

# PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS



MAY 2008

## IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

### Upper Sandusky

Mondays  
(by appointment)

Tuesdays  
4:30 to 6:00 PM

Fridays  
9:00 to 11:00 AM

1:00 to 4:00 PM

### Carey

May 12, 2008  
2:00 to 6:00 PM

### Sycamore

May 27, 2008  
2:00 to 6:00 PM

### Family Planning Clinics

May 1, 22, 29, 2008

### Teen & Family Clinic

May 8th, 2008

### WIC Clinic

Tues-Wed-Thurs  
8:30 to 4:30 PM

Call 419-294-3852  
for information on other  
clinics and services.

### Lead Testing

(by appointment)

## VACCINE NEWS

The results are in! Wyandot County Health Department immunization staff was informed at the April 21st AFIX meeting that the “up to date” immunization rates have increased from 81% “up to date” on December 1, 2007, to the department’s set goal of 85% by April 1st. Jean Aller, WCHD Director of Nursing has set a goal of 90% “up to date” for October 1, 2008.

WCHD continues in their efforts to better

enable their clients to immunize their children on time. The health department offers low cost immunizations, sends appointment reminders to clients for return visits, and offers incentives for “on time” start and completion of vaccines.

The relatively recent addition of a twice monthly Monday “appointment only” clinic gives parents and caregivers extra opportunities to immunize their children.

The health department informs the public of any changes in regards to immunizations via this public health newsletter, local news agencies and @ wyandothealth.com.

WCHD believes that the success rate with “on time” immunizations lies not in the hands of WCHD staff, but in the hands of all parents and caregivers who believe in the importance of vaccinations. Help us wipe out vaccine preventable disease. Thanks!

## MEMORIAL DAY

On May 5, 1868, in General Orders No. 11, General John Logan designated May 30, 1868 as the first Memorial Day. This day was set aside to give families, friends, and communities the opportunity to honor fallen soldiers of all ranks in all branches of the military. General Logan, in his orders, was not specific on ways to honor the fallen, leaving it open to interpretation. Most graves were decorated with flowers, hence the term

“Decoration Day”. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday and set for the last Monday in May. Communities honor soldiers of all wars with memorial services, speeches and parades. Graves are decorated with new American flags and flowers. Many families kick off the summer season on Memorial Day with backyard barbecues and other summer related activities. No matter how you celebrate your Memorial Day

this year, remember the meaning behind it. Do you know of a soldier’s grave that needs attended? How about a soldier that would love a visit or one that could use a hand? Maybe a soldier needs a ride to a medical appointment. This year, start a new tradition with your family and take the time to reach out to a soldier. Contact your local Veterans’ office for ways to honor military personnel in your area. Happy Memorial Day!

## WYANDOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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The Wyandot County Health Department is dedicated to the promotion and provision of equal access to affordable preventive health and safety services in order to positively impact the health and well-being of all citizens of Wyandot County.

## VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE

Have you ever wondered why the United States is one of the healthiest nations in the world? Perhaps it has something to do with the availability and implementation of vaccines for preventable diseases. Statistics procured from the Ohio Department of Health from 1997 through 2007 showed the following for the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases reported in Wyandot County: 1 meningitis, 1 mumps, 1 pertussis, 1 haemophilus influenzae, 6 hepatitis B, and 43 varicella.

The above numbers show the reported cases for persons of all ages. All of the above vaccines, with the exception of meningitis, are required for school entry and most day care situations. Children are offered the varicella vaccine on or after their 1st birthday, but parents sometimes wait to get the vaccine until it is required for school entry. In June, 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices began recommending a two step varicella vaccine: the first dose given at age one and the second dose given between the ages of 4 to 6 years.

WCHD continues to provide thimerosal free, low cost vaccines at all clinics listed on the front of this publication in an effort to keep Wyandot County healthy.

## WYANDOT COUNTY WIC NEWS

Ever wonder what Wyandot County WIC does? WELL... WIC helps clients and their families: find healthcare providers; connects them with Job and Family Services for employment opportunities, insurance, food stamps, cash assistance, child support, child care, tuition assistance, etc.; refers them to HHWP Community Action for housing and utility issues; and connects them with Head Start and area schools. WCHD staff nurses are on hand to offer immunizations to clients during a WIC visit. A certified lactation consultant is available for issues related to breastfeeding, including the breast pump program. Monthly breastfeeding support

group sessions are held at the local WIC office. WIC is available one evening a month to serve their working clients. Due to increasing gas prices, WIC staff attempts to coordinate all clients' appointments, especially those within the health department, inc. lead testing and car seats. Referrals are made to hearing, vision and dental clinics, the BCMH program, family planning clinic, interpreters, and New Baby programs. WIC clients rely on referrals to clothing closets and food pantries; domestic violence shelters; mental health providers; Voice of Hope and Bethel Home; and legal aid and victims assistance programs. WIC staff works closely with

OSU extension dietician Liz Smith, and the Help Me Grow and GRADS programs. Clients are steps away from Family and Children First Council, Salvation Army, the Adult Literacy program, and Crippled Children's Association. Information on Wyandot Memorial Hospital childbirth classes is available at the WIC office. Birth Certificate and social security information is available down the hall from the WIC office as well! WIC clients are given the opportunity to register to vote during a WIC visit. WIC staff runs a Farmers Market Program and participates in local health and fun fairs. So, if you were wondering... now you know!