

# Lake County General Health District 2022 Annual Report

## A Message from the Health Commissioner

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, public health in Ohio and across the nation began aligning its strategic direction with that of “Public Health 3.0,” which includes a prioritization on implementing strategies that target the social determinants of health. Striving to identify and understand the reasons why people are dying or getting sick, public health traditionally conducts surveys and focus groups to determine relevant evidence-based interventions: Was this person who died from lung disease a smoker? Did that person develop heart disease due to an unhealthy diet? If the answers are yes, then historical public health questions have been: How can we get people to stop smoking? How can we influence people to eat healthier?

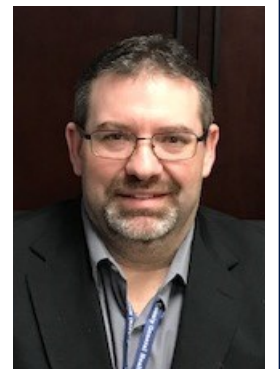
However, these logical questions may be premature and not getting to the underlying social determinants of health, behaviors, and outcomes. Focusing on health behavior and the environment in which one lives through a different lens, better and more relevant questions may be: Did this person smoke as a result of living in an area bombarded by messages about smoking, or with concentrated tobacco retailers? Did that person not eat a healthy diet because they live in a food desert, or because they could not afford to buy healthy food?

Working together to expand the view of what impacts health outcomes forces public health and its partners to consider how environmental, social, and economic factors are connected to health risks. To study and influence these systems, it is imperative for public health to garner partnerships, access and utilize multiple sources of population-based data, and obtain flexible funding. Realigning the public health system and its network of providers and contributors to collectively consider and address the social determinants of health can result in significant impact. In 2023, there will be increased efforts by the health district to expand our communication to at-risk populations, strengthen our alignment with community partners, and maximize our available resources to provide relevant, effective, and efficient public health services to Lake County residents and surrounding communities.

On behalf of the Lake County General Health District and its Board, I thank you for the honor to serve as your Health Commissioner.



Ron H. Graham, MPH



Ron H. Graham, MPH  
Health Commissioner  
2015 - Present

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### BOARD OF HEALTH

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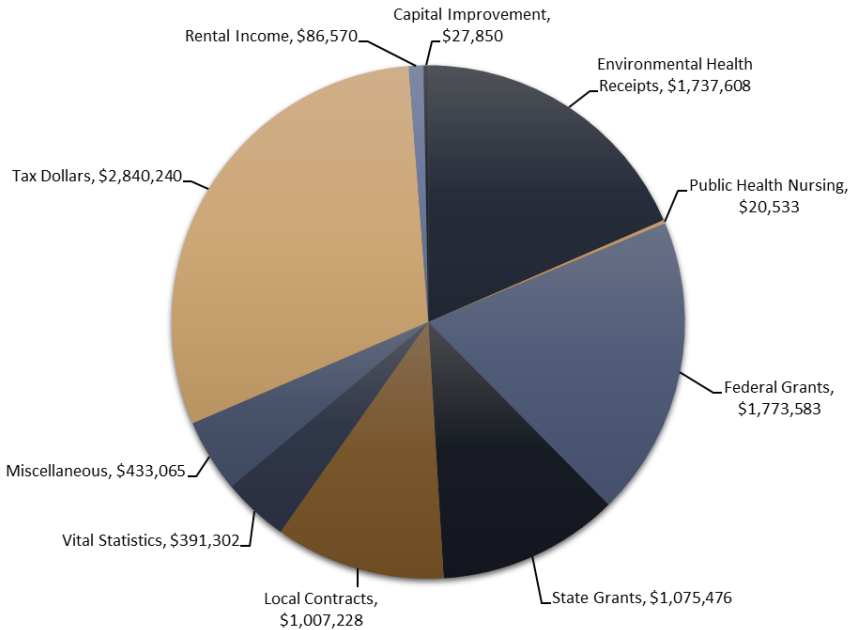
**Mission of the Lake County General Health District:  
Working to prevent disease, promote equity in health, and  
protect our community through innovative public health practice.**

# Agency Financial Report

## Total Revenue \$9,393,455.00

The largest funding sources for the Lake County General Health District in 2022 include:

- Federal Grants (32%)
- Internal Assessments (30%)
- Environmental Health Receipts (14%)

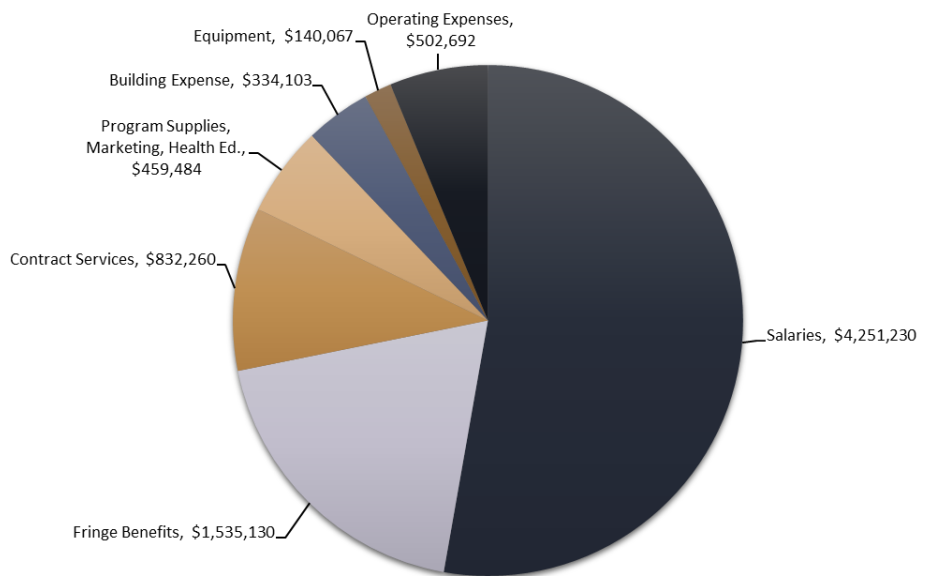


## Total Expenditures \$8,227,966.00

Salary and fringe benefits to support the Lake County General Health District's employees represent the principal expenditure for the agency in 2022, accounting for more than half (70%) of total disbursements.

Other notable expenditures include:

- Transportation and Travel (\$71,284.00)
- Capital Improvement (\$58,579.00)
- Office Supplies and Postage (\$39,961.00)
- Returns (\$3,176.00)



# Environmental Health

## Food Safety Program

The food safety program is the first line of defense against foodborne illness. The inspectors work to protect the public by ensuring that all facilities that sell food are using safe food handling practices. These places include restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks, temporary food operations (like food sold at fairs), and vending machines.



Licensed Food Facilities	1,263
Temporary Licenses Issued	47
Mobile Licenses Issued	77
Vending Machine License Issued	114
Inspectors	7
Food Complaints Investigated	131
Total Food Facility Inspections	4,731

## Household Sewage Treatment Systems

The household sewage treatment staff works to keep the ground and surface water safe from potential contamination by enforcing the sewage treatment system rules. Staff is responsible for issuing permits and inspecting sewage treatment systems and operational permits.

Sewage Treatment System Permits Issued	127
Septic System Inspections	609
Operation Permits Issued	5,590
Commercial Septic Inspections	332
Grant Funds Awarded to Assist with Septic Repair	\$203,035



# Population Health and Emergency Planning

## 2022 Lake County Community Health Needs Assessment

During 2022, LCGHD and University Hospitals Lake West and TriPoint hospitals worked with 11 community partners to conduct Lake County's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The process included data from:

- 1,846 community resident surveys
- Five Community focus groups with the NAACP, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+, Seniors, and Hispanic population
- Community Leader Surveys

The CHNA Committee worked with Conduent, Inc., to prepare a final report, which detailed the following priority health needs:



Access to  
Healthcare

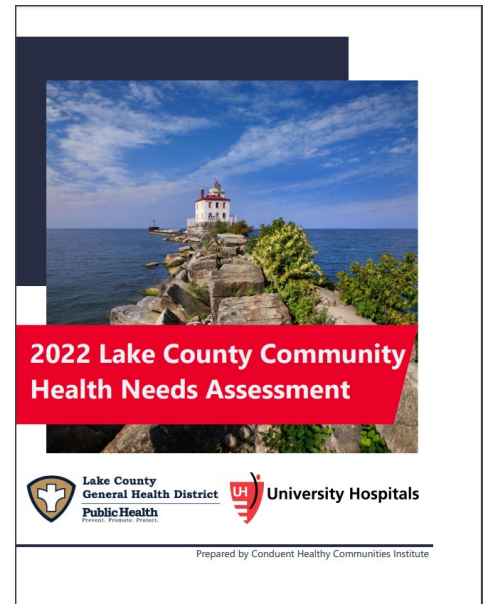


Behavioral  
Health  
(Mental  
Health &  
Substance Use  
and Misuse)



Chronic  
Disease

Findings are being used to develop the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan/Implementation Strategy (CHIP/IS) that will be released during the first quarter of 2023. The full report is available online at <https://www.lcghd.org/reports/healthdata/>



## LCGHD Prepares for Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

On November 10 and 11, 2022, LCGHD's Epidemiology, Preparedness, Communications, and Food Safety Program staff participated in a full-scale exercise to test their ability to respond to an outbreak of foodborne illness. Functions tested in the exercise included:

- Notification
- Case Investigation / Reporting
- Field Investigation/ Inspection
- Sampling
- Public Information / Information Sharing
- Mitigation and Follow-up
- After-Action Review



# Lake County Disease Investigation

**Table 1. Reportable Communicable Diseases**

Communicable Disease	2022	2021	2020
Babesiosis	0	0	0
Campylobacter	30	31	22
CP-CRE	30	25	35
Chikungunya	0	0	0
Chlamydia	534	591	647
COVID-19	17,350	28,435	13,100
Coccidioidomycosis	3	2	2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	2	5	0
Cyclosporiasis	0	2	2
E. Coli 0157:H7	5	7	4
Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis	1	1	0
Giardia	6	6	11
Gonorrhea	129	237	246
Haemophilus Influenza	7	0	0
Hepatitis A	4	8	11
Hepatitis B (acute)	0	1	0
Hepatitis B (chronic)	39	41	12
Hepatitis B (perinatal)	1	3	3
Hepatitis C (acute)	0	0	0
Hepatitis C (chronic)	152	177	169
Hepatitis C (perinatal)	1	1	1
Hepatitis E	0	2	0
Influenza-Hospitalized	155	2	200
La Crosse Virus Disease	0	0	0
Legionnaires Disease	15	20	11
Listeriosis	2	1	0
Lyme Disease	28	43	15
Malaria	0	0	1

**Table 1 (continued). Reportable Communicable Diseases**

Communicable Disease	2022	2021	2020
Meningitis-aseptic/viral	2	0	4
Meningitis, Bacterial not Neisseria	4	12	1
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	1	1	1
Mpox	11	0	0
Mumps	1	0	0
Mycobacterium Tuberculosis	4	3	0
Pertussis	9	4	18
Rocky Mountain spotted fever	0	0	0
Salmonella	24	32	19
Shigellosis	8	3	2
Staph Aureus VRSA	0	0	0
Streptococcal Group A (SGA)	14	13	6
Streptococcal Group B Newborn	1	0	0
Streptococcus Pneumonai (ISP)	17	18	9
Syphilis	14	25	38
Tetanus	0	0	0
Varicella	22	17	10
Vibriosis	0	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	1	2
Yersinia	2	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,629</b>	<b>29,772</b>	<b>14,602</b>

The Communicable Diseases listed above are reported to LCGHD for Lake County residents under the direction of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-3.

Typically, reports are made by diagnosing physicians or laboratories, and depending on the disease, LCGHD follows up with the resident or resident's guardian or caregiver to obtain more information about exposures and contacts to prevent further spread of the illness. In some cases, such as COVID-19, where a home test is available, individuals may also self-report.

#### How a Communicable Disease is reported:

1. Provider reviews the Ohio [Infectious Disease Control Manual](#) for specific reporting information and educational material about the suspected disease.
2. Provider completes the [Ohio Reportable Disease Form](#) in the Ohio Disease Reporting System or faxes report to the Health Department Confidential Fax Line: (440) 350-2956.
3. Provider (or individual in some cases) contacts the Health Department Communicable Disease Investigator: (440) 350-2467 or (440) 350-2554.
4. Disease Investigator attempts to contact provider and/or patient to complete the investigation and provide information about what to do to prevent spreading the illness further.

# Population Health and Emergency Planning

## Making Lake County a Healthier Place to Be By...

### Improving Access to Naloxone for All



LCGHD trains businesses, organizations, and the public how to save someone's life using Naloxone, a medication that reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. LCGHD also improves community access to naloxone by establishing service agreements with other organizations seeking to offer naloxone in the community.

- In 2022, over 800 kits were distributed and 529 people were trained in naloxone administration.
- Service agreements were established with three agencies, including Willoughby Public Library, the first library in Lake County to offer naloxone to the public.
- The number of naloxone community events and trainings offered increased by 320% over 2021.

### Working with Partners to Promote Safe Driving

The Lake County Safe Communities Coalition works with community organizations to promote safe driving campaigns and reduce traffic fatalities on Lake County roads.

- Over 1,300,000 people reached via public events, education activities, and media campaigns.
- Presented the ThinkFast interactive program to Lake Catholic and Harvey High Schools.
- Conducted seven seat belt observation events documenting over 90% seat belt use among participants.



## Educating on the Dangers of Tobacco Use

Did you know that 21% of Lake County adults smoke?

LCGHD’s health educators inform the community about the dangers of tobacco use and are working to make all tobacco products less accessible to those under 18 years of age.



- Trained over 80 Lake County providers on tobacco education and cessation referral resources.
- Reached over 43,570 residents through social media campaigns and in-person events.
- Conducted 36 tobacco retail audits with Lake County retailers demonstrating a 99.8% compliance rate.

## Vital Statistics

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Birth Certificates Issued</b>	6,518	7,232	5,537	4,499	3,984
<b>Out of County Birth Certs Issued</b>	*	*	*	2,615	1,952
<b>Death Certificates Issued</b>	10,305	11,426	10,541	8,181	8,332
<b>Fetal Death Certificates Issued</b>	1	0	3	1	3
<b>Burial Permits Issued</b>	966	818	686	604	653
<b>Free Veterans' Copies Issued</b>	276	355	308	301	312
<b>Affidavits Issued</b>	252	319	261	448	521
<b>Supplements Issued</b>	586	437	421	354	415
<b>Birth Certificates Filed</b>	1,402	1,521	1,533	1,640	1,766
<b>Death Certificates Filed</b>	2,272	2,414	2,315	1,761	1,727

\*Beginning in 2020, the totals for in-county and out-of-county birth certificates issued have been combined. The total for both is listed in the category “Birth Certificates Issued”.

## COVID-Related Deaths

The table below highlights the COVID-related deaths of Lake County residents from March 2020 through December 2022\*\*. The data was extracted from the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and was based on the date of death.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>COVID-Related Deaths</b>	196	359	246	N/A	N/A

\*\*Death reporting is delayed, so final numbers are not yet available for 2022.

# Community Health Services

## Focusing on Access to Routine Immunizations

The focus for 2022 has been getting back to increasing access to routine immunizations and working to improve immunization rates for commonly known vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles and polio. Both the World Health Organization and UNICEF have been tracking the decreasing immunization rates, and have called for Public Health to refocus their efforts on routine immunizations.

### Vaccines for Adults

Vaccines for Adults (VFA) is a state program that allows qualifying adults to receive vaccines at low-no cost. If an adult does not qualify and cannot pay for their immunization, the Health Department does not require payment.

Chart 1. 2022 Polio Vaccine for Adults Administered

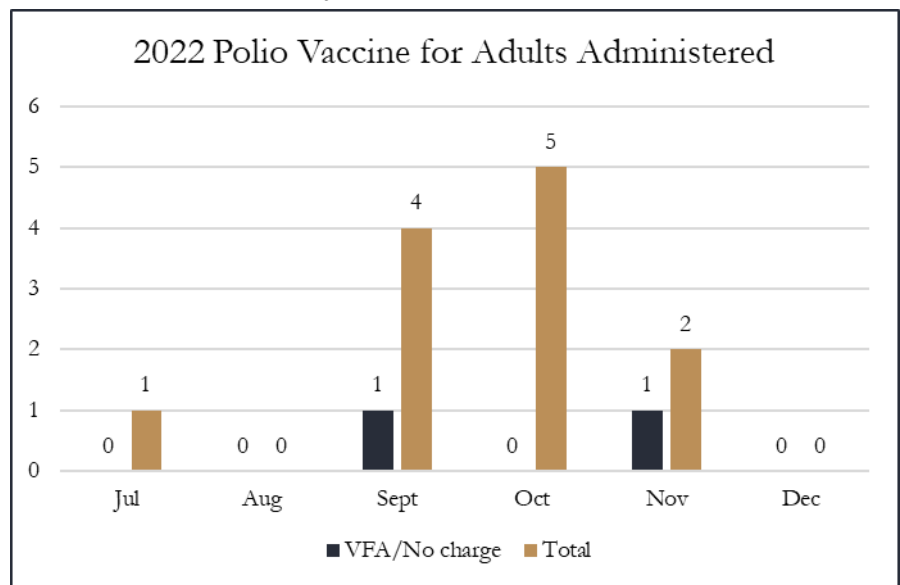
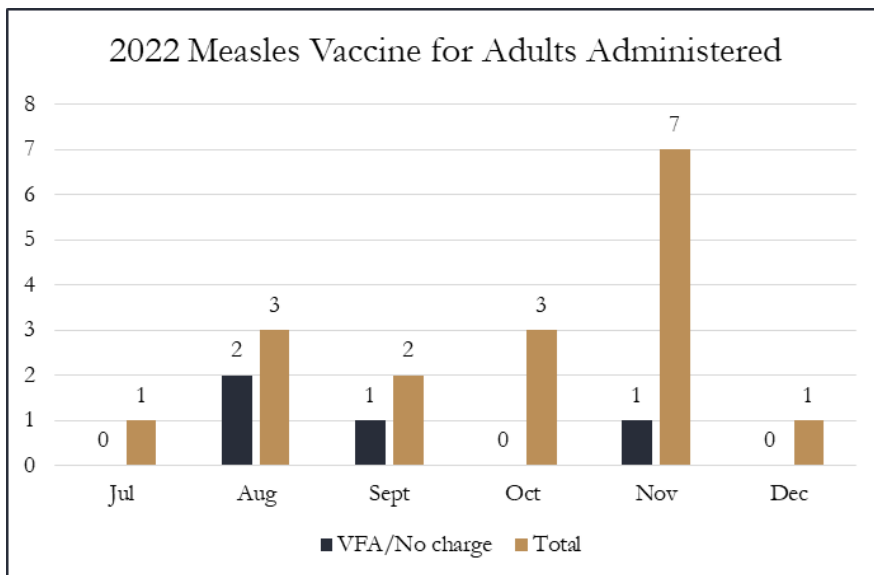


Chart 2. 2022 Measles Vaccine for Adults Administered



### Measles Outbreak Prompted Immunizations

Measles immunizations increased at the end of the year due to the Measles outbreak in central Ohio.



### Focus on Chickenpox Immunizations

There is also a focus on ensuring adults who have not had a chickenpox vaccine and have never had chickenpox receive their immunization to prevent it.

Chart 3. 2022 Chickenpox Vaccine for Adults Administered

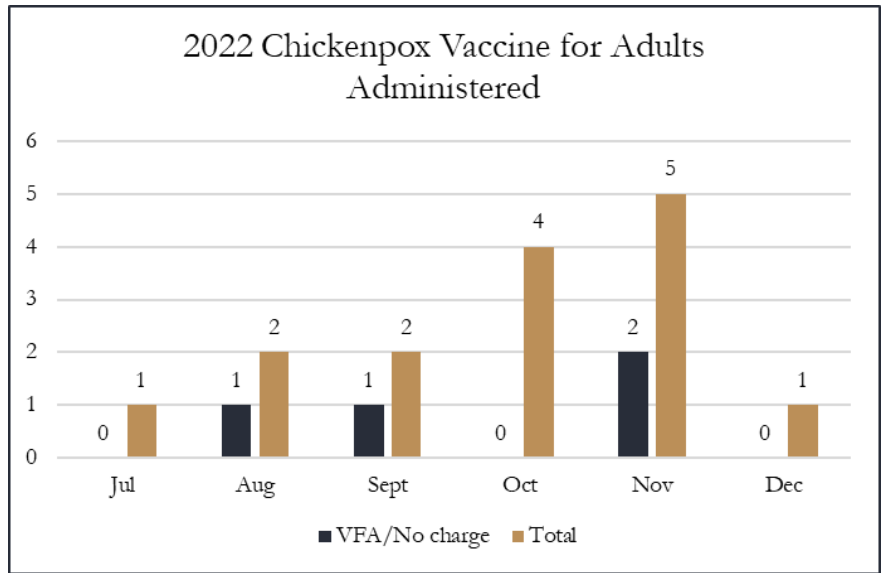
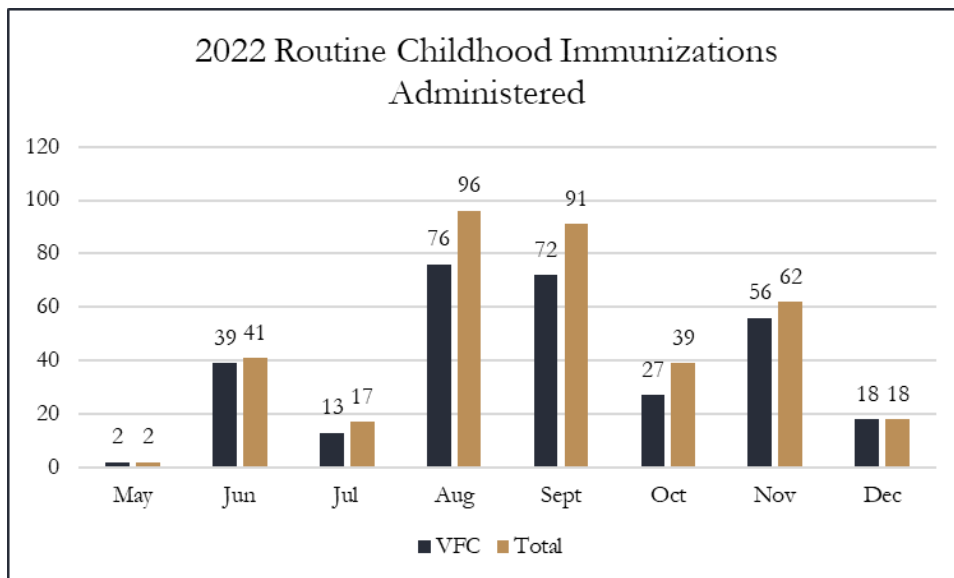


Chart 4. 2022 Routine Childhood Immunizations Administered



### Vaccines for Children

Vaccines for Children (VFC) is a state program that allows qualifying children to receive their routine immunizations at low-no cost. At LCGHD, over half of the administered childhood immunizations were VFC vaccines.

## Childhood Immunizations and Schools

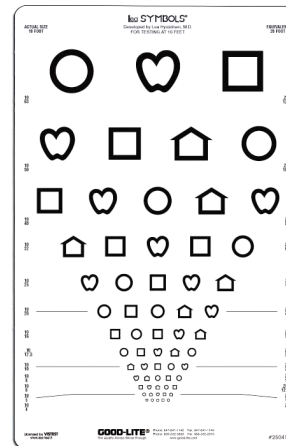
Staff based in a school clinic setting are responsible for reporting the immunization status of the students to the Ohio Department of Health, who has guidelines on what immunizations are required for school attendance. Those students who are missing school required vaccines are referred to their pediatrician, Signature Health, or Lake County General Health District to catch up on their vaccines. If the student has an exemption for vaccines, that will also be recorded and updated during the immunization verification. If there are enough students in need of a vaccine, LCGHD is able to immunize children in the school setting.

# School Health Services

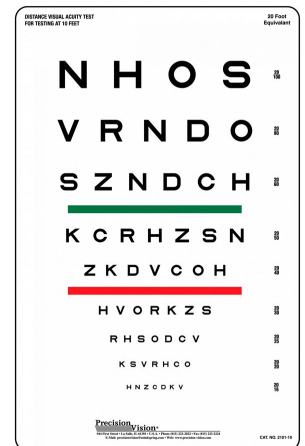
## School Health Services Program

The School Health Services Program was able to expand services provided to school children over the past year by offering hearing and vision screenings. LCGHD continued its partnership with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Children's Hearing and Vision Program, which determines what grades of school-aged children are screened and which children are referred for additional assessment. Schools providing medical services are required to screen school-aged students for hearing and vision. These school-based screenings are to increase access to professionals for all students suspected of having vision changes or hearing loss. ODH stresses that hearing and vision screenings, while a valuable public health procedure, are not substitutes for professional examinations.

Vision screenings are conducted for children in preschool, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades. Per ODH, vision disparity affects all populations. Screenings are conducted in a well-lit room free from glare and other distractions. Preschool screenings are done with a LEA Symbols chart, while other grades typically use a Sloan chart.



LEA Symbols Chart



Sloan Chart



Hearing screenings are conducted for children in preschool, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, ninth, and eleventh grades. Undiagnosed hearing loss in students may interfere with normal speech and language development, and can be educationally significant. Hearing screenings are conducted in a quiet room, free from distractions and other noises.

The School Health Services program has also expanded to eight Lake County school districts, with services ranging from full district staffing for school clinic services, 1:1 care for students, field trip coverage, substitute nurse coverage, and emergency Epinephrine orders.



# Health Education and Outreach

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Breastfeeding Awareness Month (BAM) took place in August. WIC celebrated by hosting an event for clients on August 4, 2022, in the Painesville City Square during the Farmer's Market. The objectives for this event were not just to support breastfeeding moms, but to also raise awareness about how WIC can be a valuable resource for women when breastfeeding. WIC also shared information with the owners/managers of Lake County businesses on the importance of what is done at WIC, and the huge impact *they* can make in the community by offering support to breastfeeding moms. They can do this by posting a "Breastfeeding Friendly" sign (which were provided to them) in their windows or in a visual place near the entrance. At the end of 2022, the breastfeeding initiation rate was 70% and the overall breastfeeding rate was 40%. The WIC staff, and especially the WIC breastfeeding team, has been promoting breastfeeding in the community and helping its WIC moms through their special journey with their babies.



## Wickliffe Family Resource Center

The Wickliffe Family Resource Center (WFRC)/Wickliffe City School District hosted the 2nd Annual Back to School Bash on August 3 and 6, 2022.

Thank you to the community who generously donated school supplies through the WFRC Wish List on Amazon; the community agencies that came out to talk to the families; and LaBarberia Institute of Hair, The Cleveland Barber College, who provided free haircuts.

The following were provided free of charge to local families:

- 150 students received school supplies
- 62 students received back-to-school haircuts
- 63 families received toiletries
- 57 families received food packages
- 23 community agencies came out to speak with our families and share information about their services



# This Is Public Health

Below Is a Listing of Services Provided by Your Health Department

**Administration** 440-350-2455

**Community Health Services** 440-350-2554

- Children with Medical Handicaps Program
- Car Seats
- Cribs
- Immunizations (Child, Adult, & Seasonal Flu)
- Lead Testing Clinic and Education
- School Nursing Program
- Tuberculosis Skin Testing, Case Management, and Preventive Medicine

**Environmental Health Services** 440-350-2543

- Air Pollution Control
- Food Protection
- Food Safety Education Classes
- Mosquito Control
- Nuisance Complaints
- Open Burning
- Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal
- Private Water Supply (Wells)
- Rabies Prevention
- Radiological Health
- Recreational Programs (Camps, Bathing Beaches, Pools, and Spas)
- School Inspections
- Sewage Treatment Systems, Operation and Maintenance
- Smoke-Free Workplaces
- Solid and Infectious Waste Disposal
- Storm Water Management
- Tattoo and Body Piercing

**Lake County Connections** 216-318-1211

**Population Health & Emergency Planning** 440-350-2939

- Disease Investigation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Epidemiology
- Health Communications
- Health Data
- Health Promotion
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone)
- Safe Communities Coalition
- Tobacco Use Prevention & Education
- Public Health Accreditation

**Health Education & Outreach** 440-350-2447

Wickliffe Family Resource Center 440-943-6113

**WIC - Women, Infants, & Children**

- Breastfeeding Counseling and Peer Support
- Nutrition Screenings, Education, and Counseling Referrals
- Supplemental Foods

**WIC Painesville** 440-350-2552

**WIC Madison** 440-428-2003

**WIC Wickliffe** 440-833-6007

**WIC Chardon** 440-214-9440

**WIC Middlefield** 440-251-6522

**Vital Statistics** 440-350-2549

- Birth Certificates - Statewide Issuance
- Death Certificates - Lake County Only



**Lake County  
General Health District**

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

