

# Putnam County Health Department

Working Towards a Healthy and Safe Putnam County

September 2022



## Health Commissioner Update

The first 8 months of 2022 have been busy for Health Department staff and we have enjoyed getting back to our pre-pandemic activities. While we still provide vaccinations and answer questions about COVID, we have been focusing on enhancing our services and working with community agencies to improve the health of our community. One such program that has been made possible because of funding through our office is the “Aging in Place” program that is being implemented through the Putnam County Council on Aging and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice.

In addition to working with our partners, we have also enjoyed reaching out to our residents to provide health education. Our Environmental Health Division provided food safety education to both adults and youth at the fair. Our Nursing Staff provided child safety seat education at the fair and was present at Kids Day in August. Our Public Information Officer has been busy sharing results from our Community Health Assessment and developing safety messages that can be seen on our Facebook page.

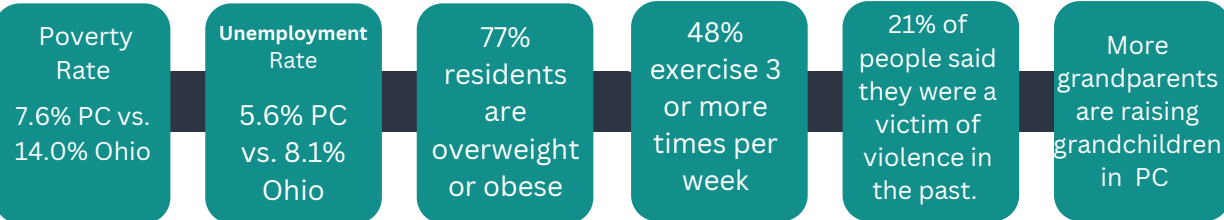
*Our MRC Coordinator has been working with our wonderful volunteers. We have a great group of volunteers in our county who have continued to help our agency, even after the pandemic. We are thrilled to have them as a part of the Health Department family and are grateful for all they have done and continue to do to help ensure the health and safety of our community. Thank you!*

## Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning



The Putnam County Health Department along with agency partners completed a community health assessment (CHA) and unveiled the findings in May 2022. The Partners for a Healthy Putnam County are now working on health improvement plans to address needs in Mental Health, Healthy Behaviors, and Community Conditions. Look for more information in the coming months about new campaigns and programs to help make Putnam County the healthiest in Ohio.

### CHA Data



## Re-Accreditation



PCHD is now working diligently to continue our accreditation path with re-accreditation for 2023-24. There are many items that reaccreditation focuses on including: strengthening our relationships with stakeholders and partners and pushing the agency to continue to perform better and more efficiently. Currently, all staff members are actively working on domain teams to obtain the best examples that meet the requirements. We encourage you to ask us about the process and what we are doing to better our agency and provide to the citizens of Putnam County!

## Environmental Health Division Updates

The Food Safety Program has noticed the number of temporary food licenses and events are back in full swing and appear to be similar in numbers to pre-pandemic years.

### Licenses issued from January 1- August 31, 2022



The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) is a unique program to replace failing septic systems. Households can qualify at various assistance levels based on their income. PCHD has received over \$750,000 to date and recently applied for 2023 assistance. The Putnam County Health Department has funds remaining for 2022, so please be sure to mention this great program and opportunity to the citizens of our county! For additional information or questions, please contact Brandi Schrader at 419-523-5608 ext. 112.

In October 2022, the EH staff will be hosting a safe water campaign where anyone can have their water tested for total coliform (bacteria) at a reduced rate if they collect the water sample themselves. More information can be found on our Facebook page or by calling the Environmental Health Division at 419-523-5608. From January 1-August 31, 2022 there were 129 water samples collected by PCHD.

The Operation and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Systems is rounding out year 5 of the newly established program. The program was implemented to assist homeowners in maintaining their system and possibly increase the life expectancy of the system by providing information and education.

### Permits issued January 1- August 31, 2022



## Grief Recovery Method Program

PCHD received a grant from ODH to get trained in the Grief Recovery Method and offer this program in the community. Everyone experiences loss in their lives from the death of a loved one, loss of a job, security, pet, moving, etc. We turn to food, alcohol, and other behaviors to release the pain. By participating in the Grief Recovery Method program, people will learn to complete their loss and deal successfully with their broken heart. Look for more information about upcoming programs via social media and other outlets.

### By The Numbers

#### Jan. 1 – August 31, 2022

Immunizations (minus COVID-19)	2,478
COVID 19 Vaccinations	587
School Vision Screening	548
Children with Medical Handicaps clients	123
Car Seats Distributed	36
Car Seat Checks	8
Communicable Diseases (minus COVID 19)	82
COVID-19 positive tests reported	2,275

## COVID-19 Pandemic

In January 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Ohio Department of Health updated the guidelines for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine. January also marked our highest COVID positive case counts of 2022 so far with 1,507 cases.

In August the guidelines for quarantine were updated to reflect that close contacts no longer had to stay home for 5 days if they are unvaccinated and asymptomatic. Now, regardless of vaccination status, contacts of a positive COVID case should monitor for symptoms and wear a mask for 10 days. Putnam County is currently experiencing an increase in COVID cases as our cases have increased each month since June.