



New Health Commissioner Jamie Hunsicker, DNP, MS, RN will be leading the Health Department.

The health department is beginning 2022 with new leadership. Jamie Hunsicker, DNP, MS, RN who has been on the Board of Health since 2017, was hired as the new Health Commissioner. Jamie brings with her the experience of the Board of Health as well as being a Nursing professor at Ohio Northern University. Jamie has worked with the health department over the years with projects, such as the Community Bike Program, and helping with administering flu

shots and COVID vaccine with her nursing students.

Jamie hopes to bring knowledge back to the community on the health departments programs and importance to the public.

“My goal as Health Commissioner is to promote the work the employees do to keep the community healthy and strong. The past two years have been a difficult time for staff and the residents, and I hope to build strong relationships with past and future partners in the area.” said Hunsicker.

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Tips for the Season

All Ohioans are encouraged to check in on older loved ones and neighbors before, during, and after severe weather.

- Check their home: Is the temperature comfortable? Are they heating it safely? Is there any damage to their home? Are outdoor walkways clear of snow, ice, and debris?
- Check their health: Do they appear alert and aware? Have they fallen? Are they taking their medications as prescribed? Do they need medical attention?
- Check that their daily needs are being met: Do they have safe food and water? Are they able to do what they need to do? Do they have someone to call for support and a reliable way to call for emergency help if they need it? You can check in on an older loved one or neighbor by telephone, video call, or in-person.



Peek Inside our Social Media

Our social media is a great way to stay informed and up to date on our department and what we are doing. We share information that is helpful to all citizens in our community as well as keep you up to date on what is happening in the area.

Mission Statement:

We, the Kenton-Hardin Health Department believe that it is our mission to develop and maintain an efficient system which will provide for the highest quality of public health service practicable, and to promote and protect, in varying degrees, the community's physical, mental, social, and environmental well-being.

The Board of health administration will work to promote an organization within which all are encouraged to work cooperatively to fulfill this mission.

By working towards fulfillment of its mission, the health department is striving to enable every citizen the opportunity to realize health and longevity.

“To Be The Best, Perform The Best”



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Vision:

Keeping Hardin County healthy by improving the lives of those we serve and strengthen our communities through collaborative partnerships.

Values:

The Kenton-Hardin Health Department is a citizen-driven organization that serves the community based upon its core values: Integrity, quality and excellence in service provisions through collaboration, preparedness, communication and accountability.

Emergency Preparedness

HELPING YOU STAY
PREPARED

Total Solar Eclipse

Many agencies in the area are aware of a total solar eclipse that will affect our county in the coming years, but citizens may not be. In April 2024 Hardin County and specifically Forest, Ohio will be THE area to be to experience the next total solar eclipse. The health department along with many other organizations are involved in planning meetings for the potential large scale event.

What to Expect?

The last total solar eclipse to take place in Ohio was in 1806, and the next will be in 2444. With Hardin County being a “center-line” community meaning we will have a total solar eclipse event, we could see the population triple to quadruple for the days leading up to and may take a day to two days to exit.

Why Are We Planning Now?

With the potential population increase there will be extreme demand for hotels, campsites, restaurants, entertainment facilities, park, etc. The health department along with other agencies are working on plans and developing

responses to needs as well as potential emergencies that could affect the community and its visitors. With an event that depends on weather conditions planning can be difficult at best. The county and its agencies are involved with state planners as well as other local divisions to ensure the community is prepared and able to view the event safely.

What Can You Do?

Begin now in preparing for how your family can be prepared for a population influx. Emergency go kits for the family are important at any time, but in an emergency can be important for all in the home. Begin now with a list of what you might need for in the home if you were to be homebound for a few days. With the influx in population, which at peak will make travel extremely difficult, you could be unable to leave the home. Having a stock of food and water for the home would be a good first step in planning. Likely restaurants and grocery stores within days of the event and a few days following the event could be low on stock of products. Planning ahead will ensure you have what you need. If you have animals, having food

and water available for the time period will be helpful to ensure you can stay home if the need arises. Medications that are needed daily, stocking up early to avoid running to the pharmacy could be beneficial.

What Should You Do?

Plan some family time and enjoy the eclipse! This will be the first in a long time, and the last for just as long, to travel through Ohio! Enjoy the experience and share it with your loved ones! Make it educational with the kiddos or just enjoy having a day at home!

Plan Ahead

Increased populations will make travel difficult.

With an influx of people for a short amount of time, we could see travel become difficult for those who live locally. Planning ahead for things such as gas and groceries will be important for those who live locally. Recommendations would be to

have on hand any essentials such as medications, groceries, and fuel at least enough to sustain for a week, two if possible, to avoid large crowds and travel issues. Consider having a first aid kit on hand for small injuries during this time as well.





Jennifer Newland
*Clerk/Medical Biller/
Deputy Registrar*

Jennifer started with the health department in February of 2016. She was

Employee Spotlight

hired as a front office clerk and took the title of biller after staff changes.

Jennifer also helps with many of the duties up front such as answering phones, issuing birth & death certificates and scheduling appointments.

Jen is always willing to work on group projects, she is team oriented and is a good

team motivator.

Jen graduated from Ohio Hi-Point Career Center in Bellefontaine with certifications in Medical Office Administration, Medical Billing/Transcriptionist, Microsoft Office and HIPAA Compliance.



Sean Beck
*Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator*

Sean Beck was hired in November 2021 to take on the role and responsibilities as the KHHH Emergency Response Coordinator. While this role has many aspects,

Employee Spotlight

managing the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant, and the Department's emergency response capabilities are his main focus.

Sean's experience comes from a volunteer organization, Civil Air Patrol, which has emergency service as one of the major program areas.

Sean has lived in Ada for

nearly a decade and is married. Together, he and his wife are raising a daughter and have a son on the way.



Nursing Updates

Help Me Grow

We are back to in person visits! Are you a new mother and would like some guidance during pregnancy or when the new baby comes home? Help Me Grow could be for you!

Our program allows us to help guide you on the development of your child and ensure you have the resources available to help your baby thrive. Children who are a part of the program are shown to enter school ready to learn, and parents are more involved in their school learning. Many times any developmental delays or health problems are detected early to help get treatment early.

Help Me Grow is for those who meet income guidelines and are first time mothers, however we are able to expand services, if you are interested in the program and what it can offer you and your child please call and speak with our friendly nurses at 419-673-6230.

Children with Medical Handicaps

CMH is a healthcare program linking families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services.

Through the three service programs offered – Diagnostic, Treatment, and Service Coordination – families are linked with quality providers, including doctors and pharmacies, in their local community. A public health nurse from KHHD will coordinate services with, and for, the family throughout the entire process. Eligible children are newborn through 21 years. Some eligible conditions include Cleft Lip and Palate, Cancer, Congenital Heart Disease, Diabetes, Hearing Loss, Scoliosis, Spina Bifida, and Cystic Fibrosis. Please call our nurses for more information on the program and eligibility ext 1806.

Immunization Clinics

Regular Immunizations

Thursdays by appointment only in the office.

COVID Clinics

Offering regular vaccines and booster doses on **Tuesdays** walk in and by appointment.

Outreach Clinics Return!

Clinics will open again in March!

Ada - 3rd Tuesday 9:30-2:30


Forest/Dunkirk will alternate on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Forest - 9:30-12PM

Dunkirk - 1-3PM

Please call our offices to schedule your immunization appointments.

PREMATURITY
AWARENESS MONTH



Ohio Department of Health
Help me grow™

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Preventing Premature Births

Education on how to prevent having a premature birth such as:

1. Receiving prenatal care.
2. Healthy nutrition for expecting mothers.
3. Education on prenatal vitamins.
4. Education on a healthy lifestyle for pregnant mothers.
 - a. information on smoking cessation as well as other healthy habits.

Resources for Premature Birth Parents

Help me grow is able to provide resources and help for parents with premature births such as:

1. Developmental screenings.
2. Vaccine information.
3. Nutrition and breast feeding information.
4. As well as connecting the family with resources that could be helpful.

TIMELINE

Accreditation

The Health Department has achieved the 5 year accreditation. We will begin the process of re-accreditation soon, with an annual report that will be submitted in December of 2022.

Accreditation was achieved by the health department in November of 2021.

Achieving this accomplishment under normal circumstances is a difficult task, add in a pandemic and it greatly stressed the department and the process.

In a normal process from submission of documents to a decision the health department would hear of the status within about 3 months. Kenton Hardin Health Department submitted their documentation in August of 2019, we were not able to receive notice of our accreditation until 2 years later in November of 2021.

There are many different steps after submission, we had documents returned from our specialist who works directly with us for

completeness review (checking for logos and identifying information on documents) after this review is completed in a normal cycle the site visit team would take 12 weeks to review documentation. Our site visit team was interrupted with the pandemic response, our team eventually had to be reselected. We had our virtual site visit in September of 2021, with the final decision coming in November. This accomplishment alone is something to be celebrated, but to have achieved this in the middle of a pandemic response, is a testament to how dedicated our staff is to providing top quality service to the community.

The health department not only achieved the award but did very well in the process. We scored in

the top of health departments of comparable size of those who have achieved accreditation.

We will continue to stay focused on accreditation going forward as we will begin the process of preparing for re-accreditation this year. Yearly each accredited health department must submit an annual report to the Public Health Accreditation Board, and in 5 years will submit for full re-accreditation.



Quality Improvement Projects

We continue work to bring quality service and programs to the community. In an effort to improve services already provided to the community the health department tracks different areas of the programs through performance management tools to determine where to focus the quality improvement steps to make positive changes for those receiving

services. Currently following the accreditation achievement we have been working to get performance management tools for many of our programs. Going forward we will use this information to determine what projects will be the most beneficial for the department. This is required work for initial and re-accreditation efforts.



A Ticket to COVID-19 Safety

Requirements

Regardless of vaccination status, U.S. travelers must:

- Wear a mask on planes, trains, buses, and other forms of public transportation.
- Show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before returning to the U.S. from international travel.
- Follow the entry rules and requirements of international destinations.

Recommendations

- Get vaccinated. If you are planning to travel this holiday season, the most important thing you can do to keep safe is get vaccinated, or get a booster if you are eligible.
- Do not travel if you feel sick, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Track COVID-19 rates in your origin and your destination locations, and take extra precautions—like avoiding crowds and wearing a mask—in areas of high and substantial transmission.



Unvaccinated Travelers

If possible, delay travel unless you are fully vaccinated. In addition to testing requirements for those returning from international travel, the CDC recommends that unvaccinated travelers take a viral test 1-3 days before any trips (domestic or international), self-quarantine for 7 days, and get tested 3-5 days after returning from travel.

Public Health
Communications
COLLABORATIVE
publichealthcollaborative.org



Blood Pressure Clinics Monthly
Council on Aging- 1st Monday 10:30AM
Plaza Inn- 2nd Friday 12PM
Dunkirk Library- 4th Friday 1PM

Offices Closed
February 21st
President's Day

Upcoming Events

COVID Vaccine Clinics
Tuesday's
Call for an appointment or Walk-in

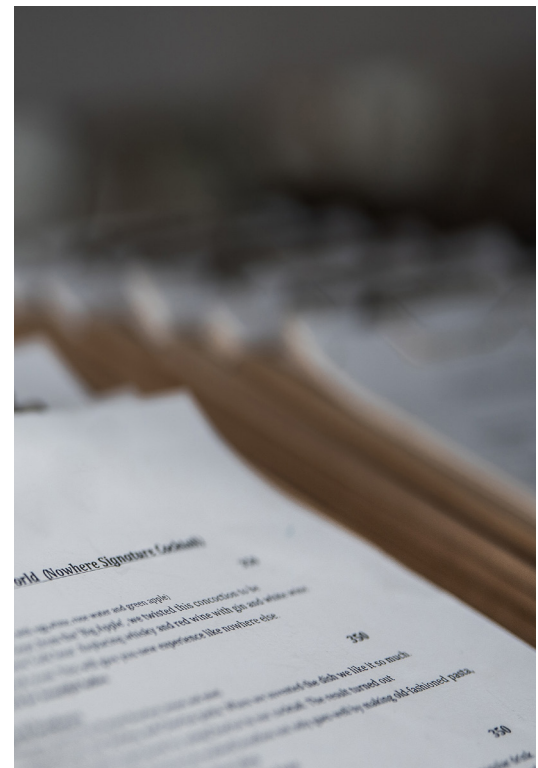
Regular Clinic Appointments
Thursday's
Call for an appointment

Sanitation Station

Every year starting in January many different areas of the Environmental Health Department are busy re-licensing program areas at different times of the year. It begins in January when all **Sewage Haulers, Service Providers, and Sewage Installers. Additionally Tattoo Establishments** must be re-licensed by January 1st. The letters to remind those already licensed to renew are sent out more than a month in advance.

As of March 1st all **Food Service & Retail Food Establishments** must have their renewal in place. These establishments are also notified by letter in advance. The last area to be re-licensed as of April 1st, **Campgrounds & Swimming Pools.**

Annually due to the number of establishments the month of February is busy for the environmental department due to the fact these businesses will be working to get re-licensed in a timely manner. New establishments that are approved at a later date would still be on the yearly re-licensing schedule going forward.





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