



Welcome, Ben Avery!



🍌 We are excited to introduce our new Health Commissioner, Ben Avery! 🍌

Below is a message he's written to share a little about himself and his vision:

"I'm truly honored to serve as the next Health Commissioner for the Perry County Health Department and to continue working in the communities of Southeast Ohio.

With over 16 years in public health, I've been fortunate to serve in a variety of roles focused on protecting and improving the health of our communities. I'm passionate about working alongside local partners and residents to build strong, responsive, and sustainable public health services.

Southeast Ohio has always been home. My wife, Katie, and I are raising our daughter, Ada, here, and we're proud to be part of this community. When I'm not at work, you'll usually find me outdoors or spending time with family.

I'm looking forward to getting to know Perry County and working together to support the health and well-being of everyone who calls it home."

Perry County Health Department

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In March, Cary Bowers, Director of Environmental Health Division, and Deborah Raney, Director of Health Education and Grant Management presented Angela DeRolph who served as the Perry County Health Commissioner with a plaque commemorating 15 years of service to Perry County.

Thank you, Angela, for your dedication to our community, and always striving for improvement. Congratulations on your next endeavor!



Welcome, Katie Vogelsang!



We are excited to introduce our new Receptionist/Administrative Assistant, Katie Vogelsang.

Below is a message she's written to share a little about herself:

"Hello I am Katie Vogelsang, receptionist at the PCHD. I have 5 years' experience working with the public and I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow within the health department. I've been a perry county resident most of my life from New Straitsville, where I currently live raising my two little boys. In my free time I enjoy kayaking, gardening and spending time with my family."



Need a mammogram?

The James Mobile Mammography unit of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James) has been screening women for breast cancer since 1988. The unit crisscrosses Ohio, parking and setting up its mobile breast cancer screening practice at companies, county health offices, at festivals and many other places and events.

**The mobile unit will be at Perry County Health Department on July 21st.
Call 740-342-5179 to set up an appointment.**

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2026 Staff Development Day at PCHD!



On April 7, Perry County Health Department hosted its 2026 Professional Development Day in recognition of National Public Health Week. Staff participated in four engaging and informative sessions designed to support professional growth and strengthen workplace collaboration.

Topics included HIPAA training presented by Jenna Cannon, Director of Nursing and Epidemiologist at PCHD; Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training led by Jamie McGrew of the Mental Health Services and Recovery Board; Ohio Department of Health Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) training presented by Dane Austin; and two interactive 90-minute workshops on Trust Building and Change Management facilitated by Lisa Russell of Kane Learning (pictured with PCHD staff).

The day was filled with valuable learning opportunities, collaboration, and fun. PCHD extends its sincere thanks to all presenters and community partners who helped make the event both enjoyable and beneficial for staff.

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On April 10th, PCHD's Health Education Division hosted a Distracted Driving Event in alliance with the Perry County Sheriff's Office that aimed at educating the community on the dangers of distracted driving and the importance of staying focused behind the wheel. Staff shared safety resources and prevention information to help promote safer roadways for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians throughout our community.



On May 9, PCHD staff members Deborah Raney and Jenny LaRue participated in the Second Annual Tri-County Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo.



This free community event provided children and families with valuable bicycle safety education, hands-on riding skills instruction, bicycle handling techniques, proper bike and helmet fitting, prizes, and many additional activities promoting safe and active lifestyles.

Thank you for Deborah and Jenny, for your dedication to the safety of the children in our community!

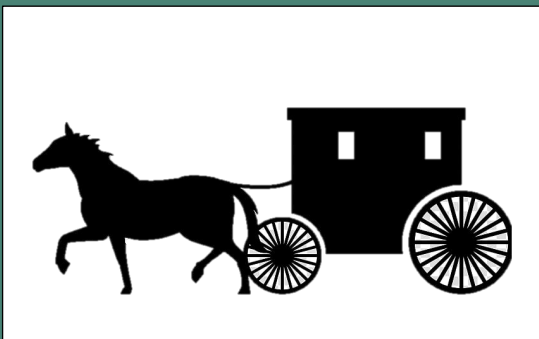




2026 Amish Health and Safety Day

 A special thanks to the MedFlight 6- Morgan County, OH and Junction City Fire Dept. team for partnering with the Perry County Health Department for the Annual Amish Health and Safety Event. 

A mock accident involving a horse and buggy was staged as a learning opportunity for the community to understand the steps and procedures local emergency services would use if this type of accident would occur. This event was a great opportunity to build relationships, share important safety information, and support everyone in Perry County.



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Perry County Health Department staff Lesa Garey, Hannah Dishon, and Ashley Champ volunteered on May 8th at the Perry County Real Money, Real World Program at Miller High School administered by OSU Extension - Perry County. The program allows students to learn through hands-on experiences about costs of living on their own, spending decisions, and evaluating consequences of their decisions. Thank you, Ohio State - Perry County Extension for developing such an amazing experience for both the students, and its volunteers.

On May 11th, PCHD's Strong Mom's Breastfeeding Program hosted a Mother's Day Breastfeeding Support Group! 🌸💕👶

A HUGE thank you to everyone who joined us for this event filled with encouragement, connection, and community. We loved seeing all of the smiling faces, sweet conversations, and adorable painted flower pots created during our mommy & me craft time 🍪🌻

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to our wonderful guest speaker, Dr. Stacy Henry from Columbus Women's Wellness, for sharing such meaningful insight on maternal mental health & wellness. Raising awareness and supporting moms through every stage of motherhood is so important, and we are grateful for the compassionate discussion and resources shared today 💚

Thank you to everyone who came out, enjoyed refreshments, connected with other moms, and helped make this event such a success! 🍷🌟

Motherhood can be beautiful, exhausting, emotional, and overwhelming all at once – and no mama should ever feel alone. 🌸 Hope to see you at our next event!



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OhioHealth Wellness on Wheels

Accepting new patients for **Primary Care, Pediatrics, Women's Health and Obstetrics**

Available every **Thursday** at the **Perry County Health Department**
9am - 3pm

Call to schedule today: **740-331-7373**

Come see us at the Perry County Fair!

July 20th - July 25th



Free water



Safe space for breastfeeding mothers



Free CPR/First Aid training



Tick and Mosquito information



Giveaways



Air conditioned tent and breastfeeding station



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🎓 Congratulations to Hannah Dishon, Accreditation Coordinator/Deputy Registrar with PCHD, on graduating from the University of Missouri with a Master's Degree in Veterinary Public Health!

We are proud of Hannah's dedication, hard work, and commitment to advancing public health. Please join us in celebrating this incredible achievement! 🙌

Health Department Birthdays:

Lesa Garey, Health Educator – July 13th

Jake Baker, Public Health Nurse - July 19th

Chad Cook, REHS – July 25th

Haley Randolph, Health Educator – July 28th

Ashley Champ, Registrar/Special Projects Coordinator - August 4th

Brooke Howell, REHS - August 4th

Deborah Raney, Director of Health Education - August 31st

Important Dates:

June 19th: Juneteenth - Office Closed

July 3rd: Independence Day - Office Closed

July 21st: James Cancer Center Mobile Mammography Van at PCHD

July 20th - 25th: Perry County Fair

