



**HEALTH**  
Department

## Quarter 2 Board of Commissioners' Update

### Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

#### ACHD Activities During the Most Recently Concluded Quarter (2025 Q2)

**ACHD Measles Case Response:** The ACHD had a confirmed measles case in June. This marked the first confirmed case in the county in 2025. The Communicable Disease (CD) Team conducted case investigations and contact tracing for the case. The ACHD collaborated with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) and Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) for unified public messaging, contact notification, and surveillance. The ACHD's Communications Team interfaced with the KCHD Public Information Officer to issue a joint press release to notify the public of areas where exposures may have occurred. The release also included educational resources, as well as contact information. Potentially exposed Allegan County Residents were monitored by the ACHD CD Team. ACHD's Immunization Team also offered consultation regarding immunity status and vaccinations for Allegan County Residents.

**Palisades Decontamination Center Drills:** Several ACHD staff members participated in the radiological emergency response drills and FEMA-graded exercises coordinated by Allegan County Emergency Management. ACHD staff were responsible for issuing dosimetry, calibrating instruments, conducting the safety briefing, and tracking worker doses. The ACHD also staffed a station within the decontamination line and provided public reception. The drills and exercises occurred at Otsego High School and the Fennville Athletic Center.

**Environmental Health Department, New Team Members:** The EH Department has filled five (5) positions in the quarter. These positions vary from EH Food Team Sanitarians, EH Public Health Technicians and Groundwater Specialist. We are excited to have these positions filled and look forward to these Teams Members fully trained and working in their respective fields of expertise.

**Environmental Health Field Team, Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Private and Type III Field Audit:** In June, the EH Field Team was audited by EGLE for the Private and Type III Well field audit. The Team, some of whom participated in this audit for their first one, received a great report for their permitting and final inspections, and overall had a successful audit.

#### ACHD Activities Forecast for Quarter Ahead (2025 Q3)

**Vector Monitoring:** ACHD will continue monitoring for mosquitos and ticks throughout the summer season. This monitoring includes setting mosquito traps and performing tick drags. Any deer/black legged ticks will be sent in, at the end of the season, for testing of Lyme disease. The results will not be known until next year. In 2024, 1 out 5 deer ticks tested positive for Lyme disease. Allegan County residents are welcome to contact the ACHD with questions and tick pictures.

**Gearing Up for the Allegan County Fair:** The ACHD EH Food Team will be inspecting all of the food vendors at the Fair. The EH Food Team has been performing these inspections for the past 3 years. There are



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approximately 60 – 65 food vendors that need to be inspected prior to serving the public. Inspections ensure that vendors are meeting health safety measures to keep everyone safe at the fair.

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events:** The next HHW collection will be held on October 4, 2025, at the Otsego Department of Public Works 243 N. Farmer St, Otsego from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. This event is open to all Allegan County residents, and we encourage people to stop by with any household hazardous waste or electronic waste.

**Rabies Exposure Monitoring:** In the U.S., rabies is mostly found in wild animals such as bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. There is also a rabies risk with dog and cat bites which traditionally spike in the summer months. If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential exposure to rabies, the virus can infect the brain and result in death. As of June 30 2025, ACHD has conducted 124 rabies exposure investigations – 23 of those clients began post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is up from 2024 data collected for the same time range of 93 investigations and 10 clients on PEP. There has been one rabies positive bat identified in Allegan County in 2025. For a comprehensive report please see [State of Michigan Rabies Report 2025](#) .

### Anticipated Public Health Situations in Year Ahead

**School Readiness Preparation:** ACHD is gearing up for the 2025/2026 school year. This includes attending kindergarten round-ups to perform hearing and vision screenings, dental exams, and vaccine readiness, as well as performing these services in the office for clients of all ages. ACHD also meets with school staff and daycares to train these entities on how to report communicable diseases and student/child vaccine status.

**Downsizing the Community Links Program:** ACHD is downsizing its Community Links program due to funding not being extended into 2025/2026, as well as staff members leaving for other career opportunities. This program provided referrals, assistance, and information on various community services. ACHD staff will still provide referrals and information on community resources, but will no longer be able to provide hands-on guidance due to staffing capacity.