Pools and Spas  | 8   |
| Campgrounds   | 2   |
| Sewage Treatment System Permits                               | 38  |
| Site Evaluations  | 38  |
| Operational Permits   | 622 |
| 12 Month Inspections  | 28  |
| Private Water System Permits                                  | 36  |
| Water Samples   | 130 |
| Animal Bite Investigations                                    | 34  |
| Tattoo and Body Piercing                                      | 1   |

## Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Benefitting Households in Putnam County

The Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) was awarded \$200,000 in funding to assist homeowners with the repair or replacement of Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) for 2018 or 2019 installation. With this funding, the health department has been able to assist 11 homeowners with replacement of their systems. Applicants must meet the income guidelines established by the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. A unique element to the funding allows applicants to receive funding under three tiers; 100%, 85% or 50% funding. These tiers are based off the income of the homeowner.

Putnam County residents are fortunate to receive this funding, as not all counties apply for this program. In September 2018, the Putnam County Health Department applied for the maximum \$150,000 for 2019. For additional questions concerning the program, please contact Brandi Schrader at 419-523-5608 ext. 240.

### Operation and Maintenance Program

Environmental Health staff implemented the first year of the Operation and Maintenance Program for Sewage Treatment Systems. The program is designed to educate homeowners about their system and how to properly maintain it. The intent is not to make residents upgrade or replace systems! In 2018, 684 property owners were sent letters and applications. As part of the terms and conditions, an evaluation of the system is required. A registered service provider or sanitarian from PCHD will perform the evaluation looking at three areas, if applicable: the tank area, secondary treatment area and the outlet of the system. As long as the system does not, and continues to not cause a nuisance, the system can continue to be utilized.

## PCHD Clearing Hurdles on Way to Accreditation

In 2015, Ohio Law made it mandatory for all Ohio health departments to become accredited by 2020. The Putnam County Health Department is making strides in achieving this mandate and hopes to join the list of accredited health departments by Spring 2019.

The road to accreditation has been a long one, starting even before it was mandatory for health departments to become accredited. The Health Department and area partners have a history of working together to complete Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans, and the health department adopted an agency Strategic Plan. These are all pre-requisites needed to apply for accreditation.

In the beginning of 2017, the department applied for accreditation, and in May 2017, began uploading documents that show how our agency meets the standards determined by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The agency was given a year to identify the approximately 350 documents showing compliance with these measures, and we successfully met this timeline.

A team of reviewers has been assigned to our agency and has reviewed the documents that were submitted. In November, this team will come to Putnam County to conduct a site visit, one of the last steps to achieving accreditation. The staff are looking forward to the site visit to showcase our agency and to achieve, and then maintain, Public Health Accreditation.

## Cooking Matters Gives Tips for Healthy, Delicious Meals



Cooking Matters participants cut fruit for a healthy dessert.

The Putnam County Health Department received a Maternal and Child Health Grant from the Ohio Department of Health to fund activities to improve nutrition and physical activity. The community health assessment, completed in 2016, found that residents want more information about nutrition and healthy cooking. Because of that, the health department sponsored an evidence based nutrition course called Cooking Matters. This 6 week course was held at the Dupont Church of the Brethren from August to September, 2018.

Each class included nutrition education on various topics such as appropriate portion size, how to read labels, proper servings of each of the 5 food groups, breakfast, snacks, fat content, sugar content, meal planning, and so much more. One week, the participants met at the grocery store for a food tour and challenge. Each participant received \$10 to purchase food for a meal for 4 people that included food from all 5 food groups. Participants also prepared 3-4 healthy recipes during each class for all to enjoy. Then they were given the recipe and ingredients to prepare at home. Evaluations from the participants were very positive and we look forward to helping more people learn about healthy nutrition and cooking in the future.



Two billboards were placed in Putnam County to remind the residents of the importance of public health. The agency reminds individuals to PREPARE for disasters/emergencies. In addition, we strive to PREVENT illness with immunizations; PROMOTE good health with our educational messages and policy changes; and we PROTECT our residents by licensing and inspecting facilities such as pools and restaurants.

### Vaccines are for Adults Too!

In addition to the Influenza Vaccine that is currently available, PCHD offers other immunizations for adults. Contact the Health Department at 419-523-5608 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### PCHD Sees Slight Increase in Birth Certificates Issued

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018, our agency issued approximately 50 more birth certificates than for the same time period in 2017. Birth certificates are available for anyone born in Ohio, regardless of the county of birth. Certified copies of birth and death records are \$27.00 each and can be obtained in person, by phone or by mail. If ordering by mail, visit our website at [www.putnamhealth.com](http://www.putnamhealth.com) to download the Vital Statistics Application Form.