



HEALTH
Department

Quarter 3 Board of Commissioners' Update

Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

ACHD Activities during the most recently concluded quarter (2024 Q3)

CEA Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program Approval: In September 2024, ACHD received notice that the ACHD has passed review of the SESC program. The approval of this program was started in 2021 and 2022. ACHD received notice that there were areas to correct in 2022 and have been working hard to fix those deficiencies since.

The FETCH EH contract has been finalized, and work has started: FETCH EH will be used for Food and Field Programs.

- On September 3rd the Environmental Health (EH) Field Team began using FETCH EH for all incoming applications. The Team has been doing well learning the new software. The EH Food Team will begin implementing the software in the 4th quarter.

Accreditation: Accreditation with the State of Michigan took place in September. Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and ACHD staff received recognition for the hard work they did during and after the pandemic. While the final report is received, ACHD will incorporate the positive and constructive feedback into daily operations.

Public Education Outreach: The Health Education Team attended several community events during Q3. These events included the Allegan Sidewalk Sales, Senior Day at the Fair, The Art of Recovery, and the Prepare Fair. The team provided information regarding ACHD services and education materials related to important health topics such as nutrition, vector-borne diseases, environmental health, immunizations, and emergency preparedness.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): This program has seen a dramatic increase in use in 2024.

- Car traffic:
 - In 2023 there was a total of 404 cars that visited events. For 2024, those numbers increased to 586 cars which is an increase of 45% in overall visitor traffic.
 - Hardings/May 2023: 204 cars -> Hardings/May 2024: 280 cars (Increase of 37%)
 - Human Services Building/June 2023: 102 cars -> HSB/June 2024: 142 cars (Increase of 37%)
 - Otsego DPW/Oct 2023: 98 cars -> Otsego DPW/Oct 2024: 164 cars (Increase of 68%)
- Room Pickups:
 - 2023 pounds collected: 11,991 pounds (did not include 4th quarter numbers for comparison purposes) -> 2024 pounds collected: 15,885 pounds (Increase of 31%)
- Opening this program to serve all residents within the county has been met with tremendous support.
- The manager of the City of Fennville has reached out with an offer to host a HHW event on a city owned site in 2025. Plans are being made to utilize this site so residents within lakeshore communities may be better served geographically. This addition will allow for an event on the west side of the county where predominately they have been held on the east side to serve participating municipalities.



HEALTH Department

ACHD Activities Forecast for Quarter Ahead (2024 Q4)

Respiratory Virus Season: ACHD is preparing for flu and cold season, which typically begins in October. Public education is underway to remind people to stay home when ill, the basics of cough etiquette, and the importance of immunization to protect themselves and loved ones from influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and other respiratory illnesses.

Emergency Planning & Preparedness: ACHD staff will be fit tested for N95 respirators to ensure compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Senior ACHD staff will attend ICS 300 and 400 courses, which are mandatory to ensure compliance with National Incident Management System requirements. Fit testing and ICS training ensure ACHD staff can promptly and effectively respond to a variety of emergency situations in our communities should the need arise.

Anticipated Public Health Situations in Year Ahead

Ground Water Study:

- Report from the Ground Water Study workgroup is ready for distribution. Will highlight the major findings of the study, areas of protentional risk in the county, and possible actions to be taken in the future.
- Monitoring wells are being installed in the 3rd and 4th quarter. There have been approximately 4 of 7 installed as of the time of this report.
- The 2nd of two workshops is scheduled for October 29th.
- Ground water education is in the planning stages. The goal is to education residents in the community about the importance of groundwater and how to use resources wisely.

Training and Preparation for Palisades Restart – Efforts to recommission Palisades Nuclear Plant in Covert, MI are underway. In preparation for the plant’s reopening, ACHD staff are working closely with Allegan County’s Emergency Manager, law enforcement, and other local, state, and federal partners to make sure we are all prepared for potential emergency events. Training and communication will continue well into the next year.

Pertussis on the Rise – Cases of Pertussis, also known as Whooping Cough, have been on the rise in both Michigan and in Allegan County, as seen in the tables below. Pertussis is a bacterial infection that spreads through coughing and sneezing. It spreads easily, often without people realizing they are sick. Pertussis is most dangerous for babies younger than 1 year old, and individuals who are immunocompromised or have severe asthma. As vaccine rates decline, more cases of Pertussis are expected in the community, causing children to miss school and childcare, and possibly severe complications in vulnerable populations.

Pertussis Cases:	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Allegan County	0	0	0	0	11
Region 5	11	2	2	10	51
State of Michigan	154	72	85	97	664

Allegan County Cases:

Disease	Cases Reported in Last 4 Months				Cases Reported Through September**			
	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pertussis	1	2	-	5	-	-	-	11