

# Lake County General Health District

## 2024 Annual Report

### A Message from the Health Commissioner: An Opportunity for Public Health



Ron H. Graham, MPH  
Health Commissioner  
2015 - Present

Streamlining federal health organizations, such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), can enhance public health outcomes. To achieve this, a cohesive National Health Strategy should be developed, focusing on common goals and minimizing mission overlaps among agencies.

Interagency collaboration can be strengthened through the formation of task forces addressing specific health issues, alongside joint funding initiatives for research and public health projects. Implementing secure, centralized communication platforms and scheduling regular interagency meetings will facilitate timely information sharing and coordinated efforts.

The creation of an integrated health data repository will improve data sharing, research, and resource allocation, supported by standardized metrics and reporting guidelines. A unified public communication strategy will ensure consistent messaging, particularly during health crises, while community involvement programs will help align services with local needs.

Policy harmonization is essential, advocating for joint policy development and streamlined legislative processes that foster collaboration and reduce bureaucratic barriers. Technology can be leveraged through health innovation hubs and expanded telehealth platforms, allowing remote cooperation among agencies.

Workforce development initiatives, including cross-agency training programs and leadership exchanges, will cultivate a cooperative culture. Finally, establishing regular performance reviews and promoting transparency will enhance accountability and facilitate the assessment of collaborative efforts.

By following these recommendations, federal health agencies can improve coordination, streamline operations, and significantly enhance public health outcomes.

Ron H. Graham, MPH

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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.**

# Vital Statistics

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Birth Certificates Issued	5,621	5,908	6,518	7,232	5,537
Death Certificates Issued	8,296	8,625	10,305	11,426	10,541
Fetal Death Certificates Issued	0	1	1	0	3
Burial Permits Issued	1,245	1,236	966	818	686
Free Veterans' Copies Issued	209	224	276	355	308
Affidavits Issued	209	207	252	319	261
Supplements Issued	413	396	586	437	421
Birth Certificates Filed	1,112	1,174	1,402	1,521	1,533
Death Certificates Filed	1,889	1,880	2,272	2,414	2,315

## COVID-Related Deaths

The table below highlights the COVID-related deaths of Lake County residents from March 2020 through December 2024\*\*. The data was extracted from the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and was based on the date of death.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
COVID-Related Deaths	22	55	196	359	246

\*\*Death reporting is delayed, so final numbers are not yet available for 2024.

# Agency Financial Report

**Total Revenue**  
**\$9,966,063**

Some of the largest funding sources for the Lake County General Health District in 2024 include:

- Federal Grants (15%)
- Local Contracts (15%)
- Environmental Health Receipts (15%)

**Total Expenditures**  
**\$10,421,476**

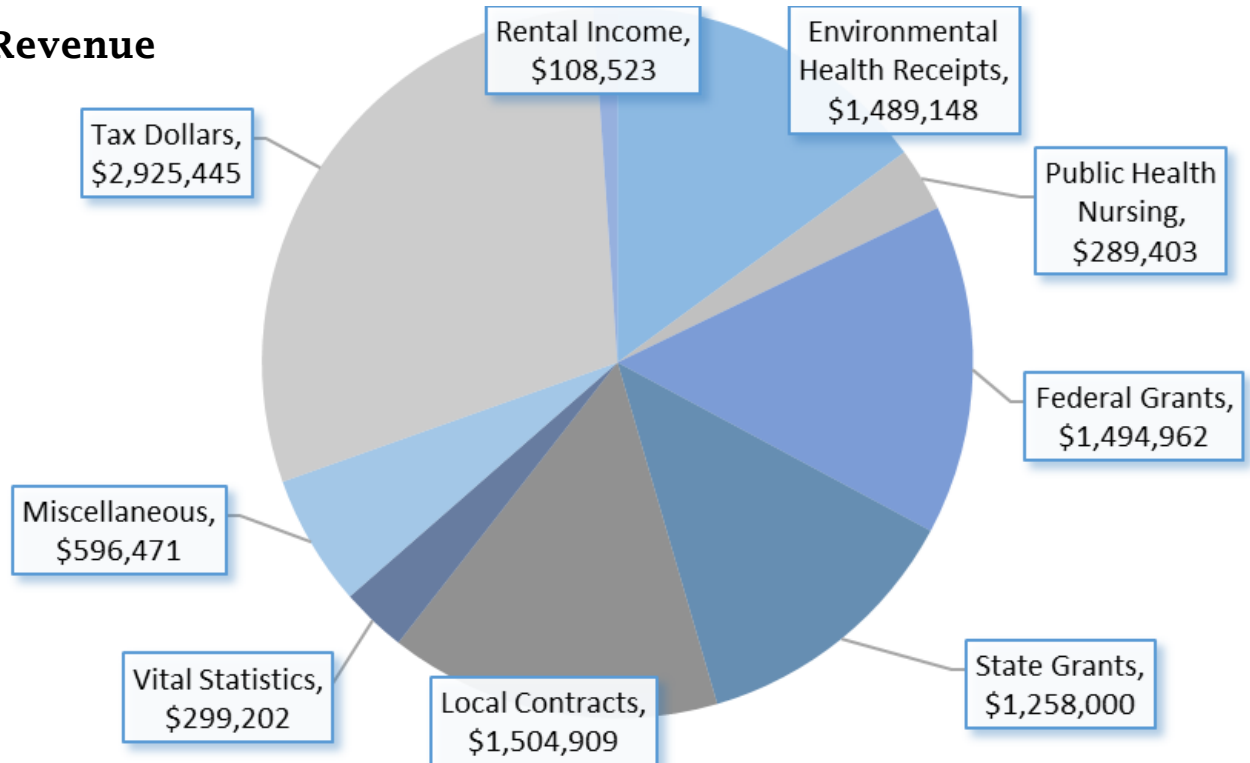
Salary and fringe benefits to support the Lake County General Health District's employees represent the principal expenditure for the agency in 2024, accounting for more than half (77%) of total disbursements.

Other notable expenditures include:

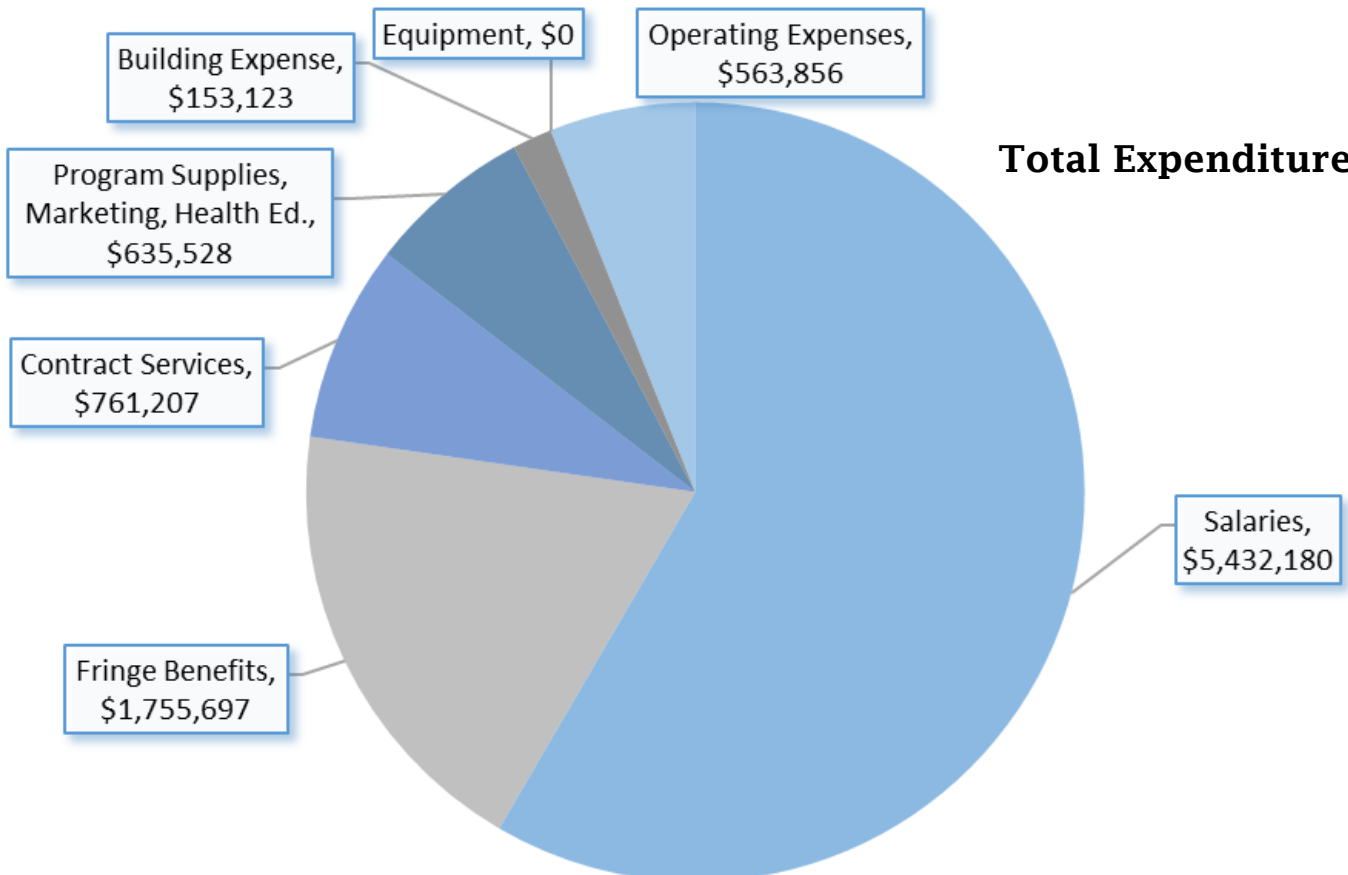
- Transportation and Travel (\$75,004)
- Capital Improvement (\$660,953)
- Office Supplies and Postage (\$39,268)
- Returns (\$3,124)
- Obligations from Previous Year (\$341,536)

# Agency Financial Report

## Total Revenue



## Total Expenditures



# Environmental Health

## Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Graded Exercise at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP)



Field Monitoring Team Van

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) Field Monitoring Team (FMT) participated in the FEMA PNPP graded exercise held on September 24, 2024. Our FMT has a total of twelve members; seven of which were present for the drill. Two teams consisting of two members were evaluated in the FMT vans, one team member was evaluated at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for their coordination roles, and the remaining two team members that were present acting as controllers and relaying information to the FMT vans.

LCGHD is unique as we are one of the only local field monitoring teams in the country. The majority of all other counties with nuclear power plants rely on state teams. Our best estimate for the state teams to arrive in the area is a minimum of 5 hours. The advantage of having a local team is the speed with which we can respond to a potential release at the power plant. During work hours, we could have teams monitoring for a radioactive plume within 90 minutes of notification. This is important, as the data we collect is a way to verify that the PNPP onsite monitoring equipment and computer models are accurate. The data we collect is used by the County Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Health to make public safety decisions, such as sheltering in place or evacuating an area.



Used to find a radioactive plume

The FEMA evaluators had glowing remarks about our team. Although a final report will not be issued for quite a while, some of their comments are below.

The evaluators mentioned the thorough procedures that we use. This document goes back to the very beginning of the field monitoring team and has changed as needed, mainly to reflect new equipment or ways to streamline the process.

The basic safety principle for radiation protection is ALARA, As Low As Reasonably Achievable, and is the hardest part of the drill. By working as a team and communicating with each other, they have been able to demonstrate that this work can be done without excessive contamination.

The team's knowledge, understanding, and comfort with the Suggested Operating Guide was another strong point. The way it was used to ensure everything was done was also noted. Everyone is comfortable with the operating guidelines, and it showed. There is no reason to try to memorize what needs to be done in the vans. Using the procedure as they did ensures steps are not missed. This is a direct result of our training schedule.

# Environmental Health

The communication over the radio and read backs were another strong point. This is the best way to make sure information between the FMT coordinator and teams is not recorded improperly. It takes a little longer, but the end result is worth it.

The way our two controllers handled the less than stellar data was mentioned. Elizabeth identified quite a bit of unneeded data and reformatted the chart to make it easier to read. Both controllers were able to make the data work to ensure a plume was found and samples were collected. This was able to be done because of their knowledge of what we do and how the data needs to be reported.

The last point made by one of the evaluators was that we are only the second team the evaluator has seen that does not need to exit the vehicle for sampling. This again reflects the ALARA principles by reducing any exposure to team members.

These notes are preliminary and we have no Area Requiring Corrective Action (ARCA).



Used to analyze air samples



Used to analyze particulate sample



Air Sampler



# Population Health and Emergency Planning

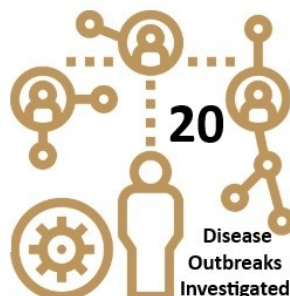
## LCGHD Tests Capabilities for Bioterrorism Response

The Lake County General Health District, in partnership with the Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as well as local health departments from Geauga, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina counties, produced an educational video to assist residents who are deaf or hard of hearing with navigating points of dispensing (PODs). PODs are mass clinics, similar to large mass vaccination clinics set up during the COVID-19 pandemic to quickly dispense medications or vaccines or distribute supplies in case of a public health emergency. Public health emergencies that may require PODs include pandemic scenarios such as 2009 H1N1 Influenza or COVID-19, a bioterrorism event where public health would need to distribute antibiotics or other medications, or even severe weather or other events where power or utility outages may require the distribution of supplies like safe drinking water.



The video includes an interpreter to discuss how PODs operate and what to expect, which may be used in the event a POD would need to be opened, as well as for preparedness exercises, to ensure the POD and its operations are clear and more accessible. Reviews of COVID-19 clinics throughout the Northeast Ohio region highlighted the need to improve POD communications and operations to better fit the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who use American Sign Language. Regional partners are planning future collaborations to help ensure we're better serving our whole community.

## Epi Quick Facts



# Lake County Disease Investigation

**Table 1. Reportable Communicable Diseases**

Communicable Disease	2024	2023	2022
Campylobacter	35	32	30
C. auris	2	0	0
CP-CRE	30	12	30
Chlamydia	521	478	534
COVID-19	4400	5983	17,350
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	3
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	0	1
Cryptosporidiosis	5	5	2
Cyclosporiasis	2	1	0
E. Coli 0157:H7	13	10	5
Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis	0	0	1
Giardia	11	6	6
Gonorrhea	118	132	129
Haemophilus Influenza	9	9	7
Hepatitis A	1	0	4
Hepatitis B (acute)	2	0	0
Hepatitis B (chronic)	27	21	39
Hepatitis B (perinatal)	0	0	1
Hepatitis C (chronic)	60	79	152
Hepatitis C (perinatal)	0	1	1
Influenza pediatric mortality	1	0	0
Influenza-Hospitalized	201	57	155
Legionnaires Disease	13	12	15
Leptospirosis	0	1	0
Listeriosis	1	1	2
Lyme Disease	13	14	5
Malaria	0	1	0

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

Communicable Disease	2024	2023	2022
Meningitis-aseptic/viral	7	5	2
Meningitis, Bacterial not Neisseria	1	2	4
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	0	0	1
Mpox	1	1	11
Mumps	0	0	1
Mycobacterium Tuberculosis	3	0	4
Pertussis	4	9	9
Salmonella	28	31	24
Shigellosis	12	9	8
Streptococcal Group A (SGA)	20	17	14
Streptococcal Group B Newborn	1	1	1
Streptococcus Pneumoniae (ISP)	19	13	17
Syphilis	24	30	14
Varicella	1	3	22
Vibriosis	1	1	0
Yersinia	5	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5593</b>	<b>6978</b>	<b>18,605</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) 359-6219.
3. Provider (or individual in some cases) contacts the Health Department Communicable Disease Investigator: (440) 350-2467 or (440) 350-2482.
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

## Creating Healthy Communities Together

In October, LCGHD was awarded a Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Funded by the Preventative Health and Human Services Block Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this five-year award allowed LCGHD to add a full-time Health Educator position focusing on healthy eating and active living.

The CHC program abides by the following core principles:

- **Sustainable and Equitable Investments:** CHC invests in policies, projects, places, and people to create and sustain equitable, inclusive opportunities for healthy eating and active living.
- **Self-Awareness and Empathy:** Everyone involved in CHC prepares to engage in the work by strengthening self-awareness and empathy.
- **Community-Led Solutions:** Community members experiencing health inequities or social marginalization partner with CHC to amplify their collective power and lead solutions for their community.
- **Organizational Partnership:** Organizations partner with CHC to align with and direct resources toward community members' vision and priorities.
- **Coordinator Responsibility:** CHC Coordinators approach their relationships and the work with humility, transparency, dependability, and respect for others

This program focuses around implementing policy, systems, and environmental changes that move beyond programming and into the systems that impact where people live, work, and play. Year one priority communities include Painesville and Eastlake, where work has begun to assess current systems that promote health, identify gaps, and engage communities in determining meaningful solutions.

## Population Health by the Numbers



**3,200 YOUTH RECEIVED  
TOBACCO EDUCATION**



**1209 NALOXONE  
KITS DISTRIBUTED**



**20 SAFE DRIVING  
EVENTS ATTENDED**



## Everyone Can Swing at State Street Park

LCGHD's two-year Healthy Eating & Active Living Capacity Building project wrapped up in September 2024 with the installation of an accessible swing set at State Street Park in Painesville. This project began in 2023 with an active living assessment, and community member interviews which culminated in school-aged children voting for which type of swing set they would prefer to be installed. The swing set chosen includes two belt swings, a disc swing, and a fully accessible swing.



## LCGHD Achieves Reaccreditation

On March 12, 2024, LCGHD was reaccredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the non-profit national public health accrediting body for state, local, tribal and territorial health departments. In maintaining its accreditation status for an additional five years, LCGHD has demonstrated that it meets PHAB's quality standards and measures and has the capacity to continue to evolve, improve and advance to continue improving the health of Lake County residents. LCGHD is one of 96 accredited health departments in Ohio, 19 of which have achieved reaccreditation status.



# Health Education and Outreach

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

### WIC turns 50 years old!

WIC celebrated 50 years of WIC and Breastfeeding Awareness Month at the Charlton Abbott in Willoughby on August 16, 2024. WIC threw a birthday party. Our biggest sponsor for the event was the Willoughby Cleveland Elks #18. Over 100 people attended and more than 10 agencies participated, providing resources to the attendees. Activities included: facepainting, Connect Four, corn hole, other activities and of course cupcakes and snow cones! The staff did a FANTASTIC job and worked together to make it a HUGE success!



## Breastfeeding in the Workplace

The first year of the Breastfeeding in the Workplace grant is complete. Ten workplaces have worked with the Health District to create or update their breastfeeding policy. The grant has been renewed and at least 10 more workplaces will complete the process.

The first ten businesses are:

- Beyond Our Dreams, Kirtland
- Hershey Montessori School
- Kinder Care, Mentor South
- Educational Service Center
- Mentor Public Library
- My Kids Childcare, Mentor
- Concord Village
- Birthright of Lake County, Mentor
- Auburn Career Center
- Massage Envy, Mentor

# Health Education and Outreach

## Lake County Milk Bank Drop Site

Lake-Geauga WIC's Milk Bank Depot reaches their one-year anniversary after collecting over 6,000 ounces of donated breastmilk from just a handful of local mothers. In January 2024, WIC opened their first Mothers' Milk Bank Depot site where they accepted breastmilk donations from mothers from all over Northeast Ohio. The milk WIC collects is added to the nearly 35,000 ounces of donated breastmilk that eventually reaches more than 50 U.S. hospitals. This milk can be life changing for premature and ill babies who are unable to breastfeed.

All 6,000 ounces were from the seven mothers in Northeast Ohio who were pre-screened and pre-approved before dropping their milk off at Lake-Geauga WIC. The breastmilk is then frozen and shipped to Mothers' Milk Bank located in Columbus, Ohio, where the milk will remain frozen until ready for pasteurization and culturing. Pasteurization is a process of heating milk to a certain temperature to kill bacteria. The milk will then be cultured, which is a process that tests for the presence of bacteria. Once that process is finished, the milk will be frozen again until it's ready to be sent to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) babies in need all over Ohio and beyond.

### How You Can Help

Follow these steps from Ohio Health to donate breast milk:

- Complete the initial phone screening to check your eligibility.
- Read the Mothers' Milk Bank information packet.
- Complete a medical and lifestyle history review.
- Complete a medical release form signed by you (the donor) and your healthcare provider for both you and your baby.
- Consent to receive a blood test to screen for HIV, HTLV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis.

Approved mothers can start donating their extra breastmilk to Lake-Geauga WIC in Painesville as soon as they're able. Interested mothers can contact the Mothers' Milk Bank at (614) 566-0630 or [MilkBank@OhioHealth.com](mailto:MilkBank@OhioHealth.com) to start the process.

## Lake-Geauga WIC Distributes Physician Newsletter

In August 2024, Lake-Geauga WIC distributed the first quarterly newsletter to all Lake and Geauga physicians offices. This includes offices of family physicians, OBGYNs and pediatricians. The newsletter has provides valuable WIC policy information, nutrition education, and highlights of Health District programming to our local physician offices. It also includes breastfeeding support information, such as infant feeding classes, support groups, the Milk Bank Drop Site and other events hosted by WIC.



# 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

**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 Willoughby** 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.

