PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Accredited Health Department • PHAB Advancing Public Health Performance • Public Health Accreditation Board

THIRD QUARTER REPORT 2026

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

Portage County Combined General Health District Employees

Administration

Becky Lehman, MPH, MPA, CHES, Health Commissioner
Dr. Mark Arredondo, MD, Medical Director
Sarah Meduri, BSPH, SHRM-CP, PSHRA- CP, PIO, Administrator
Olivia Card, MA, Epidemiologist
Josey Ahart, MA, LPC, Marketing Coordinator
Christina M. Jewell, Administrative Assistant

Finance

Branden Burns, MBA, Director of Finance
Lisa Miley, Grants Fiscal Manager
Maria Gill, Account Clerk
Julia Sykes, AAS, Account Clerk

Community Health

Amy Cooper, BS, RD, LD, Director of Community Health
Joshua Sexton, MPH, Accreditation Coordinator
Kimberly Plough, MEd, CHES, Health Educator
Kylee McCracken, BS, CHW, Health Educator
Rachel Belvin, BSPH, Health Educator
Robert Walker, BA, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Danielle Steighner, RD, LDN, CLS, WIC Supervisor
Kerry Fairchild, RD, LC, IBCLC, WIC Supervisor
Rachael Stratton, BA, CLC, Breastfeeding Peer Helper & Clinic Assistant
Lindy Goist, BSAS, RD, LD, CLC, CLS, Health Professional 3
Amy Hall, MS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Samantha Fitzpatrick, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Renee Howe, Clinic Assistant
Julie Seifert, BHE, CLC, CLS Health Professional 3
Abbie Fitch, BSAS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Anita Mackey, Clinic Assistant
Amanda Casto, Clinic Assistant
Candace Farrell, CMA, Clinic Assistant
Ivory Joy, BS, Dietetic Technician

Environmental Health

Alison Rogalski, BA, REHS, Director of Environmental Health
William Duck, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Natalie Menke, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Emily Speck, BS, REHS, GIS Coordinator
Samantha Mellott, BSPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Jim Meyer, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Nicole Lipchik MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Cassie Anthony, MSSR, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Seth Nolte, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Brandon Santiago, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Dominic DuPonty, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Megan Gerberry, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Veronica Victoria, Environmental Health Clerk
Daniel Colvin-Lovett, BA, Environmental Health Clerk

Nursing

Patrice Ortiz, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Director of Nursing
Morgan Cole, MHHS, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Kayley Plechaty, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Philesia Condor, Clerk

Public Health in Action at the Randolph Fair













Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD) provides comprehensive public health services throughout Portage County (⁎excluding Kent City).

⁎PCCGHD does provide Private Water and Septic System Evaluations by contract in Kent City. PCCGHD also provides WIC Services, Cribs for Kids Program, Child Fatality Review, Complex Medical Help Program and Project DAWN Program to Kent City.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Strengthening Public Health Through Strategic Leadership, Community Partnerships, and Data-Driven Decision Making

MONTHLY COMMUNITY POP-UP PANTRY

In Partnership with Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

- Held the **first Thursday** of every month
- **Largest pop-up pantry** serving eight counties
- Serves as a public health initiative and emergency preparerless exercise
- Provides **food access** and **connects families to vital community resources**
- Strengthens **health equity** and community resilience across Portage County

691
FAMILIES SERVED
THIS QUARTER

2,258
FAMILIES SERVED
TOTAL THIS YEAR

Our program provides essential food access and critical public health services right in the community.









PCHD is proud to be a 2026 Celebrate Portage Health Initiative Award Nominee!

We were honored to have our **Thrive Together Farmers Market** recognized alongside other initiatives working to improve health and wellness across Portage County. Thrive Together was created to be more than a farmers market. Through partnerships with local organizations and vendors, the market helps reduce barriers to healthy food while connecting residents with health screenings, community resources, wellness activities, and opportunities to support local farmers and businesses.

We are grateful to our PCHD team, vendors, partners, and community members who helped bring Thrive Together to life and this season a success.

Thank you to Celebrate Portage for this recognition, and congratulations to all of the 2026 nominees! We are proud to be part of the work happening throughout Portage County to build a healthier, stronger community.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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.

485
Food Safety Inspections

3
Tattoo/Body Art Inspections

8 SW
Solid Waste Inspections & Nuisance Complaints

38
Camp Inspections

7
School Inspections

75
Swimming Pool & Spa Inspections

162
Mosquito Site Assessment and Trappings

WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Home Sewage Treatment Systems
70 HSTS Permits Issued
110 HSTS Rough/Final Inspections
21 O+M Inspections

Private Water Systems
58 PWS Permits Issued
63 PWS Field Inspections
29 PWS Bacterial Water Sample Requests

Waste Water Nuisances
11 inspections/Consults

Plumbing Program
116 Residential Inspections
13 Commercial Inspections
2 Clearwater Inspections

Stormwater Program
16 Illicit Discharges Identified
19 Illicit Discharges Eliminated

Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater
52 Inspections
0 Consultations

Point of Sale Program
28 Inspections/Consultation/File Review

2
New Data Visuals Implemented

+

165
STS Files Updated to GIS Map

PORTAGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND TICK SURVEILLANCE DASHBOARDS

Mosquito Surveillance

PCHD traps for mosquitos throughout Portage County, except in the city of Kent. Specimens are sent to ODH to test for West Nile Virus. PCHD uses a GIS dashboard to show where the positive locations are for mosquitos who have tested positive for West Nile Virus.



Tick Surveillance

PCHD uses data from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS), ArcGIS Living Atlas iNaturalist observations, and Portage Tick Surveillance Form that are filled out using our signage posted at locations throughout Portage Parks. PCHD tracks tick exposures and locations of where ticks have been found.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division strives to help bridge the gap between Portage County residents and health care providers, social service agencies, community organizations, etc. in the provision of community health services such as immunizations, injury prevention programming, harm reduction programming, communicable disease investigations, environmental health education, and emergency preparedness.

INJURY PREVENTION



28
Convertible/Booster Seats Distributed



9
Every Baby Sleeps Safe/ Pack n' Plays Distributed



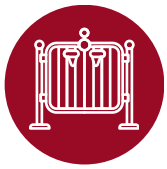
589
Participants in SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life-Falls Prevention)



197
Project DAWN (Narcan) Kits Distributed



205
People Trained in Project DAWN



12
Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) Family Support Milestones Completed

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



433
Child & Adult Immunizations



433
Communicable Disease Investigations

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



181 *monthly average*
Complex Medical Help Clients



65
Animal Bites/Rabies Exposures



31
Emergency Preparedness Trainings & Events

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

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 Portage and Columbiana County.

1,787
Participants Served in Portage County WIC

16
Community Outreach & Education Programs

1,550
Participants Served in Columbiana County WIC

5
Nutrition Education Programs

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

1,038
Breastfeeding Education & Support

74.69%
Breastfeeding Initiation Rate

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.





THRIVE TOGETHER

FARMERS' MARKET

PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

999 EAST MAIN STREET, RAVENNA OH

EVERY TUESDAY, JUNE 16 - SEPTEMBER 8, 3:00PM-6:00PM

- Average Number of Vendors = 7
- Average Number of Customers = 90
- SNAP sales = $222
- WIC FMNP = $183
- Power of Produce Kids' Club = $214
- PRx Produce Prescription (UH) = $490
- Senior FMNP = $410
- United Way Match = $574
- Benefit Bridge = $2,818

SNAP, WIC, AND SENIOR FMNP COUPONS ACCEPTED






COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025-2028 PRIORITIES



Chronic Disease



Mental Health & Substance Misuse



Population Health & Safety



Cross Cutting Factors
Equitable Access & Sustainability of Community Resources

- Transportation
- Housing
- Healthy Foods
- Specialized Care Providers
- Insurance Access

Portage County Health District partnered University Hospitals, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, and Kent City Health Department along side with community organizations and residents to assess the health of Portage County through the Community Health Assessment (CHA). Together, we collected and analyzed local data, listened to community voices, and identified both challenges and strengths.

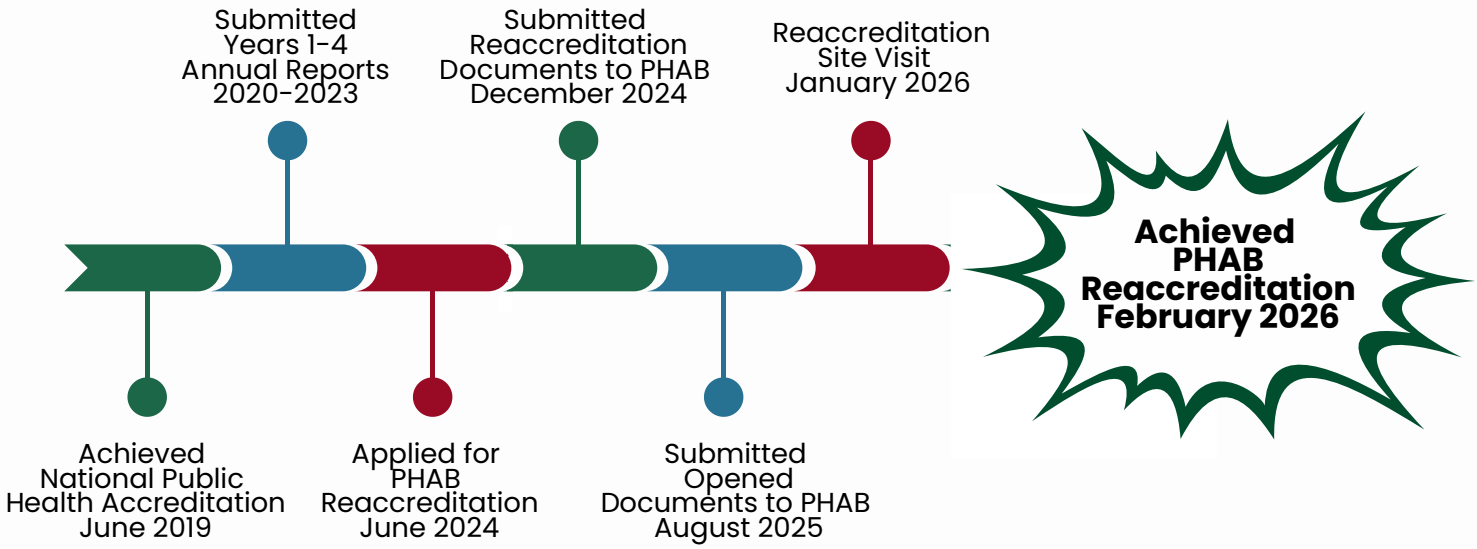
Building on this collaborative work, we developed the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which outlines priority areas for the next three years, reflecting the issues that matter most to our community and where we can make the greatest impact together.

Portage County Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan are available on our website: portagehealth.net

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Public health accreditation measures a health district's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. It focuses on the continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.

Accreditation Timeline:



Overall, the department is characterized by passionate, dedicated staff and a strong sense of trust within the community it serves. The department maintains positive, collaborative relationships with community partners and the Board of Health, which supports effective problem-solving and shared goals. The team demonstrates a willingness to embrace challenges, adapt as needed, and remain committed to continuous improvement in service to the community.

--PHAB Site Visit Report

Awarded National Accreditation for Public Health Excellence!

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