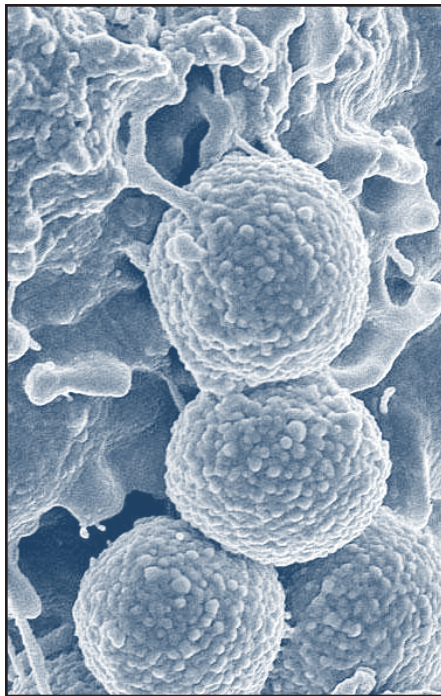




# STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2007

# Annual Report

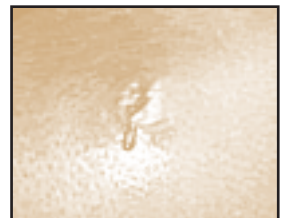


## MRSA (Staph)

### INFECTS STARK COUNTY

*Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) bacteria are commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Staph bacteria can also cause many of the most common types of skin infections, including pimples and boils. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph that is resistant to certain types of antibiotics, but can still be successfully treated. MRSA infection has most often been associated with hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Recently, an increasing number of cases have been reported across the country in otherwise healthy individuals who have not been recently hospitalized. Several outbreaks have been reported in the past few years on sports teams at all levels of competition.

The Stark County Reportable and Emerging Diseases Network (composed of communicable disease staff from the 4 health departments and 5 hospitals in Stark County as well as infectious disease physicians) sponsored an educational event about Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) for area school nurses, coaches, trainers, and sanitarians on September 26, 2007. The event included a panel discussion featuring a local infectious disease physician, a school nurse, a college facilities manager, Environmental Health Unit Manager Paul Depasquale, and Epidemiologist Karen Schanz. There was a time for questions and answers from the audience following the panel presentations. A total of 71 participants were in attendance including 49 nurses, 6 athletic trainers, 10 sanitarians, and 6 coaches and guests.



## Trash Talk

The year 2007 was very active for Stark County's waste disposal facilities. Three of the five licensed waste disposal facilities located in Stark County forwent hearings and/or testified before the Board of Health.

In 2005, Stark C&D Disposal, Inc. located in East Canton, Ohio submitted an application for modification. Within the application, Stark C&D requested to modify their construction and demolition debris landfill from its current 20 acre footprint to 117.4 acres. Upon reviewing several revisions, the Solid Waste Unit of the Health Department found that the proposed modification would be in violation of Ohio Department of Health's Private Water System Rules (Water Rules) adopted by the Ohio Department of Health. Within the Water Rules, a distance set-back of 1000 feet from a water well to a construction and demolition debris landfill was established. Due to the location of existing water wells, it was recommended to the Board of Health that the modification be denied. On November 28, 2007, during a specially scheduled Board Meeting, the Board of Health denied the modification in the form of a resolution. As a result, the facility has filed for an appeal.

On September 27, 2007, the Stark County Health Department entered into an agreement with Minerva Enterprises, LLC. Upon reviewing the information submitted by the construction and demolition debris landfill, located in Waynesburg, it was determined that the facility exceeded their approved elevations. After reviewing the options, it was determined that the least detrimental solution to the environment would be to cap and close that portion of the landfill cell and direct all future disposal to a new cell within the facility. In addition to other orders, Minerva Enterprises was fined \$48,264.00.

Finally, during 2007, Countywide RDF conducted numerous activities to address the Ohio EPA's Findings and Orders. However, the facility continues to emit a nuisance odor, and reports indicate that a subsurface fire is spreading. Due to the inability to control the subsurface fire, we informed the facility that a recommendation would be made for the Board of Health to suspend the 2007 operating license. Although there has not been any action taken on Countywide's license, Countywide filed a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to continue to operate. The Stark County Court System issued the TRO to the facility. Due to the projected intensity of the case, additional legal support has been retained with the financial assistance from the Stark Tuscarawas Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District.

### "Jarod's Law" rules in effect

#### Rules in Effect

School safety and inspection rules (also known as "Jarod's Law" rules) went into effect Sept. 27, 2007. The law, named for Jarod Bennett, and its associated rules are designed to protect and improve the environmental health and safety of Ohio's primary and secondary school students and the staff working in school buildings.

The following is a summary of the benefits contained within Jarod's Law:

- Creation of the School Health and Safety Network.
- Annual school inspections for unsafe health, safety, and sanitation conditions by local health departments.
- Publicly available published inspection reports for each school.
- Mandatory written plans, including timeframes, for remediation of each item identified as not within compliance by the inspection.
- Review of school's remediation plans, by the local health department to ensure proper compliance.
- Auditing and review by the State of Ohio Auditor's office to ensure overall integrity of School Health and Safety Network program.

Health Commissioner's Comments:

Thank you!  
Bob Pattison



William J. Franks, RS, MPH  
Health Commissioner

In January of 2008 Robert E. Pattison retired from the position of Health Commissioner for the City of Canton. Bob has been with the City Health Department for the past 41 years with the last 27 in the role as its Health Commissioner.

Bob's career began in 1962 in his home state of Nebraska as a Public Health Scientist. It is ending 46 years later in his other home state of Ohio. Bob received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska and his Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State University. He first came to Canton as a chemist in the air pollution program and has worked his way up through management positions.

Bob is a part time instructor at Stark State College of Technology where he served on the President's Advisory Board. He is also an instructor in Community Health Sciences at NEOUCOM in Rootstown. He also is a Sunday school teacher at Trinity Baptist Church.

As a long time member of the Canton Rotary Club, Bob will assume the duties of Governor Elect for the years 2008 and 2009. He is married to Janice and has three children: Jeffrey, Rebecca, and Benjamin. Bob's involvement in public health issues will continue into his retirement through his governorship.

The staff, board, and management of the Stark County Health Department wish him the very best health and happiness in his retirement and congratulate him for a long, productive and illustrious public health career.

Division Directors



Emily S. Caniford,  
RN, MSN  
Director of Administration  
& Support Services



Kirk K. Norris, RS, MPH  
Director of  
Environmental Health



Lynn M. McCoy,  
RN, MS  
Director of Nursing

Drs. Macknin and Dietrich  
present at Safe Kids Function

In August 2007, Safe Kids Stark County, in conjunction with the Stark County Health Department, hosted a Childhood Injury Prevention Seminar at Walsh University.



Approximately 50 nurses, physicians, EMS providers and child safety advocates attended the seminar and were provided a resource kit with injury prevention materials. Two well known speakers, Dr. Michael Macknin from the Cleveland Clinic and Dr. Ann Dietrich from Columbus Children's Hospital, presented on childhood injury prevention. Amanda Kelly, Coordinator for Safe Kids Stark County presented on local data and injury prevention programs.

Evaluations and surveys showed positive feedback from participants and interest in future events. Continuing Education was offered for physicians, nurses, EMS providers and health educators. Another seminar is being planned for 2008.

The Safe Kids Data & Research Committee have been collecting and analyzing childhood injury data from local hospitals since 2002. Currently, a trend report is being produced to compare injuries from year to year. Data collected in the injury reports from January 2003 through December 2006, reported 32,465 children were seen in emergency rooms in Stark County with 10,567 of those visits caused from falls. The report shows that falls, struck by object/sports and cutting/knife injuries are the second and third leading cause of injury and cost for this community. **Annual reports are available at [www.starkhealth.org/safekids/news.htm](http://www.starkhealth.org/safekids/news.htm).**

Leading Causes of Death

2007

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Cancer                             | 419   |
| Diseases of the Heart              | 418   |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory          | 118   |
| Influenza and Pneumonia            | 103   |
| Cerebrovascular Disease            | 90    |
| Alzheimer's Disease                | 70    |
| Kidney                             | 66    |
| Septicemia                         | 47    |
| Accidents (unintentional Injuries) | 31    |
| Diabetes Mellitus                  | 24    |
| Suicide                            | 18    |
| All other causes                   | 122   |
| TOTAL                              | 1,526 |

Stark

Smoke Free Ohio: A Year Later

The smoke has lifted from our local bars, restaurants and businesses. Now a full year after the Smoke Free Workplace Law has been in affect we have all seen the benefit of dining in a smoke free environment. Local businesses have also enjoyed cleaner indoor air quality. Businesses are required to ban smoking indoors to protect the health of their employees.

Here in Stark County compliance has gone very well, with only a few exceptions. By the end of 2007 the Stark County Health Department had received over 300 complaints on 158 establishments. Of course many of us thought bars and restaurants would produce the majority of the complaints, but that just wasn't the case. Out of the 158 establishments only half were bars and restaurants. The other half was local businesses including: gas stations, manufacturing plants and stores. The complaints taken by the report hotline has launched 235 cases. Our sanitarians have conducted on-site investigations for all cases. Even though our investigations are ongoing, to date our investigations have resulted in:

- 67 Establishments found 1st Violation/Letter of Warning
- 21 Establishments 2nd Violation/\$100 Fine level
- 7 Establishments 3rd Violation/\$500 fine level
- 2 Establishment 4th Violation/\$1,000 fine level
- 1 Establishment 5th Violation/\$2,500 fine level

We all agree that we are healthier without the presence of second hand smoke, but are we happy with the Smoke Free Law. A recent poll conducted by Midwest Communications and Media has answered this question. Their poll found that nearly 80% of Ohioans are pleased with the passing of the law, which puts to rest the claim that Ohio voters did not know what they were voting for. Now a year later, Ohioans, are enjoying a cleaner, healthier environment for themselves and their families.



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION REDEFINES Environmental Health Education

The Stark County Health Department has paved the way yet again in the field of public health by developing a Health Education position in the Environmental Division. This position just may be the first of its kind at any local health department. In May 2007, Courtney Myers became the division's new Environmental Health Educator. The new position focuses on educating the Stark County community on the programs provided by the Environmental Division.

This past October marked the first official program under the title of Environmental Health Education. Courtney Myers and Paul DePasquale, Food Unit Manager, conducted two presentations for over 70 local school administrators on Jarod's Law. Jarod's Law was passed in September 2007, which updated school inspections conducted by the local health departments. Obviously, Jarod's Law has been a cause of concern for all of our local school districts. Their presentations calmed the fears of many school administrators by providing them an opportunity to learn about the new law and the inspection process.

One goal of the Environmental Health Educator's position is to provide educational opportunities for all demographics in our community. Currently, several new educational programs are in development. Programs will be specifically geared toward schools, colleges, businesses, food establishments, community organizations and children's groups. Programs and educational material will focus on all aspects of Environmental Health including: landfills, recycling, food safety, water wells, septic and school inspections. Hopefully, one day soon the Environmental Division of the Stark County Health Department will be looked upon not only as a regulatory body, but as a resource of Environmental Education for the Stark County community.

**For information about program options  
for your organization please contact  
Courtney Myers at (330) 493-9904  
Ext 239 or [csmyers@starkhealth.org](mailto:csmyers@starkhealth.org).**

## Safe Sleep Task Force



The Safe Sleep Task Force was established in early 2007 to develop a unified public health message for our community on the topic of infant sleep safety. The goal of this task force is to educate the community about the sleep environments that are safe for infants and young children, thereby, decreasing the number of injuries and deaths caused by placing infants in unsafe sleep environments. According to the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board, there were six sleep related deaths among children birth to 17 years of age in 2006 in Stark County. Of these six deaths, two were from SIDS and four were from asphyxias. At least four of these six sleep related deaths may have been prevented if only the safest sleep environment had been utilized. The Safe Sleep Task Force is comprised of individuals representing our local health departments, hospitals, businesses and organizations. The Stark County Health Department received a grant from the CJ SIDS Foundation in July 2007 for the purpose of this community education. The Task Force is in the midst of establishing educational materials, such as brochures, posters, and educational classes that inform the public on safe sleeping environments for infants and children. The

Task Force also hopes in the near future to establish a program in the community that will offer assistance in purchasing a crib/pack 'n' play to parents in need.

## Stark County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Grows

In 2007, a Pandemic Flu Planner was hired through funding from the Public Health Infrastructure grant, NACCHO (*National Association for County and City Health Officials*), and a Citizen Corps grant. Coordinating the Medical Reserve Corps Program for Stark County is part of the responsibility of the Pandemic Flu Planner. The MRC is a group of medical and non-medical volunteers whose purpose is to help assist those existing agencies during a time of community need.

The MRC Program has made tremendous strides since it became an official unit in December, 2006. In just one year, 584 individuals were registered as MRC volunteers. Of the 584 volunteers registered with the Stark County MRC, 286 have met their training requirement.

The Stark County Health Department's website was updated and now includes information about the MRC. A quarterly newsletter was developed as a way to communicate with volunteers and other recipients of the newsletter. Additionally, the health department plans to continue to work with our volunteers to provide them with opportunities to become involved with Public Health activities. Overall, it was a very successful year for the Stark County MRC Program.

## Planning for a Surge of Flu Cases

The Stark County Health Department has been actively planning for a possible pandemic influenza event. One area that continues to evolve is planning with the hospitals for surge capacity. In a pandemic influenza event, hospitals will become overwhelmed with patients and may not be able to accept additional patients or care for the ill in their facility due to less staff, lack of space and limited resources. Therefore, hospitals have been working to establish the maximum amount of patients that can be cared for within their hospital walls. Additionally, hospitals will be working closely with hotels/motels, restaurants, and the Medical Reserve Corps to develop an alternate care site for ill patients to go for medical care.

Consequently, the public will be encouraged to stay home and practice home hospitalization instead of going to the hospital for care unless their conditions worsen. As a result, the health department is planning to have Neighborhood Care Sites throughout the county that would assist people in their homes who are ill or caring for ill family members. These care sites will be composed of volunteers that will be available to take phone calls and go door-to-door with supplies and educational materials. The Red Cross will also be stationed at these care sites to assist with food and water needs.

## HOME SALE INSPECTIONS

Over the years the health department has been involved with several lawsuits where home inspectors overlooked septic problems, causing new buyers extreme hardship. In addition, the licensing council strongly advocated a septic system inspection program for home sales. Thus, regulations were written in late 2006 that implemented a property transfer inspection program on January 1, 2008. The regulations require properties served by a Home Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) to be inspected prior to a property transfer to determine if the HSTS is functioning properly and if sanitary sewer is available. All failing HSTSs will be replaced or upgraded, or if sanitary sewer is available (a sewer lateral on the property) the property must be connected. Signs of failure may include but are not limited to: sewage surfacing into the ground or being discharged into a stream or storm sewer, backing into a structure or otherwise causing a public health threat. This program dovetails with the operation and maintenance program in the Phase II Stormwater Program, both of which aid in attainment of the Ohio EPA's water quality (TMDL) standards.

The program also requires that the system be inspected by the health department or by a registered service provider. Service providers are tested and bonded through the health department. Copies of their inspections must be submitted to the health department, for review and follow-up, when necessary. In addition, minimum inspection standards have been implemented.

Real estate transfer inspections are an ideal time to upgrade failing systems, since funds can be easily allocated for the correction during the transfer. It also protects buyers from the financial burden they may encounter if the system is found to be failing later, if an inspection had not been conducted. Lastly, it gives the buyer an opportunity to become educated on how to properly maintain the system, improving system longevity.



## 2007 Communicable Disease Summary

| DISEASE                           | 2007 | 2006 | DISEASE                            | 2007 | 2006 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------------------------------------|------|------|
| Brucellosis                       | 1    | 0    | Listeriosis                        | 2    | 2    |
| Campylobacteriosis                | 35   | 31   | Lyme Disease                       | 1    | 1    |
| Chlamydia                         | 303  | 381  | Meningitis-Aseptic                 | 29   | 19   |
| Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease         | 3    | 0    | Meningitis-Bacterial               | 1    | 1    |
| Cryptosporidiosis                 | 19   | 11   | Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)    | 1    | 1    |
| Cytomegalovirus - congenital      | 0    | 1    | Mycobacterium other than TB (MOTT) | 10   | 8    |
| Dengue Fever                      | 1    | 1    | Meningococcal Disease              | 1    | 0    |
| E. coli-Unspecified subtype       | 1    | 1    | Mumps                              | 0    | 1    |
| E. coli O157:H7                   | 2    | 3    | Pertussis                          | 6    | 8    |
| Ehrlichiosis - Human Granulocytic | 1    | 0    | Q Fever                            | 0    | 1    |
| Encephalitis - Primary Viral      | 0    | 1    | Salmonellosis                      | 24   | 25   |
| Giardiasis                        | 23   | 25   | Shigellosis                        | 3    | 2    |
| Gonorrhea                         | 118  | 110  | Streptococcal-Invasive Group A     | 4    | 4    |
| Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia  | 0    | 2    | Streptococcal-Invasive Group B     | 1    | 1    |
| Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)   | 2    | 0    | Streptococcal-Invasive Pneumoniae  | 27   | 29   |
| Hepatitis A                       | 5    | 2    | Streptococcal-Toxic Shock          | 2    | 0    |
| Hepatitis B - Chronic             | 25   | 15   | Syphilis                           | 7    | 13   |
| Hepatitis B - Acute               | 1    | 5    | Typhoid Fever                      | 0    | 1    |
| Hepatitis C - Chronic             | 104  | 101  | Varicella                          | 113  | 181  |
| Hepatitis C - Acute               | 2    | 3    | West Nile Virus                    | 0    | 2    |
| Kawasaki                          | 0    | 1    | Yersiniosis                        | 4    | 0    |
| Legionella                        | 7    | 6    |                                    |      |      |

## Communicable Disease Highlights, 2007

- Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) can develop following an acute gastrointestinal illness, most commonly *E. Coli* 0157:H7. HUS is characterized by kidney failure, often requiring dialysis, and other dangerous complications. In 2007, 2 cases of HUS were reported in children (ages 3 and 9 years old) following an *E. Coli* 0157:H7 infection. Both children were hospitalized for extended periods of time but eventually fully recovered. The cases were not linked to each other and no source of infection could be identified for either case.
- Early in January, two confirmed Norovirus outbreaks were investigated. One outbreak involved several groups of people who had celebrated New Year's Eve at a local restaurant. Approximately 15 people became ill following the parties, 2 of whom were confirmed to have Norovirus. A separate outbreak was investigated at an assisted-living facility. Approximately 30 staff and residents were ill. Several staff members were confirmed to have Norovirus.
- A cluster of *E. Coli* 0157:H7 cases with matching genetic fingerprints were linked to the consumption of frozen pizzas as the result of a multi-state investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in October. One case was identified as a Stark County 22 month old female who had been diagnosed with *E. Coli* 0157:H7 in early September. The local case associated with this outbreak could not be contacted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for interview, so she is linked to the outbreak based solely on the genetic fingerprint of her *E. Coli* 0157:H7 isolate.

## Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2007 (unaudited)

### SOURCE OF REVENUE

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Contract Fees                | 454,676   |
| Fees for Services            | 563,351   |
| Inspection Fees              | 75,727    |
| Vital Statistics             | 158,171   |
| Permits                      | 1,061,108 |
| Late Charges                 | 29,704    |
| State Subsidy                | 74,296    |
| Local Tax Subdivisions       | 1,278,143 |
| Welcome Home Grant           | 15,098    |
| Public Health Infrastructure | 216,140   |
| CFHS State Grant             | 456,347   |
| Immunization Grant           | 55,144    |
| WIC Grant                    | 330,755   |
| Dental Grant                 | 50,000    |
| Austin Bailey Grant          | 25,000    |
| Sids Grant                   | 8,500     |
| Tobacco Foundation Grant     | 199,162   |
| Women's Health Initiative    | 33,500    |
| Injury Prevention Grant      | 33,706    |
| Construction & Demolition    | 664,228   |
| Other Receipts               | 71,200    |
| Reimbursements               | 45,764    |
| Carryover from 2006          | 481,285   |

**TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE** 6,381,004

### EXPENDITURES

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Salaries                       | 3,087,470 |
| Insurance                      | 372,042   |
| Medicare                       | 43,366    |
| PERS                           | 518,570   |
| Workers Compensation           | 37,959    |
| Unemployment                   | 70        |
| Supplies                       | 220,312   |
| Utilities                      | 19,190    |
| Contracts & Purchased Services | 459,708   |
| Equipment / Vehicle Rental     | 37,800    |
| Rent                           | 278,721   |
| Equipment                      | 16,657    |
| Other Expenses                 | 1,780     |
| State Remittances              | 754,656   |
| Travel                         | 97,244    |
| Refunds                        | 15,283    |

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** 5,960,827

## How has the Stark County Health Department Prepared for the New School Code?

January 2006, the department started correspondence and dialogue with the Stark County Board of Education, which continues to date, to ensure a smooth transition of the new code.

August 2006, the Stark County Health Department was selected by the Ohio Department of Health to host a 2 - day training for all Northeast Ohio Sanitarians on the new school inspection rules and guidelines.

October 2006, sanitarians went through extensive education and hands-on-training from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation on industrial arts classroom hazards, electrical hazards, housekeeping, working surface hazards, indoor air quality, hazard communication, and laboratory safety.

November 2006, the health department set up Stark County's Health & Safety Network and sent all Stark County School Administrators a letter describing in detail what Jarod's Law contains.

October 22 & 31, 2007, the Stark County Health Department held a seminar, sponsored by the Stark County Board of Education, for all public & private schools in Stark County concerning the new State of Ohio School Safety Code.

# STARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



## STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3951 Convenience Circle NW, Canton, Ohio 44718

Phone: 330-493-9904 • Fax: 330-493-9920

Web Address: [www.starkhealth.org](http://www.starkhealth.org)

**ROW 1: Philip Francis, James Recchio-President, Michael D. Krebs-Vice President, Lori Mertes, M.D.**

**ROW 2: Connie Holmes, Karen Hiltbrand, Cary Feller, Marcia Kiesling**

