

# Canton City Health Department

## 2009 Annual Report



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

*If we were to sum up the past year's activities in one word it would be challenge. The year 2009 started with an economic downturn, the likes that we have not seen in decades.*

*Budgets were slashed and staff reduced. In April a new strain of flu virus emerged and rapidly spread across the world.*



James Adams, RS, MPH  
Health Commissioner

We were quickly immersed in the management of the H1N1 flu pandemic. We vaccinated thousands of people, managed vaccine and anti-viral supplies for the community, and mounted an unprecedented public health education campaign.

Challenges bring opportunities. We have become better stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us. We have become more responsive to the needs of our community. We have learned how to respond and manage a pandemic.

We experienced many changes in the staff of our department in 2009. We congratulated retirees LaVerne Gillis, Carol Burger, Donna James, Mary Merry, Tom Schwartz, Ron Crabtree, and Jack Wade. We were also saddened by the sudden loss of two of our co-workers, Pat Petrella and Angie Glosser. Both passed away after brief and unexpected illnesses.

It is with great pride that we present the 2009 annual report for the Canton City Health Department. The activities and programs described in this report are the result of a group of hard-working and dedicated public health professionals. Their skills, knowledge, and dedication have truly advanced the mission of public health in Canton: "Healthy people living in a healthy community".

### Births and Deaths City of Canton Residents

Births.....	1,367
Single Parent.....	935
Teens (age11-19).	231
Deaths.....	635

### Certificates Issued

Birth	14,859
Certificates...	
Death Certificates	9,715

### Leading Causes of Death in Canton City

#### Disease

Heart Disease	438
Cancer (All types).	333
Flu/Pneumonia...	163
Stroke.....	137
Emphysema.....	12
Diabetes.....	19
All other causes...	876

### 2009 Income

APC	\$1,113,600
EH	276,929
Clinic Grants	420,563
WIC	1,083,101
Laboratory	22,695
Vital Statistics	470,524
State Subsidy	23,191
PHI/PHER Grant	639,972
Clinic services and contracts	103,495
Minority Health Grant	10,000
Reimbursements	38,615
Other	198
General Revenue	2,270,592

**TOTAL \$6,473,475**

### 2009 Expenditures

Nursing Clinic	\$1,419,173
EH	957,561
Laboratory	258,419
APC	997,914
PHI/PHER Grant	215,478
Admin/VS	1,024,490
WIC	1,121,032
Minority Health	12,913

**TOTAL \$6,006,980**

### Nursing Clinic Services

#### Clinic Services

Well baby immunizations	1,374
Tuberculosis	815
International Travel	471
STD clinic	1,969
CTS	211
Lead	21
Teeth, sealants	2,446
Outreach programs	57

#### Nursing Visits

BCMh	135
Communicable Disease	11
Disease Intervention Specialist	76
Referrals	12
Home Births	8
Immunizations	32
Lead poisonings	19
Newborn home visits	61
STD follow up	18
Tuberculosis	53

### Environmental Health Activities

Animal bite investigations.....	265
-failure to vaccinate, number of charges filed....	35
Food service inspections/re-inspections.....	1,240
Temporary event inspections.....	124
School inspections.....	32
Pool and Spa inspections.....	58
Frozen dessert samples taken to lab.....	345
Nuisance complaint investigations.....	3,600
Health abatement orders.....	1,500
Criminal charges filed.....	5
Tattoo parlor inspections.....	3
Solid/ infectious waste facility inspections.....	53
Mosquito control hours.....	720
Smoking complaint investigations.....	67

### Selected Reportable Diseases

Campylobacteriosis	7
Chlamydia.....	702
Cryptosporidiosis.....	4
Giardiasis.....	12
Gonococcal Infection	328
Hib.....	5
Hepatitis B.....	15
Hepatitis C.....	94
HIV.....	13
Legionellosis.....	7
Meningitis. Viral.....	1
Meningitis, bacterial..	2
Pertussis.....	3
Salmonellosis.....	3
Shigellosis.....	13
Strep pneumoniae....	14
Tuberculosis.....	1
Varicella.....	6

Please see our website for  
monthly clinic reports:

[www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org)

# H1N1 Influenza Pandemic 2009

*“Public Health has been preparing everyone for the next pandemic for the last several years. We thought it would involve bird flu; however, as H1N1 evolved, we learned it was yet another novel virus, one that would keep us on our toes! Although we are a small health department, we are forced to be very creative and to depend on our community resources. Therein lies our greatest strength.”*

- Diane Thompson, Director of Nursing

Maintaining the everyday activities and clinic tasks of the Nursing Division and yet being available to the community for urgent needs related to the H1N1 pandemic response has been a daunting task. However, the relationships that we have established with community partners, the Ohio Department of Health, and the population at large have been effective and have made our responsibility to vaccinate the community a successful one. With the help of federal monies for the H1N1 vaccination program, we were able to immunize over 7,000 residents.

This vaccination effort resulted in our ability to work closely with the City Government, Mayor and City Council, City Department Supervisors, Police and Fire Departments, Canton City Schools, private businesses, churches, and organizations within the City. To be really prepared to protect our community, it is vital that we strengthen such relationships.

It is my observation that one of the most rewarding results was this chance to spend time in and with our community. It was gratifying to be able to explain public health and all that it offers the community.



All Canton school children and their families were eligible for H1N1 Flu shots. One of the busy school clinics was conducted at Crenshaw Junior High School. A total of 2,053 residents was vaccinated at these school clinics.



Health Department staff from all divisions assisted at flu clinics. One community clinic was conducted at the Stark County Fairgrounds. Other sites included Malone University's Johnson Center and the Canton Civic Center.

# Office of Public Health Information

## Health Education

### *Goodwill Industries Partnership*

A longtime partner of the Canton City Health Department is Goodwill Industries. Goodwill has a parenting class for which the Health Educator provides informational programs. As many as nine sessions a month have been provided. Currently three topics are offered for the morning, afternoon, and evening classes: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and Lead Poison Prevention. The Health Educator provides education that will protect the parents from diseases and also teaches them how they can teach their children this information. Each of the programs also includes contact information so the parents will be more familiar with the Health Department's services that are offered in each of the three areas presented.

## *Public Outreach*

The Health Educator strives to keep the "public" in the Canton Public Health Department. One of the ways in which the public can gain insight into the many issues and services that we deal with is to attend a public program. The Health Educator in 2009 spoke at a number of organizations' meetings. Aultman Hospital, Canton Neighborhood Associations, ABCD, Senior Citizens' Advisory Council, the Pregnancy Support Center, and St. John the Baptist Church are some of the organizations that took advantage of the Health Department's Health Education programs. All programs are offered free of cost.

Another means of educating the public is through media communication. Media releases to area newspapers and broadcast stations inform the public of clinic services and health alerts such as environmental threats.

## OPHI and the H1N1 Pandemic

From April, 2009, when the H1N1 virus first emerged, the Health Department's Epidemiologist was busy providing updates as to the nature, movement, and targets of the disease. Her weekly *Flu Snapshot* reports are published on our website, making this information available to all in the community.

When information important to health providers became available from the CDC, the Health Alert Network Coordinator efficiently informed our health partners such as physicians, laboratories, pharmacists, nursing homes, schools, and childcare providers with timely and vital information.

The Health Educator's role was to keep the public informed of flu symptoms, prevention tactics and availability of vaccine. Brochures, posters, yard signs, billboards, telephone hotline, and the media were utilized to accomplish this effort.

Once vaccine became available for distribution at public clinics, the staff took on additional duties. The "Epi" coordinated all

## Free H1N1 Flu Vaccines

Canton City Health Dept.  
330.489.3322  
[cantonhealth.org](http://cantonhealth.org)  
[starkflu.org](http://starkflu.org)



The OPHI Division worked to provide H1N1 information during the pandemic. This billboard was one of several to appear in Stark County

non-clinic positions, such as crowd control, parking safety, and staff check-in. The HAN Coordinator organized the entire computerized patient database. This massive effort included registration and vaccine inventory. She also trained staff to work at these positions. Additionally, clinic patients were educated by the Health Educator regarding vaccine safety, age and risk parameters, and possible need for second doses. Throughout the pandemic, the OPHI staff worked hard to assist in the effort to combat the H1N1 influenza outbreak.



## Asbestos Oversight

Asbestos is the name given to a number of naturally occurring fibrous minerals which are incredibly strong, can be woven, and have properties that make them resistant to heat and most chemicals. Because of these properties, asbestos fibers have been used in a wide range of manufactured goods including roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper and cement products, insulating products, textiles, and friction products such as automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts.



Magnified asbestos fibers

Exposure to asbestos increases one's risk of developing lung disease. The greater the exposure to asbestos fibers, the greater the chance of developing harmful health effects. Disease symptoms might take several years to develop. If a concern exists, consult a lung specialist (pulmonologist). Smoking increases the risk of illness from asbestos. Three of the major health effects associated with asbestos exposure include: asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma.

If asbestos is suspected in the home, it is best to leave it alone if it is in good condition. You might want to hire a professional asbestos inspector to sample and test the material. If the asbestos-containing material is damaged (unraveling, frayed, and/or breaking apart), you should isolate the area from family members and pets until a professional is consulted about its safe removal or enclosure.

The Canton City Health Department does not provide private residential services regarding asbestos. Its role is primarily to insure asbestos abatement companies are in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency standards through oversight activities. When commercial and industrial facilities are renovated or demolished, the APC Division is the agency in Stark County to provide this protection service.

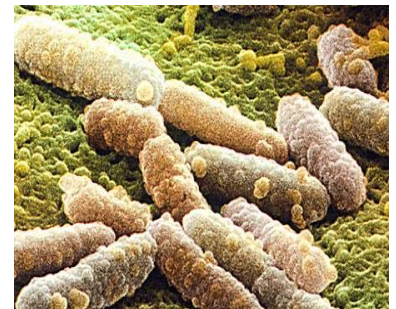
### Air Pollution Control Activities

Facility Inspections.....	33
Permits to install Issued Final.....	4
Title V Operating Permits.....	1
Permits to Install/Operate Issued Final.....	17
Open Burning Permits.....	16
Total Complaints Investigated.....	173
Violation Notices.....	36
Ohio EPA Referrals.....	2
Enforcement Cases Closed.....	1
Asbestos Activities.....	100
# of days with an 8-hour ozone average of 75 PPB or greater.....	0
Industrial Stack Tests.....	11

## Laboratory

### Water Testing Technology

One of the more interesting trends in water testing has been the move away from *indicator organisms*. An indicator organism is one that might not cause disease by itself, but is often found associated with disease-causing organisms. For example, total coliform bacteria (bacteria which can use milk sugar as an energy source, tolerate some salt and a pH above neutral) can indicate that salmonella, shigella, or E.coli: 0157 bacteria might also be present because they can thrive in the same conditions. Now there are analysis systems available that can test directly for these harmful organisms and thus give regulators a better sense of whether a particular water source can pose a hazard to the public's health and well-being. They can also indicate how many of the organisms are present in a given amount of water.



E. coli bacteria magnified

#### 2009 Laboratory Exams Performed

Water, private.....	1,167
Water, public.....	676
Water, commercial.....	172
Frozen desserts.....	738
Dairy, finished products...	28
HIV screens.....	1,410
Blood lead.....	56
STD's.....	8,439
Pregnancies.....	126
Urine analysis.....	55
Waste/Process water.....	17
Pollen Counts.....	135
Other.....	59

The next new technology in water testing will be *gene amplification of pathogens*. This test will be more sensitive and specific for a greater variety of pathogens and holds the promise of providing results within hours of the sample being received by the laboratory.

# Environmental Health Division

The Division of Environmental Health (EH) strives to be proactive in addressing the community's needs for the prevention of disease and injury. This division is divided into three sections: Consumer Services, Community Services, and Special Services. In 2009, all three sections were challenged with cuts in funding, retirements, and participation with H1N1 response activities.

When the Department of Health and Human Resources declared a national emergency due to the H1N1 Influenza pandemic, local public health departments responded quickly. Responding to typical seasonal flu is normally a function of the Nursing Division; but, because of the potential for severe community illness that this novel virus presented, changes in EH operations were necessary.

Working with the nurses during the pandemic provided training opportunities for the EH staff. This included experience with clinic operations, database management, flu telephone hotline operation, advanced incident command strategies, public information, and interoperability communications. Despite the postponement of some traditional EH duties during the pandemic, this experience has enhanced the professionalism of the EH staff.

Because of the economy and three retirements in 2009, the EH Division found itself without the funding to hire replacement personnel. Without cutting services to the public, we rearranged the schedules and duties of personnel to sustain 2008 work requirements, but unfortunately will not be able to sustain projected 2011 needs. A much needed indoor air investigation program is still in the developmental stage, but unless new personnel are hired to staff this service, it might take longer than first planned to implement. We will continue to apply for additional revenue from EPA grants and ODH funds.

The Environmental Health Division continues to protect the public with knowledge and experience. Residents should expect our prompt response to nuisance complaints such as odors, animal bites, vermin and insect infestations, chemical spills, poor water quality and indoor air quality. Inspections for food service operations, public swimming pools and spas, and schools remain priorities. Serious threats to the environment and individual health are prevented through inspections at waste transfer stations, composting facilities, infectious waste generators and tattoo parlors.

We look forward to 2010 and the challenges it will bring. We will adapt to the ever-changing public health environment and find new avenues to provide the most protection that we can offer to the residents, visitors, and workers in the City of Canton.

## Licensing Board

The Licensing Board was established in 2001 after the Amended Substitute Senate Bill 136 (Am. Sub. SB 136) was signed into law. This law modified several key elements of the food protection program. Membership is comprised of one representative from each business activity for which the Canton Board of Health operates a licensing program: retail food service, retail food establishments, solid waste transfer operations and swimming pools. The group meets at least quarterly to:

- \* Discuss program license fees on both the state & local levels
- \* Serve as a "voice" from their licensing program regarding concerns/problems
- \* Identify/influence needed changes in legislation, policies and practices

This group elects one member to serve as a voting member of the Board of Health. I was selected to fill this position. I enjoy my position as a Board member and consider myself very fortunate to be working with such a knowledgeable, professional group of people.

I believe few city residents are aware of the vast realm of services provided by the Canton City Health Department and how lucky we are to have such a dedicated, loyal staff.

**Ernie Schott**  
**Owner of Taggart's Restaurant of**  
**Canton and Magnolia and**  
**Kennedy Barbeque.**

## WIC

WIC is a health program that serves income-eligible pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, infants, and children under five years old who have a health or nutritional risk. Services focus on nutrition education and the issuance of supplemental food vouchers. Additional benefits emphasize breastfeeding promotion and referrals to other health and social service agencies.

***“Throughout 2009, participation in the Canton City Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program continued to grow and ended with a record-setting caseload, averaging 2,366 participants monthly.”***

***Laura Roach, WIC Supervisor***

The supplemental food packages WIC participants receive on their vouchers changed significantly during 2009. Nationwide, as of October 1, the food packages were changed to align with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the infant feeding guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The vouchers now offer a wider variety of nutritious foods including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and certain infant jar foods. All of the foods provided have been carefully selected because they are rich in nutrients essential for proper growth and development.



WIC continues to be one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective nutrition programs. Studies have shown that WIC helps to decrease the incidence of low birth-weight infants, and improves pregnancy outcomes. In addition, WIC gives children a healthy start in life, which is especially crucial in the fight against childhood obesity.

The Canton City Health Department WIC staff continues to be dedicated to the role of promoting healthy eating and lifestyle habits. Unique to Canton City is our Outreach Advocate who interprets for the Spanish-speaking population. A Certified Lactation Consultant is available for one-to-one counseling, group education, and breast pump issuance to qualifying individuals. The Registered Dietitians provide nutrition education on a daily basis, and in 2009 emphasized the promotion of physical activity as well to combat childhood obesity. The WIC clinic nurse continues to evaluate if immunization records are up to date and refers participants as needed. Annual countywide participation continues in the Farmers Market Program where additional vouchers are given to use for fruits and vegetables at approved farmers' market sites.

Ohio WIC is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation, and more than half of the infants born in the state receive WIC services. In Canton City, 45% of WIC participants in 2009 were children. As the number of people we serve continues to increase, our role in targeting eligible participants is vital for the overall health of our community, now and in the future.





**Canton City Health Department**  
**420 Market Avenue, North**  
**Canton, OH 44702**

Return Services Requested



2009 Board of Health  
(front) Frederick Whittier, MD; Stephen Hickman, DVM  
(back) Marcantonio Fiorentino, MD; Ernest Schott; Mayor  
William J. Healy, II; Bernadine Jenkins.

[www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org)

## 2009 Board of Health and Personnel

### CANTON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mayor William J. Healy II, President  
Stephen Hickman, D.V.M., President Pro Tempore  
Ernest O. Schott, Vice President  
M. Fiorentino, M.D.  
Frederick C. Whittier, M.D.  
Bernadine Jenkins

### CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

330-489-3231  
James M. Adams, M.P.H., R.S., Health Commissioner  
Eng S. Chong, M.D., PT Medical Director  
Michael Gregorek, M.D., PT Clinic Physician

### AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

330-489-3385  
Dan Aleman, P.E., M.B.A., APC Administrator  
Tom Schwartz, PhD, APC Chemist  
Gregory Clark, B.S, M.B.A., Engineer  
Bud Keim, O.R., M.S., Engineer  
Pat Petrella, P.E., M.S., Engineer  
Edward Pabin, B.S., Engineer  
Patrick Shriver, B.S., APC Engineering Technician  
Angela Glosser, B.S., Engineer  
David Augenstein, P.E., M.S., Engineer  
Carl Saftreed M.S., P.E.  
Kelly Walker, B.S., Chemical Engineer  
Denny Tan, B.A., Staff Field Inspector II  
Sherry Hustus, B.S., Public Health Clerk  
Kristine Kloss, BA Public Health Clerk, PT

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

330-489-3327  
Mark Adams, R.S., M.P.H., Director  
Will Holden, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian III

Rick Miller, R.S., M.P.H., Staff Sanitarian III  
Karen Myers, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian III  
Kim Campbell, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Ron Crabtree, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Gus E. Dria, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Brian Gero, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Maria Hall, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Jack Wade, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Patty McConnell, B.S., SIT  
Mary Merry, Public Health Clerk  
Connie Ash, PT Public Health Clerk

### LABORATORY DIVISION

330-489-3231  
Jim Ames, B.S., Bacteriologist  
Carol Burger, C.M.A., Lab Technician  
Heather MacDonald, M.L.T., Lab Technician  
Julie Carman, M.S., M.T., Lab Technician

### NURSING DIVISION

330-489-3322  
Diane Thompson, R.N., M.S.N., Director of Nursing  
Lynn Fernandez, R.N., Public Health Nurse III  
Dana Hale, R.N., B.S.N., Public Health Nurse III  
Molly Malloy, R.N., Public Health Nurse II  
Desiree Boldi, R.N. Public Health Nurse II  
Frank Catrone, R.N., Public Health Nurse II  
L. Joy Dougan, R.N., Public Health Nurse II  
Tammy Stolicny, R.N., B.S.N., Public Health Nurse II  
Ruthanne Etter, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse II  
Pamela Gibbs, MAEd., LPC Health Services Coordinator  
Marsha Miller, R.N., MAEd., PT Public Health Nurse  
Janet Copeland, R.N., PT Public Health Nurse

Linda Brooks, Public Health Clerk  
Connie Standard, Public Health Clerk

### OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

330-489-3327  
Kathy Paris, B.A., Health Educator/Public Information  
Officer, Supervisor  
Christina Henning, R.S., M.P.H., Epidemiologist  
Kelli Trenger, M.B.A., HAN Coordinator

### VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION

330-489-3231  
Joni Shaffer, Administrative Assistant &  
Controller  
Cindy Wilson, Deputy Registrar  
Debbie Mazzocca, Public Health Clerk  
Diana McCallum, Public Health Clerk  
Eleanor Behm, PT Public Health Clerk

### W.I.C. DIVISION

330-489-3326  
LaVerne Gillis, R.D., M.S., Community Dietitian & WIC  
Supervisor (retired 06/30/09)  
Laura Roach, R.D., L.D., WIC Director (12/01/09)  
Janet Frank, R.D., L.D., Dietitian  
Kim Walker R.D., L.D., CLC, Dietitian  
Katy Pitcher, R.D., L.D., PT Dietitian  
Jennifer Roberts, R.N., IBCLC, Breastfeeding Coordinator  
Sue Parr, L.P.N., W.I.C. Clinic Assistant  
Maria Anaya, Outreach Advocate  
Kathy Murphy, Public Health Clerk  
Karen Moulin, PT Public Health Clerk  
Lashelle Clifford, Public Health Clerk