

AUGUST 2006



PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WYANDOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PANDEMIC PREPARATION

"Pandemic", by definition, refers to a disease or epidemic that occurs affecting many people over a very large area, i.e., a country, continent, or even the world. Wyandot County Health Department staff continues to make preparations in the event of a pandemic outbreak by taking advantage of seminars, workshops, etc. Public awareness continues to be a critical component when dealing with a pandemic outbreak of any type. Individuals and families should prepare for any disaster, including a pandemic outbreak by gathering essential information

and resources that may be needed. Remember, during a disaster, water and food may be in short supply. Make sure you maintain an adequate supply for each person for at least three days. Check with your physician and/or insurance company if you can get an extra supply of essential prescription medications. Keep non-prescription drugs and other vital health supplies on hand. Talk to your family members, neighbors, and loved ones about their disaster preparedness plans. If you are in good health, volunteer your services to assist with emer-

gency response plans. Want to begin preparations at home? Begin by teaching your children germ and infection control methods. Show them the proper way to wash hands and remind them to wash their hands often. Remind them to cover their nose and mouths with tissues when coughing or sneezing. Instruct them to avoid contact with others if they are not feeling well and to stay home from school if they are sick. Info can be found on the web at www.wyandothealth.com via "Pandemic Disease Info".



IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

Hepatitis A vaccine is now a recommended vaccine for children 12 months to 18 years. This vaccine is now available at WCHD. ODH has given the go ahead for RotateQ, the new rotavirus vaccine given orally at 2, 4, & 6 months of age. This vaccine is currently available for VFC eligible children.

Wyandot County Health Department will begin giving the MMR/Varicella combination vaccine to eligible children as soon as the current supply of individual MMR & Varivax dwindles. As of July 1, 2006, WCHD requests \$8.00 for each non privately purchased vaccine. Look for

info on HPV vaccine and the recommendation of a varicella booster for 4 & 5 year olds in the next edition.

**REMEMBER:
VACCINES CAN BE
SAFELY GIVEN TO
CHILDREN WITH LOW
GRADE FEVERS AND
TO CHILDREN ON
ANTIBIOTICS.**

WYANDOT
COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
IMMUNIZATION
CLINICS:

UPPER
SANDUSKY
TUESDAYS:
4:30-6:00 PM
FRIDAYS:
9:00-11:00
AM
&
1:00-4:00 PM
CAREY
SENIOR DEPOT
AUGUST
14th 2:00-
6:00 PM
SYCAMORE
SENIOR CENTER
AUGUST
28th 2:00-6:00
PM
FAMILY
PLANNING
CLINICS*:
Wednesday
afternoons
TEEN & FAMILY
CLINIC*:
AUGUST 9th
WIC CLINIC*
Tues-Wed-Thurs
*call for
appointment !

LEAD UPDATE

CALLING ALL DOCS! Wyandot County Health Department recently lost grant approval for lead testing, however, WCHD did receive grant monies for lead education and outreach. What does all this mean? In a nutshell, WCHD will still be able to test for lead using the Lead Care Analyzer, but will be asking for a

charge of \$40.00 for this test. Medicaid is the only approved billable source of payment at the present time. Joan Kincade, R.N., lead program director, is researching other funds to offset the \$40.00 cost for families that do not have Medicaid and cannot afford to pay. Joan is also looking into alternate testing methods that are lower in cost as

well. Currently, WCHD offers lead testing for children ages 1 to 5 years old on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon. Hours may increase to include Fridays during immunization hours. Call Joan at (419) 294-3852 for more info.

**Head back to school
safely in September!**

GO FISH!

Fishing is a fabulously fun summer sport, enjoyed by people of all ages. Before setting off to your favorite fishing hole, please take a minute to review the following advice. Make sure that you are fishing in public water or have permission on private lands. Before you leave, apprise someone of your destination. Make sure that all fishermen are properly licensed. Wear a hat or glasses or sunglasses for sun (and hook!) protection. Teach children the buddy and remind them to keep their shoes

on. Set "no running" rules due to slick banks, etc. Look around before casting to be sure you are clear of all people and other obstructions. Anglers of all ages and swimming levels should wear a life flotation device. A long net is a must, not only to get the day, but to reach has fallen in or retrieve valuables from



the water. Take a first aid kit for cuts, scrapes, bites, and boo-boos. Take cold drinks for breaks remembering to refuel often in warmer weather. Protect against harmful sun rays! Wear sunscreen with a minimum spf of 15. Reapply often. Cover exposed areas with long billed hats, long sleeved shirts and long pants. Avoid fishing in the hot middle of the day. Ward off insects with repellent. Follow label directions carefully. Want to know if what you've caught is the catch of the day? Go to

MEDICAL HOME/IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

During a three week period in May and June, the Wyandot County Health Department conducted a medical home survey polling the clients that visited the health department. Out of the 88 surveys that were returned, 93% of persons (93%) responded that they had medical insurance. 99% of those who claimed that they



have a physician and 93% stated that they did not have any problems when they needed an appointment with their physician for their child. 48% stated that they had to take their child to the emergency room for an illness when they could not get into their physician. During this same time period, a survey of our immunization clinics was completed. Out of the 49 people who completed the survey, 98% stated that they were completely satisfied with their visit. The one person who was not satisfied stated that they did not like paying

\$7.00 (currently, immunization donations are \$8.00 per vaccine) for each shot when others receive them for free. All survey respondents stated that the clinic locations in Carey, Sycamore, and Upper Sandusky were convenient. Positive comments included: a friendly and helpful staff, the quickness of the service, the cost, and other information that is available in the (Upper Sandusky) clinic room. Comments regarding improvements included: a drive thru service, free cappuccino, less pain, and cheaper cost.