

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



999 East Main Street * Ravenna * Ohio * 44266
330-296-9919 * www.portagehealth.net

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

- 1 Mission, Vision, Values, Who We Serve
- 2 Board of Health
- 3 Health Commissioner's Report
- 4 Health District Funding
- 5 Public Health Accreditation
- 6 Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan
- 7 Quality Improvement
- 8 Financials
- 9 Administration
- 10 Environmental Health
- 11 Water Quality Programs
- 12 Health Education & Promotion
- 13 Emergency Preparedness/Medical Reserve Corps
- 14 Nursing Program
- 15 COVID-19 Response
- 16 Communicable Disease
- 17 Communicable Disease Highlights
- 18 Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- 19 WIC Promotes Breastfeeding

Our Mission

To **promote** public health, **prevent** disease, and **protect** the environment, utilizing leadership and partnership to empower individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

Our Vision

Healthy People.
Healthy
Environments.
Healthy
Communities.

Our Core Values



Accountability



Dedication



Innovation



Communication



Ethics

Who We Serve

Serving the **Townships** of:

- Atwater
- Brimfield
- Charlestown
- Deerfield
- Edinburg
- Franklin
- Freedom
- Hiram
- Mantua
- Nelson
- Palmyra
- Paris
- Randolph
- Ravenna
- Rootstown
- Shalersville
- Suffield
- Windham

Serving the **Villages** of:

- Garrettsville
- Hiram
- Mantua
- Mogadore
- Sugar Bush Knolls
- Windham

Serving the **Cities** of:

- Aurora
- Ravenna
- Streetsboro

Board of Health

Board Members:

Robert Howard, President

Evelyn Cutlip, Vice President

James Bierlair, Member

Amy Everett, Member

Charles Delaney, Member

Dr. Howard Minott, Aurora City

Lucy Ribelin, Ravenna City

Linda Grimm, Streetsboro City

The Board of Health meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Portage County Health District in the 2nd floor Robert Palmer Conference Room.

Board of Health Duties:

As established by Ohio law, our eight-member Board of Health functions as a policy, governance, advisory, and regulatory board and provides oversight of major financial and programmatic decisions.

The Board of Health provides oversight for the health of the public, the prevention or restriction of disease, and the abatement of nuisances.

The Board of Health members are appointed by elected officials who serve on the District Advisory Council or by the city they represent.

Health Commissioner's Report

I am pleased to present the Portage County Combined General Health District Annual Report, which highlights the staff's accomplishments for year 2022.

This was a landmark year for the Health District with the acquisition of our "Forever Home" located at 999 East Main Street, Ravenna Ohio 44266. The Health District was established in 1920 as a direct result of the Spanish Flu. This is the first time in over 100 years that the agency has acquired property. The building was built in 1997 with 29,949 square feet. It is a well-maintained two-story brick structure with existing office space throughout and a fully built-out lower level. There are currently 89 parking spaces, and the entire property is situated on 5.45 acres on the corner of Main Street and Albert Tsai Boulevard. The purchase (\$1,160,000) was official on June 7, 2022, and the entire agency completed the move between August 29, 2022 - September 2, 2022. The purchase of this property has allowed the Health District to consolidate its programs and services to one location with greater accessibility to all. This is a major step in advancing our commitment to providing the best public health services to our residents.

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Health District continues to successfully maintain our Public Health Accreditation. This year we completed our third Annual Report to maintain our Public Health Accreditation. Through this process the Health District provides assurance that our agency builds on continuous quality improvement.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to thank the townships, cities, and villages for your continued support of the Health District. The health of our community is our number one priority. Our dedicated Health District team is diligently working to ensure a healthier and safer Portage County. We encourage you to visit our website www.portagehealth.net to learn more about our programs and services and to get the most up-to-date information on current public health practices and concerns.

Sincerely,
Joseph Diorio

Health District Funding

The Portage County Combined General Health District receives funding through a variety of sources. These include Grants (both State and Federal), Fees for Service, Licensure and Permits, Contractual Agreements, and Ohio Department of Health annual Subsidy. The Health District does not receive inside millage from the Townships nor funding from the County Commissioners. The Ohio Department of Health Subsidy is based on a per capita basis for Local Public Health Districts. The current subsidy is 17 cents per capita for non-accredited Health Districts and 34 cents per capita for Accredited Health Districts. The Portage County Combined General Health District has been Nationally Accredited since June 2019. This translated to about \$69,098 this year in Ohio Department of Health funding to our Health District. As a comparison:

Indiana provides \$4.26 per capita.

Kentucky provides \$3.93 per capita.

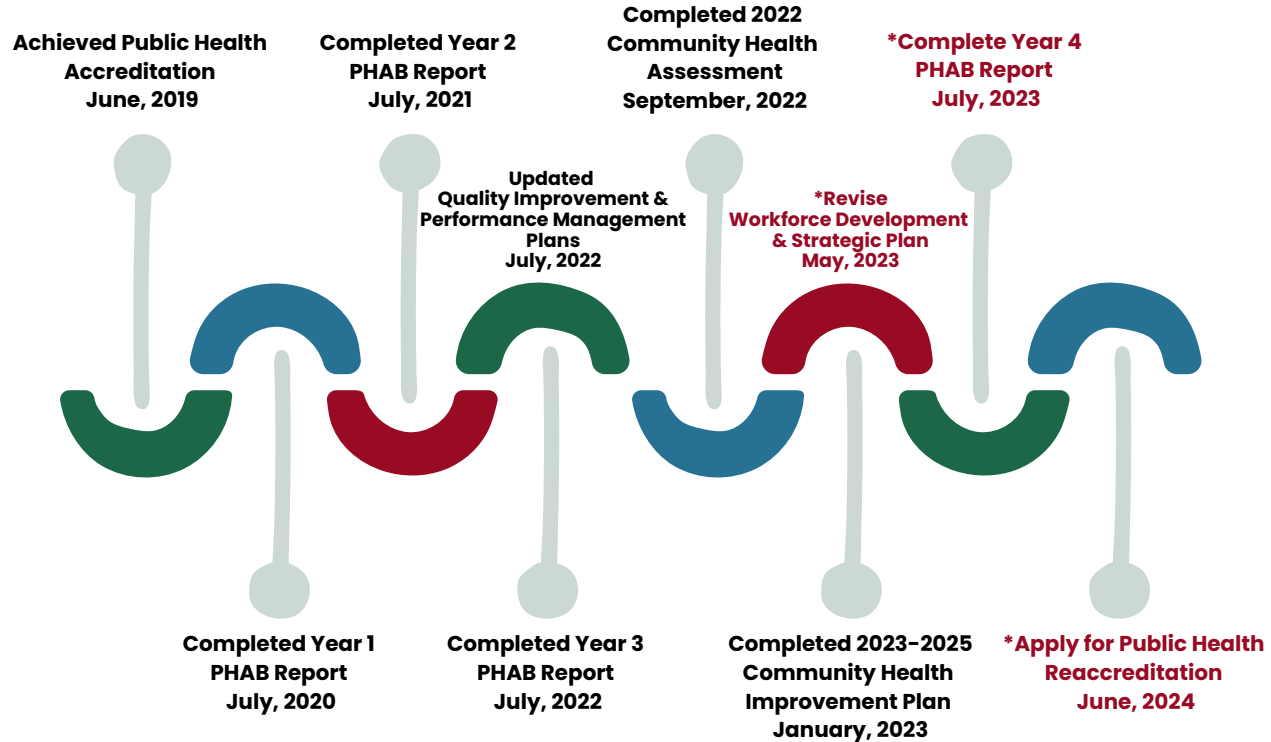
Michigan provides \$5.16 per capita.

Pennsylvania provides \$4.30 per capita.

The Health District operates annually with the addition of a property tax levy. Our current operating levy was passed in May 2018 for a period of five years. The Health District with Board of Health approval placed our renewal levy on the ballot for November 2022. The renewal levy is a 0.4 mill which generates about \$1,200,000 annually for the Health District. The cost is \$9.71 a year for the owner of a house valued at \$100,000. We are extremely thankful to our residents of Portage County for the passage of the levy. The Health District Levy supports services and programs that are not funded by state and federal government revenue sources.



Public Health Accreditation



**Steps to be taken in 2023 and 2024 for our road towards recreditation.*

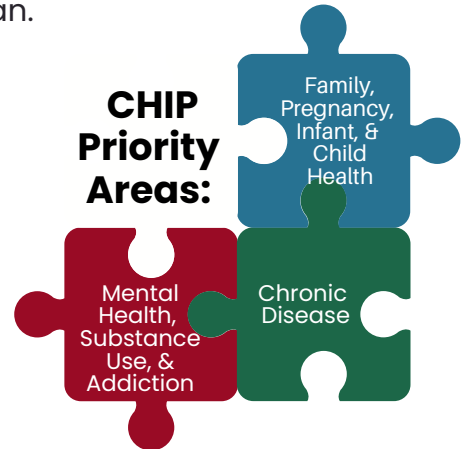
Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan

In 2022 Portage County Health District partnered with UH Portage Medical Center, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, and Kent City Health Department to conduct the third Portage County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan.

The Community Health Assessment is a data-rich comprehensive look at the health and well-being of Portage County residents. The purpose of the community health assessment is to identify the needs of the community and to choose priority areas that will be systematically addressed as a community within a three year plan.

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term structured effort to address health problems based on the data from the community health assessment. The plan is created and used by public health and hospitals in collaboration with community partners to set priorities and coordinate and target resources.

The Community Health Assessment was completed on September 7, 2022 and the Community Health Improvement Plan was completed on January 18, 2023. Both are available on our website at www.portagehealth.net.



Quality Improvement

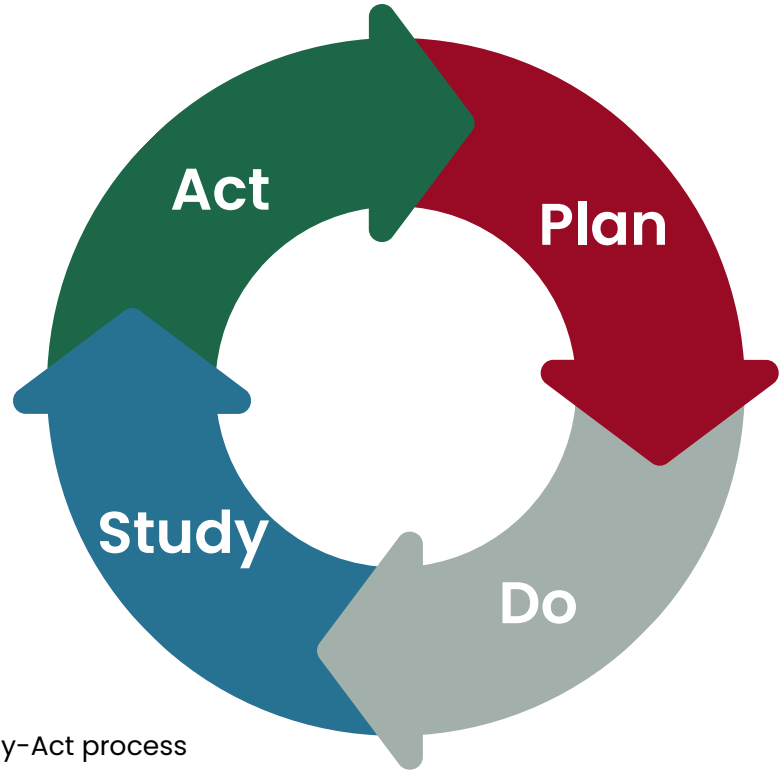
Quality Improvement in public health is the use of a deliberate and defined improvement process, such as Plan-Do-Study-Act, which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health.

PCHD has a goal of completing at least two Quality Improvement projects each year.

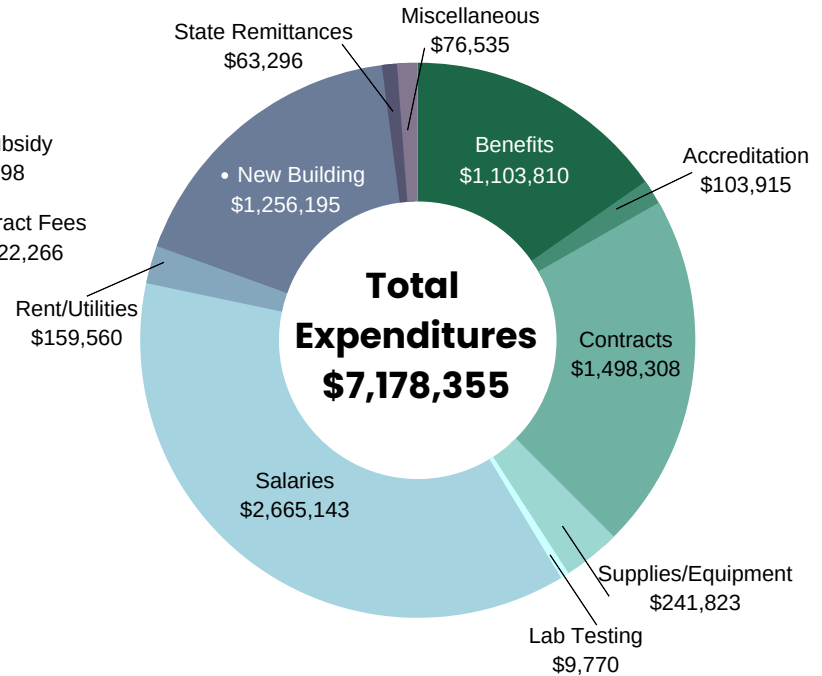
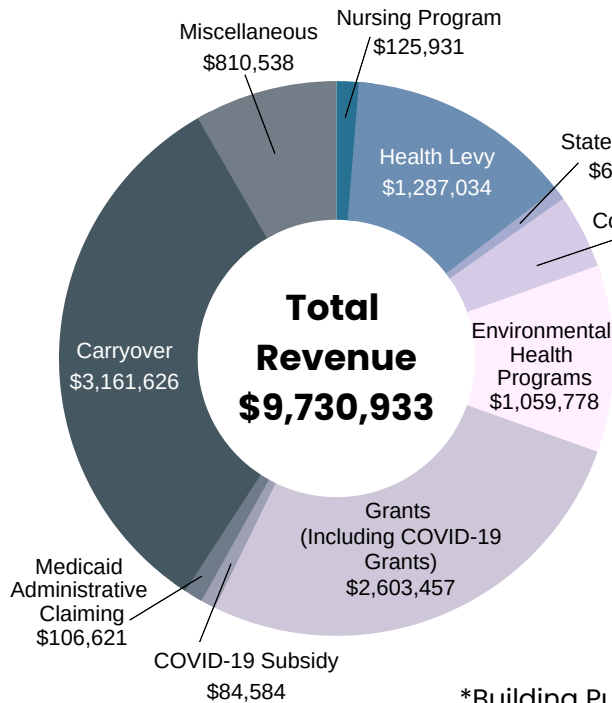
2022 Quality Improvement Projects:

- Purchase Requisitions and Purchase Orders
- Stormwater Outfall collection process

All QI Storyboards describing the Plan-Do-Study-Act process can be found on our website at www.portagehealth.net.



Financials



*Building Purchase: The Building and Property were purchased for \$1,160,000. (\$400,000 was the down payment with the remainder placed on a 10-year commercial loan through Portage Community Bank plus some initial expenses)

Administration

2022 Workforce:

51 Employees

- 45 full-time
- 5 part-time
- 1 seasonal

Changes in 2022:

- 15 Offboarded
 - 4 retirements
 - 9 resignations
 - 2 terminations
- 5 Onboarded

2022 Additional Staff:

Contracts:

- 3 Public Consulting Group (contact tracers)
- 4 Epi Assistants
- 2 ProLink Nurses
- 1 MRC Team Leader

Above contracted staff were paid through grant funds.

- 1 Medical Director

Mentoring Future Public Health Professionals

Public health continuously strives to improve its workforce to better meet the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. To improve the public health workforce, as well as address staff shortages and organizational needs, PCHD partnered with local universities to engage in mentoring future public health professionals.

- 19 Interns
 - Epidemiology
 - Health Equity
 - Healthcare Administration
 - Health Education
 - Environmental Health

Environmental Health



1,953
Food Safety
Inspections



145
Recreational Camp
Inspections



153
Swimming Pool &
Spa Inspections



14
Tattoo/Body Art
Inspections



82
School
Inspections



338
Mosquito Site
Assessment and
Trappings



82
Solid Waste Inspections &
Nuisance Complaints

The Environmental Health Division focuses on prevention of disease through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of waste, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout Portage County.

Water Quality Programs

Home Sewage Treatment Systems



472 Installation Permits
295 Site & Soil Evaluations
392 Inspections
278 Design Plans

Plumbing Program



701 Residential Inspections
126 Commercial Inspections
17 Clearwater Inspections
58 Reinspections

Chemical & Bacterial Water Sampling



196 Water Samples
222 Field Inspections
148 Site Evaluations

Stormwater Program



448 ID & Verification Inspections
412 Dry Weather Screenings
71 IDDE Inspect. & Surface Water Sampling

Waste Water Nuisances



253 Inspections/Consults
73 Data Collection/File Review/Reports

Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater



401 Inspections
53 Consultations

In 2022, Portage County Health District was awarded \$150,000 to provide assistance to families to repair or replace malfunctioning or prohibited household sewage treatment systems or components through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program for low to moderate income homeowners. Since 2016, we have provided \$1,400,000 in grants to Portage County residents for septic system repair and replacement.

Health Education & Promotion



91

Convertible/Booster
Seats Distributed



685

Project DAWN
(Narcan) Kits
Distributed



53

Cribs For Kids/
Pack n' Plays
Distributed



396

Participants in
SAIL (Stay Active &
Independent for Life-
Falls Prevention)



72

Bike Helmets
Distributed



1,146,202

People Reached with
Traffic Safety
Messaging



34

Community
Outreach Events

The Health Education Division is responsible for the planning and development of coordinated health education programs, emergency preparedness, and public health accreditation activities to meet the mission and vision of the health district.

Emergency Preparedness & Medical Reserve Corps



Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) is a grant funded program that builds upon existing systems and partnerships to construct a more resilient community that is prepared to deal with and rapidly recover from threats and emergencies that affect the public's health.

A part of PHEP is the coordination and management of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC is a volunteer group consisting of both medical and nonmedical volunteers that supports local public health and emergency medical services during emergency and non-emergency events.

Through NACCHO grant funding, PCHD was able to contract for an MRC Team Leader for the purpose of building capacity of a trained and ready corps of volunteers to respond to a public health emergency. PCHD developed a training program that includes American Health Association CPR and First Aid classes and trainings on Bloodborne Pathogens and HIPAA.

Nursing Services



1,289
Child & Adult
Immunizations



142
Animal Bites/Rabies
Exposures



438
Children with
Medical
Handicaps Clients



710
Communicable
Disease Investigations



108
TB Tests



602
Seasonal Flu Shots
(12 Community Clinics)

The Nursing Division is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the residents of Portage County. This is accomplished through population-based services, enabling services, and education.

COVID-19 Efforts



11,508

COVID-19 Cases
(confirmed and probable)



11,997

Case Investigations
(all reported cases)



7,100

Contact Tracing & Case
Investigation Hours



11,040

COVID-19 Tests
Distributed by PCHD



2,079

COVID-19 Vaccines
Provided



121

Homebound COVID-19
Vaccines Provided

2022 was another year of transition for COVID-19 response. COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and testing were widely available which resulted in a reduction in hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19.

Contact tracing and case investigations were also an important part of keeping people healthy and out of the hospital. PCHD utilized COVID-19 grant funding to contract with Public Consulting Group (PCG) for three contact tracers/case investigators and contracted individually with four Epidemiology Assistants. Additional help was provided by the Ohio Department of Health via contract for ProLink Nurses. These contracted individuals helped to vaccinate and conducted case investigations for every reported case of COVID-19 in Portage County, excluding the City of Kent. This entailed conducting case interviews, providing recommendations for close contacts, assessing quarantine support needs, providing medical monitoring if needed, and closing the case once completed.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Reportable Conditions	Grand Total
Campylobacteriosis	25
Chlamydia infection	554
COVID-19	13994
CP-CRE	10
Cryptosporidiosis	2
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	7
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1
Giardiasis	3
Gonococcal infection	143
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	12
Hepatitis C - chronic	73
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1
Influenza - ODH Lab Results	8
Influenza-associated hospitalization	82
Legionellosis	4
Listeriosis	1

Reportable Conditions	Grand Total
Lyme Disease	8
Meningitis aseptic/viral	5
MIS-C associated with COVID	3
Monkeypox	2
Pertussis	3
Salmonellosis	26
Shigellosis	2
Staphylococcal aureus-intermediate resistance to vancomycin (VISA)	1
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	11
Streptococcus pneumoniae-invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	2
Syphilis - unknown duration or late	5
Varicella	4
Yersiniosis	5
Grand Total	15003

Portage County Health District communicable disease staff keeps track of the number of persons infected by different communicable diseases and conducts follow-up investigations on all reported diseases.

The 2022 Communicable Disease summary represents reportable cases of diseases for all residents in Portage County, including Kent City.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Portage County saw an increase of several reportable infectious diseases in 2022 compared to 2021.



Lyme Disease

25 in 2022 compared to 18 in 2021



Chlamydia Infection

585 in 2022 compared to 535 in 2021



Salmonellosis Disease

24 in 2022 compared to 14 in 2021

Communicable Disease Outbreaks:

- *Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)*
- *Rhinovirus*
- *Norovirus*

Top five Communicable Diseases:

- *Chlamydia Infection*
- *Gonococcal Infection*
- *Hepatitis C - chronic*
- *Influenza-associated hospitalization*
- *Hepatitis B - chronic*

Women, Infants, & Children



3,313

Average Monthly Caseload



5,177

Certifications/Recertifications



10,357

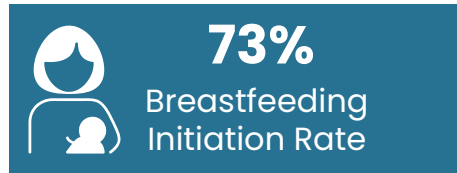
Mid-Certifications
(Nutrition Education & High Risk Follow-up)

The Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program is an Ohio Department of Health grant funded program that provides nutrition education & supplemental food program for women, infants, and children. The program provides highly nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, nutrition education, and connects families with other area resources.

WIC serves income eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children to age 5.

PCHD administers WIC services in Ravenna and Lisbon (Columbiana County).

WIC Promotes Breastfeeding



WIC supports all mothers and babies, regardless of their feeding decision. Staff are trained to promote and protect breastfeeding as the optimal feeding method for all infants. WIC staff provide the necessary resources and referrals to assist mother and baby in achieving their breastfeeding goals.

BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS:

Breastfeeding Mothers

Reduces their risk for:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Type 2 diabetes

Breastfed Infants

Have a reduced risk of:

- SIDS
- Lower respiratory infections
- Type 2 diabetes
- Asthma
- Obesity

Workforce & Environmental

- Infants have less illness so mothers miss less work
- Less trash & plastic waste compared to formula & bottle supplies

Awarded National Accreditation for Public Health Excellence!



Portage County Combined General Health District
999 East Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330-296-9919
www.portagehealth.net

 Portage County Health District  @portagecohealth

Portage County WIC
999 East Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330-297-9422

Columbiana County WIC
7876 Lincole Drive
Lisbon, Ohio 44432
330-424-7295