



HEALTH
Department

Quarter 1 Board of Commissioners' Update

Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

ACHD Activities during the most recently concluded quarter (2025 Q1)

Groundwater Education Project: Throughout Q1 ACHD staff worked to finalize a groundwater education brochure to assist in educating the public on groundwater and amplifying the advancements made by the Groundwater Study Work Group. In addition to the brochure, ACHD is developing a webpage to serve as a clearinghouse for all groundwater information and resources. The webpage can be located here <https://www.allegancounty.org/health/environmental-health/surface-and-groundwater/groundwater-education>

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): ACHD worked closely with CHNA partners Ascension and the Allegan County Community Foundation to analyze data collected throughout 2024. These findings were presented to the Multi-Agency Community Collaborative Council on March 26th at Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital. The CHNA document was drafted and will be published in Q2 of 2025.

Emergency Planning & Preparedness Drills: The ACHD participated in the 2025 Michigan Volunteer Registry (MVR) Drill on February 18-20, which was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, EM, and Systems of Care (BEPESoC). The drill aimed to test administrators' abilities to query volunteers, navigate the MVR website, and perform a volunteer callout.

ACHD Activities Forecast for Quarter Ahead (2025 Q2)

Emergency Planning & Preparedness Drill: On April 16th, the Michigan Strategic National Stockpile (MISNS) exercise will take place. This exercise will test the surge capacity of the Michigan Strategic National Stockpile (MISNS) SharePoint Site through ongoing requests by local agencies for emergency medical countermeasures (MCM) received by the State of Michigan via the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). It is intended for Local Health Departments (LHDs) and hospitals to demonstrate proficiency in both medical countermeasure selection and justifying need.

Allegan County Beach Monitoring: ACHD will begin beach monitoring 8 beaches in Allegan County Memorial Day Week. This includes 4 in-land and 4 Great Lakes beaches. ACHD staff take water samples at these beaches weekly to look for elevated levels of *E. Coli*. All sample results will be posted on <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home>

ACHD Outreach Events: ACHD staff will participate in a variety of partnership events during Q2. Staff are currently signed up to attend The Gun Lake Health Fair, Bridge Fest, and The Allegan County Senior Expo. Staff will pass out information about ACHD services and answer questions from the public.



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Tire and Household Hazardous Waste Collection – ACHD has two upcoming events taking place in Q2. All events are open to residents in Allegan County. These events have been very popular in 2024, with increased participation up to 36% in some programs.

Event Dates:

- **Tire Collection**
 - Tuesday, April 22nd – 9 am – 12 pm
 - Otsego DPW – 243 N Farmer St, Otsego
- **Household Hazardous Waste**
 - Saturday, May 3rd – 9am-12pm
 - Hardings Wayland – 300 Reno Dr, Wayland

Anticipated Public Health Situations in Year Ahead

Measles Cases in Michigan – There have been 7 confirmed cases of measles in Michigan thus far in 2025. Measles is a highly contagious virus with a 90% attack rate in susceptible people. Measles was declared “eliminated” in the United States in 2000, meaning the US does not normally see outbreaks. Currently, there are multi-state outbreaks of measles in communities where immunity rates have fallen.

ACHD is preparing to respond to measles if it appears in our communities. Preparation includes educating schools and partners, updating internal policies and procedures, and ensuring staff are properly trained to respond to potential cases.

Increased Demand for Environmental Health Services – At the end of the Q1 for 2025, demand for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control permits is 47.5% ahead of 2024. This is just part of the recent trend where demand for environmental health services, including well and septic permits, has continued to increase. ACHD is currently filling some vacant positions to ensure demand and customer expectations can be met, but the consistent flow of applications speaks to the development taking place in Allegan County.