



# Annual Report 2020

## PANDEMIC EDITION

### **Preble County Public Health**

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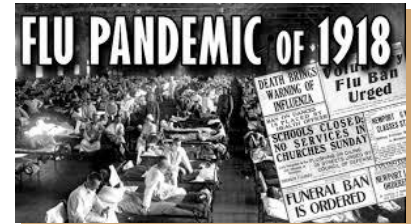
615 Hillcrest Drive, Eaton 45320



## Administration

### The History – where did health departments come from?

In 1893, the State of Ohio required all municipalities to establish a Board of Health. This requirement created 2,158 city, village, and township health “units” in Ohio. Partially in response to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, Ohio passed the Hughes Act and Griswold Amendment in April 1919 which created city and general health districts and required the 2,158 health units to combine into 88 general (county) health districts and 92 city health districts. This Act also required the newly formed health districts to employ, at a minimum, a Health Commissioner, public health nurse, and a clerk. In 1961, the District Advisory Council voted to approve the union of the county health district with the city of Eaton under the name of Preble County General Health District. In early 2014 the Preble County General Health District adopted the national identity of public health and is now called **Preble County Public Health**. In May of 2016, Preble County Public Health **achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board**, becoming one of the first health departments in both Ohio and the United States to achieve this status.



### The Board of Health

The Board of Health is comprised of five members to represent the citizens of Preble County. Four of the Board members are appointed by the District Advisory Council (which is comprised of the leaders of all municipal corporations in the county including townships, villages, cities, and County Commissioners). The other Board member is appointed by the Mayor of the City of Eaton. By Ohio law, at least one Board member must be a licensed Physician. Board members are appointed for a term of five years.

**George E. Henry** serves as the President, represents the City of Eaton, and his term expires in March 2021.

**JoEllen Tapalman** serves as President Pro Tempore, represents the County, & her term expires in March 2025.

**Dr. Peter Sambol** serves as the Board Physician, represents the County, and his term expires in March 2024.

**Lori J. George** represents the County and her term expires in March 2023.

**Ron Wesler** represents the County and his term expires in March 2022.

### The Health Commissioner

The Health Commissioner is Erik Balster and he has served in this role since April 2013. Erik directs the daily operations of the agency as it serves the public health needs of 40,822 people in Preble County. Erik is responsible for all policy development, financial decisions, staffing, workforce training, programming, grant management, and strategic leadership. He ensures that resources are utilized effectively and efficiently to maximize return-on-investment while working with his team to address current community health needs and anticipate future public health threats. One of his biggest priorities is ensuring that the agency provides Preble County citizens with the knowledge and tools needed to live long, healthy lives.



## What is in this report?

Over the years we have tried to upgrade our annual report into something more than just a bunch of numbers. To really describe 2020, we are breaking the mold entirely. To help explain the last year, this report will focus primarily on our department's efforts to combat COVID-19 in Preble County along with a quick snapshot of our other programs.

## **A Pandemic Year – COVID-19 in Preble County**

### **2020 Totals**

<b>Case Count:</b>	<b>2,839</b>
<b>Hospitalizations:</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Deaths:</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Recovered:</b>	<b>2,695</b>

### **What is COVID-19 and how did it get to Preble County?**

SARS-CoV-2 is the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the virus responsible for the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19). First identified in Wuhan (Hubei, China) in December of 2019, it has since been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March of 2020. It is one of seven human transmissible coronaviruses and is thought to have originated from the bat Coronavirus. The first human cases were documented in Wuhan, China, in December of 2019 and are thought to be a result of transmission through an intermediate host, likely the pangolin. Human-to-human disease transmission primarily occurs through respiratory droplets.

The first case to enter Ohio occurred in Cuyahoga County on March 9<sup>th</sup> of 2020, with Preble County's first case occurring on March 24<sup>th</sup> of 2020.

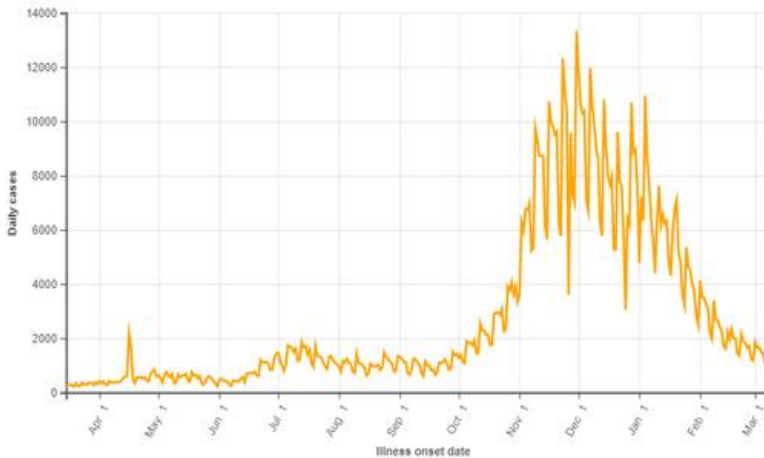
### **Orders and the Spread**

Acting on advice from Ohio's Department of Health director Amy Acton, Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency on March 9. At this point, Ohio had only 3 confirmed cases and no deaths yet. Dr. Acton issued a stay-at-home order effective March 23.

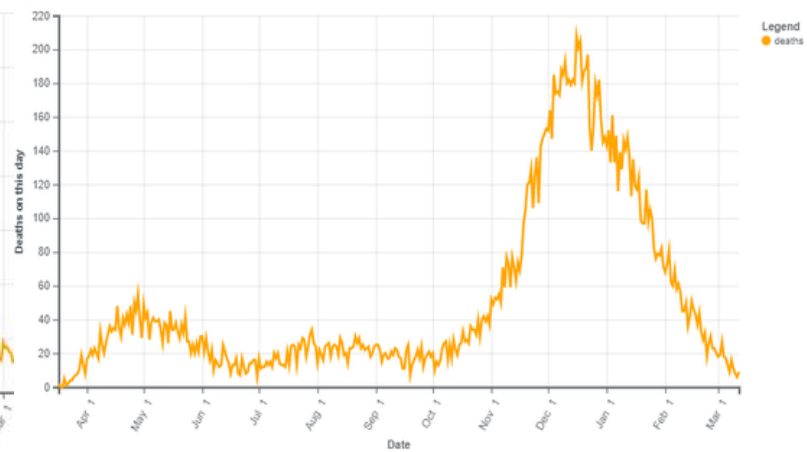
On April 16, Governor DeWine announced that Ohio would start the re-opening process on May 1. On July 2, Governor DeWine announced that the Ohio Public Health Alert System (OPHAS) would code counties by alert levels, from 1 (lowest risk) to 4 (highest risk). Since July various orders and adjustments had been issued with Ohio and Preble county seeing the peak of cases and deaths in December of 2020.

## Ohio COVID-19 Trends – Beginning to Present

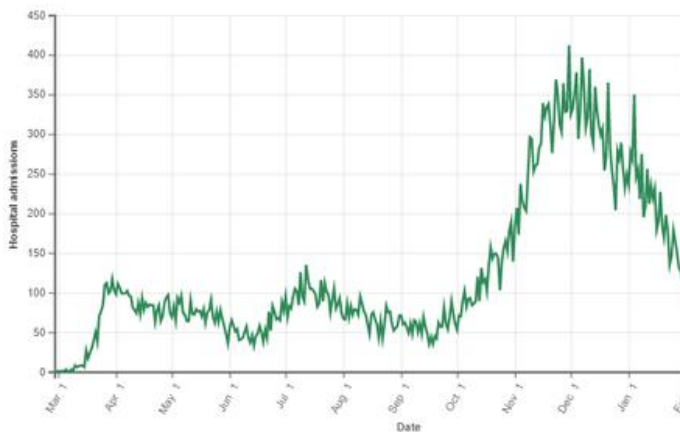
Ohio Cases by Date



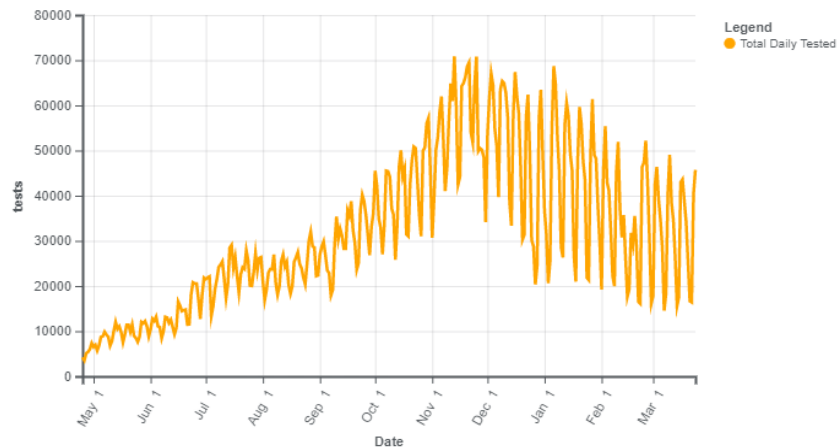
Ohio Deaths by Date



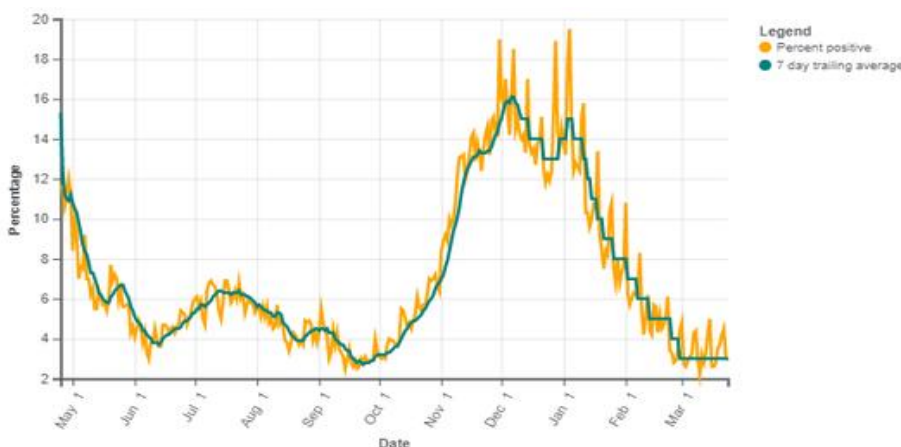
Ohio Hospital Admissions by Date



Ohio Diagnostic Tests by Date



Ohio Percent Test Positivity by Date



The above graphs represent the data for the entire state of Ohio throughout 2020.



## Emergency Response and Vaccination

In 2020, our department went from a state of preparedness to all out pandemic response. Annually, our staff trains for events like COVID-19, but typically (and thankfully!) it's usually just training. 2020 turned out to be the real thing. As the pandemic evolved from February 2020 to present, our staff were critical in things mask distribution, testing, education and ultimately the start of the current COVID-19 vaccine administration. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 PCPH administered Preble County's first 100 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine, which was approved under Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for those 18 years of age and older.

### Preble County Medical Reserve Corps

The Preble County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been actively involved in our COVID-19 response efforts since the beginning and continues to be essential in our mass vaccination clinics that have been in operation since December 29<sup>th</sup>. MRC volunteers have helped staff our clinics at all capacities including giving shots! Our response efforts and vaccination clinics simply would not be possible without these incredible volunteers. You can find out and more information on how to join and help the Preble County MRC by visiting [preblecountyhealth.org/emergency-preparedness](https://preblecountyhealth.org/emergency-preparedness).



## Mission, Vision, and Core Commitments

### Mission

The mission of Preble County Public Health is to promote and improve the health and well being of the people living and/or working in Preble county.

### Vision

Achieve the highest possible health and well being for Preble County resident and workers.

### Core Values

Team members at Preble County Public Health commit to...

1. Responsibility to the public
2. Quality in all services
3. Justice for all served
4. Teamwork with our community
5. Diversity of Preble County



## Financial Picture

### Performance Measures for the Year Ending December 31, 2020

**Grant Income:** \$749,896.08

**Non-Grant Income:** \$988,809.77

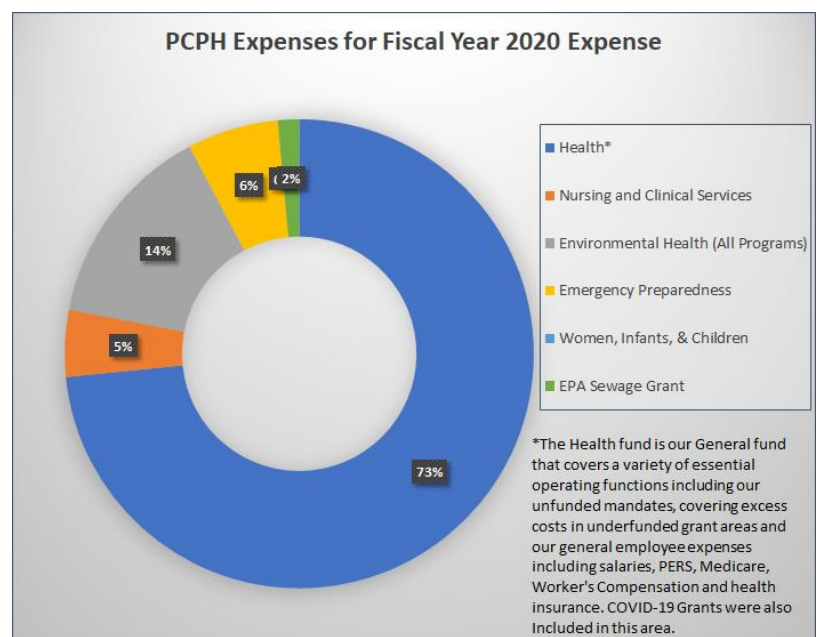
**Grant Expense:** \$473,596.83

**Non-Grant Expense:** \$816,634.44

**Total Expenditures:** \$1,290,204.27

**Total Revenue:** \$1,738,705.85

Preble County Public Health works to be as fiscally responsible by saving and spending in a manner that serves the public health needs of the community. Figures above reflect over 4 unique, one time COVID-19 related grants that are not annually received.



## Vital Statistics

**1** Birth Certificates can be obtained for \$22 for births anywhere in the state of Ohio. In 2019, Preble County had 9 births in county. Our office issued a total of **1,331 birth certificates**, in 2020. Our staff continues to work with the State Vitals Department to correct any problems found on birth certificates. As the requirements have changed for obtaining a government issued identification card, we expect an increase in requests in the coming years.



**2** Death Certificates can be obtained for \$22 for deaths that occur in Preble County, only. In 2018, Preble County certified 313 deaths. Our office issued a total of 1,197 certified copies of death certificates in 2020.

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

**1** The WIC Program provides both **nutritious foods and nutrition education** to our participants. In 2020 our average caseload, or number of individuals receiving food benefits, was 723 per month. We served about 150 women, 227 infants and 346 children each month. Each individual receives nutrition education on a quarterly basis, which came to approximately 243 nutrition education contacts per month. Many of these education sessions are geared toward the participant's own desired health outcome.



**2** Our **two registered dietitians** provide community nutrition education as well. In 2020 we presented the US Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate for the Eaton Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade health classes. We provided 4 weeks of dietetic internship community nutrition training for one West Chester University student. Two medical students from Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine observed staff supporting and education participants in relation to breastfeeding.

**3** Breastfeeding support is a cornerstone of WIC services. We have a WIC mom breastfeeding peer helper, a lactation support specialist, and an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant on staff. Ongoing training for these 3 staff members in 2020 included 7 courses, each 1-2 days in length, 4 State WIC conference calls, and at least 10 webinars. They attended 9 local breastfeeding coalition meetings and helped guide 5 Breast Friends of Preble County support group meetings, some in person and some virtual.

## Let's Get Social

PCPH is on social media! It is a great place to find out the latest with the health department. Find us on Facebook and other social media platforms by searching @PrebleCoHealth. You can also visit our webpage at [www.preblecountyhealth.org](http://www.preblecountyhealth.org)!



## What is Normal at the Health Department?

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought decreases to our normal daily services. While we maintained essential functions, many of our programs were limited or paused to ensure that we could attend to the many new tasks we had. In order to provide a clearer picture of the average daily functions here at PCPH, we have included our most recent “normal” annual numbers to show the breadth and frequency of our services.

### Average Number of Annual Services Provided by Program (Current and Past programs)

Food Service Inspections – 638.4  
Private Water Systems Inspected – 154.2  
Private Sewage System Inspections – 510.4  
Animal Bite Investigations – 84  
Nuisance Complaint Investigations – 147.6  
Plumbing Inspections – 216  
Water Samples – 98  
Birth Certificates Issued (2019) – 1556  
Death Certificates Issued (2019) – 1183  
Crib Program (2019) – 23 Cribs + safe sleep kits

Prenatal Clinic – 330 encounters of 53 Clients  
Pregnancy Tests – 111.6  
Well Child Clinic – 131.25 encounters of 60.75 clients  
Immunizations – 3274.4  
Reproductive Health – 211.25 encounters & 129.75 clients  
Children w/ Med. Handicaps Prog. – 179.78 clients  
WIC Monthly Caseload (2019) – 812 total (248 infants, 370 children, and 194 women)  
Car Seat Program (2019) – 36 free child safety seats to low-income Preble County residents

## Public Health Accreditation

On May 26, 2016, Preble County Public Health officially became a nationally accredited public health agency through the Public Health Accreditation Board. The status of accreditation signifies that PCPH is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.

While Public Health Accreditation is voluntary nationally, the State of Ohio is the first and currently only state to mandate (ORC 3701.13) that all Ohio Health Departments reach an accredited status by the year 2020. Accredited status awarded by PHAB lasts for 5 years with annual progress reports due to ensure continuous program and process improvement.

Accreditation is not cheap. The initial Accreditation Review Fee is \$14,000 and the annual fee after initial accreditations is \$5,600 for a health department our size that serves a population of under 100,000 people. These fees DO NOT include the staff time to prepare documentation for accreditation or the cost of creating essential documents including the Community Health Assessment that require large scale data collection and analysis.



## 10 Year Snapshot Analysis of Programs

We thought that it would be a good idea to look back at the last 10 years as we write up the 2020 annual report. This portion of the report is meant to serve as an overview of the many changes at the health department from 2010 to 2020. A significant portion of this information is sourced from our publicly, previously available Annual Reports, which can be found on [preblecountyhealth.org/annual-report](http://preblecountyhealth.org/annual-report).

### Programs and services currently offered by Preble County Public Health (PCPH):

Animal Bite and Rabies Program\*  
Birth/Death Certificates (Vital Statistics)  
Car Seat Program  
Campground Inspections  
Child Fatality Review  
Children with Medical Handicaps Program  
Communicable Disease Program  
Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response (Covid-19 Response)  
Epidemiology  
Food Safety Inspections  
Health Informatics  
Immunization Program  
Lead Testing/Case Management

Nuisance Investigation\*  
Manufactured Home Park Inspections  
Paternity Testing  
Plumbing Services  
Private Water System Permits and Inspections  
Private Sewage System Permits and Inspections  
Pregnancy Testing  
School Inspections\*  
Sewage Treatment Systems  
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections  
Tattoo Operations Inspections  
WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)

\*Unfunded Mandate

### Programs, grants and services no longer offered by PCPH:

Blood Pressure Screening (Seniors)  
CFHS Grant (Child & Family Health Services)  
Help Me Grow  
Lice Screening (for school districts)  
Prenatal Clinic

RHWP Grant (Reproductive Health and Wellness Program)  
Solid and Infectious Waste Program  
Well Child Clinic

(Between 2010 - 2020)

### Grant Funded Programs

- Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Program
- Cribs for Kids Program
- PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness)
- Vaccines For Children Program
- Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (EPA funded, PCPH partners with CAP)
- WIC (Women, Infants, Children)

### One Time Grant Funds and Awards

- Zika and Ebola Grant (2017) - \$27,000.00
- Accreditation Consultation for Cincinnati Health Department (2017/2018) - \$17,554.09
- Regional Community Health Needs Assessment Grant Holder (2018/2019) - \$150,000.00\*\*
  - \*\*PCPH was entity to hold the grant for SW Ohio Region
  - \*\$150,000.00 Regional Grant held by PCPH for Southwest Ohio.