

Health Commissioner/Medical Director Report Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County

March 2, 2011

This is the monthly Public Health update for the Board of Health, staff and the community. We will be describing our activities in terms of the seven pillars that support our vision for Public Health:

- Prevent the spread of disease
 - Protect against health threats
 - Promote healthy behaviors
 - Reach out to vulnerable populations
 - Mobilize community action through partnerships
 - Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
 - Serve as the public health information resource
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Special items

Community Health Assessment

Our 2010 Community Health Assessment is completed and will be released to the community during a news conference today, March 2. The report identifies trends in population health status, identifies populations at-risk and disparities in health outcomes, establishes data-driven public health priorities, and initiates calls to action to stakeholders and all citizens. Over twenty data sources were reviewed to generate the report, which includes sections on overall health, demographics, behavioral health risks, health outcomes, physical environment and socioeconomic determinants of health.

The full report will be distributed to key stakeholders, and the executive summary will be distributed to 2000 community officials beginning the week of March 7. We will begin the process of community engagement and the development of a community health improvement plan for priority areas in the coming months. The report is available on our website at www.phdmc.org.

Response to Ice Storm Power Outages

During the recent ice storm, PHDMC leadership and Emergency Preparedness staff worked with community response partners to coordinate available resources for sheltering individuals without power. These response partners included Red Cross, EMA, GDAHA, Greater Dayton RTA, Dayton Fire Department, Box 21, the Montgomery County Fire Chiefs Association, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Area Agency on Aging, Senior Resource Center and Montgomery County Administration. PHDMC also staffed a public information hotline opened by the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management.

Several Red Cross shelters were opened within Montgomery and Greene counties. A total of 130 individuals required sheltering. In addition to individuals simply needing minor assistance with daily living activities, individuals with special medical needs also sought refuge in these shelters. Unfortunately, Red Cross volunteers staffing the shelters did not have the nursing and/or medical experience to care for many of these individuals. These special medical needs included ostomy care, wound care, mental illness, diabetes medication and oxygen administration, bedridden individuals, and proper movement/lifting of morbidly obese individuals and/or individuals with mobility limitations.

PHDMC leadership will continue to work with Montgomery County leadership to ensure that Red Cross shelters are able to support individuals with special medical needs. Major focus areas will include communications, transportation, development of standard operating guidelines and medical protocols, and staffing.

Prevent the spread of disease

Legionnaires' Disease in Patients at Local Hospital

Seven confirmed cases of Legionnaires' Disease (LD) were reported in February/March. Six cases are Montgomery County residents, and one case is a Greene County resident. Six of the seven persons had pneumonia and all were confirmed to have LD by urine antigen test. All seven cases were in-patients in a new building at the Miami Valley Hospital (MVH) Dayton campus during the two weeks before disease onset. Illness onset dates for these seven cases ranged from January 28 through February 28, 2011. Dates of previous hospitalization at MVH ranged from January 21 through February 24.

In order to identify other possible cases, including anyone who worked at or visited MVH, or were an in-patient or an out-patient at MVH during January or February 2011, web-based communication alerts have been sent to all local health departments and infection control practitioners in Ohio, and to all state health departments.

MVH has been partnering with PHDMC, ODH, CDC and a private Legionella Consultant to resolve the situation. The affected building's water system was thermally disinfected. This included all sinks, faucets, water fountains, showers and other water outlets. Bottled water was brought in for patient care and drinking. As of February 25, water restrictions were lifted.

Legionella bacteria do not spread from person-to-person, and infected individuals are not contagious. Legionella bacteria are typically contracted by inhaling contaminated water in mist through events such as showering.

Legionella-type illness can have symptoms like many forms of pneumonia and influenza. Signs of the disease can include high fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, and sometimes muscle aches and headaches. Most cases can be successfully treated with specific antibiotics.

Four of the seven cases have been discharged and three remain in-house.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Committee Recognizes National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)

On February 7, the HIV/AIDS Prevention Committee recognized National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). NBHAAD, which was founded in 1999 by five national groups funded by CDC, provides assistance to Black community groups. This year's theme for NBHAAD was "It Takes a Village to Fight HIV/AIDS!" and encouraged everyone to do their part in ending this crisis. This year NBHAAD focused on four specific areas:

1. Education: On HIV/AIDS in the Black community;
2. Testing: It is hoped that sexually active and high-risk Blacks will mark February 7 as a day to be tested for HIV;
3. Involving: The community and its leadership;
4. Treatment: It is important to link those who are living with HIV or are newly infected, to care and social services.

Testing events were held at the following locations: AIDS Resource Center Ohio, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County (Health Outreach, Drew and STD Clinic), and Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Protect against health threats

Food Safety during a Weather Emergency

During and after the recent ice storms that knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses in Montgomery County, Environmental Health staff fielded many calls regarding food safety and whether or not to keep or discard food. Staff recommended guidelines developed by the Ohio Department of Health and USDA. Most of the recommendations were common sense-based; keeping doors closed on the refrigerator and freezer as much as possible while monitoring temperatures with a thermometer. As long as product in the freezer did not thaw or still had ice crystals, it was generally recognized as safe to eat or refreeze. Most of the questions were related to refrigeration of food. Once temperatures were above 41 degrees Fahrenheit for longer than about four hours then the food is suspect and should be discarded. Smell detection of off odors is a good indication something should be discarded and if one is still unsure, always err on the side of caution and throw it out. Most callers were reluctant to discard food but were resigned to the idea that it was the safest thing to do for themselves and their families.

Fire Destroys Strip Mall

Several local food establishments in a Pager Manor strip mall were affected by a destructive fire over Valentine's Day weekend. As a result of the fire, power was disrupted to the immediate area. One of the establishments, a bar, was totally destroyed by the fire. Another restaurant was affected by smoke and a power outage and also suffered some physical damage due to fire fighting. A third facility suffered smoke

damage. Inspections were conducted at each of the facilities that remained to determine what food could be safely retained. Clean up procedures were also discussed with the facilities. Facilities discarded food that suffered temperature abuse or had evidence of smoke damage. Facility operators were more than willing to do what Environmental Health staff requested. Consultations were also made with two other food facilities in the strip mall to ensure that they were not affected by the power outage or smoke issues from the fire. They were not affected.

Promote healthy behaviors

Dayton Council on Health Equity Helps Launch Church Health Ministry

The Dayton Council on Health Equity collaborated with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church as it launched an official Church Health Ministry. The church, which is predominantly African-American, has more than 1,000 members, and is located in west Dayton.

The Dayton Council on Health Equity has been conducting workshops for area churches to encourage the development of health ministries. These workshops are based “Power in the Pew,” a culturally-competent model for developing an effective church health ministry. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church attended a workshop, and subsequently made the commitment to implement a health ministry.

The official kick-off for the new health ministry was attended by a variety of community partners and several PHDMC programs, including GetUp, Preventive Health Education, Information & Referral, and Drew HIV/AIDS Prevention. The kick-off event was well attended, and the church will continue to grow its health ministry and implement health strategies to inform, educate and empower its members to improve their health.

PHDMC Selected to Participate in *Diabetes Today* Training

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Diabetes Translation (CDC /DDT), selected PHDMC to participate in Diabetes Today, a two day training designed to empower communities to develop appropriate interventions that will prevent or reduce diabetes complications and improve diabetes care. PHDMC will collaborate with Diabetes Association Dayton Area as our community partner. The training will help enhance the existing Diabetes Education and Prevention Program by providing the tools for building a community-wide diabetes prevention and control network of resources through collaborative efforts.

Bruce Barcelo Appointed Chairperson of Statewide Tobacco Control Group

On February 10, Bruce Barcelo, our Creating Healthy Communities Coordinator, became Chairperson of the Tobacco Control Ohio Alliance (TCOA). Formerly known as the Ohio Tobacco Control Resource Group, the TCOA is the largest and longest functioning tobacco control organization in the state of Ohio. As chairperson of the 150 member organization, Bruce has been asked to be part of a five member state team to meet with

CDC at the Ohio Department of Health in March to map out a strategic plan for tobacco control in the state of Ohio.

Reach out to vulnerable populations

Home Care Medicare Re-Certification Survey

The home care program had an unexpected Medicare recertification survey from the Ohio Department of Health from January 18-20. During this time, the surveyors reviewed patient charts, policies and procedures and shared visits with some of the home care staff. The home care program was found to be compliant with all applicable Medicare Program requirements at the time of the survey. A deficiency free survey indicates significant effort on the part of the administration and staff and it is an accomplishment for which all home care staff can be proud.

Pediatric Physical Therapy Video Media Project

NACCHO has selected our home care pediatric physical therapy program to participate in the CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities' (NCBDDD) 10 Years of Service Video Media Project. We were one of six local health departments selected for this project. As a participant, PHDMC will receive a video camera with supplemental camera equipment. We will use this equipment to develop video segments to highlight the pediatric physical therapy program successes related to healthy child development and early screening and intervention. Selected video segments will be shown by the CDC during its 10 Years of Service events in 2011.

Mobilize community action through partnerships

Creating Healthy Communities Coalition

On February 14, the Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton hosted the Creating Healthy Communities Coalition meeting. There were 33 community partners that attended this quarterly meeting. The Coalition reviewed the work plan for 2011 then heard a presentation from Laura Rooney from the Ohio Department of Health. Laura's presentation, "Healthier Students Are Better Learners," was very informative. Coalition partners gave program updates as well.

Serve as the public health information resource

Mass Media Interactions

During the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with TV, radio, and print.

The following are a few examples:

- Worked with DDN on black health article during black history month

- Worked with Vandalia and Centerville on a closing GetUp challenge event
- Presentations regarding GetUp challenge to both Centerville and Vandalia councils
- Interview with Chn 2 on HIV and flu stories
- Multiple interviews with the media regarding Legionnaires Disease at Miami Valley Hospital
- Interview on Chn 7 about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- News Releases on Lupus Support Meetings
- News Release on HIV/AIDS
- News Release on SisterSister Support Group

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