



annual report 2009



GREETINGS FROM YOUR HEALTH COMMISSIONER

This past year was a defining moment in public health.

As last year's Annual Report was about to be published in April, we were faced with an H1N1 pandemic that would change the world – and set the stage for our public health efforts here in central Ohio. We only had one chance to get it right.

In greater Columbus, people were getting sick – with hospitals, physicians, and urgent cares experiencing huge number of patients – and residents were looking to us to slow the spread of H1N1 and protect as many people as possible. We had to come on strong and then scale back as we learned more. Not to do so would have been far too costly.

Columbus Public Health staff was asked to step up – and step up they did! When we unexpectedly found that public health was the only source of vaccine in central Ohio, we worked 24/7 and did whatever was necessary to protect our residents. In the fall, we educated, immunized and protected thousands of people while continuing to



provide other vital services people need, including: TB; women's services; vital statistics; immunizations; WIC; and, food safety.

Thankfully, we did not have to work alone. We've always known that health is not a solo act, but this past year reinforced the importance of strong partnerships. We worked collaboratively with the private sector, government, community agencies and the media with the common purpose of keeping people healthy and safe.

We continue to build upon these partnerships as we plan for future challenges and the health protection of our residents. Columbus Public Health remains committed to narrowing the gap and eliminating health disparities so that everyone in our community has the same opportunity for good health. And, we'll also continue to combat obesity by working to provide our residents the information – and opportunities – they need to positively impact health.

We don't know what new emerging health needs, disasters or pandemics like H1N1 we may face, but thanks to the partnerships we've formed and the lessons we learned this past year, we will be ready to help people live healthier and safer lives no matter what.

Yours in good health,

Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

Photographs

Page 1: *Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa Long outside an H1N1 clinic held at Ohio Historical Society. Reprinted, with permission, from the Columbus Dispatch.*

Page 2: *BikeColumbus riders start their two-wheeled trek through the streets of Columbus.*

Page 5: *Representatives from Columbus Public Health's Food Protection Program accept the prestigious 2009 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award for Excellence in Food Protection.*

Page 6: *Local community members participating in a forum organized by the Columbus Local Office of Minority Health; Mayor Coleman and Dr. Teresa Long promoting healthier choices at a local Kentucky Fried Chicken.*

HEALTHIER, SAFER FAMILIES

- Increased access to nutritious foods to a monthly average of 37,671 pregnant, breastfeeding and recently postpartum women, infants and children through the WIC program.
- Provided care to 856 pregnant women and new mothers.
- Conducted more than 12,055 dental procedures through more than 4,700 patient visits.
- Helped 69% of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program clients achieve sobriety for at least 60 days.
- Provided 22,942 immunizations to protect Columbus residents against vaccine preventable diseases.
- Quarantined or tested 1,453 animals for rabies.
- Investigated 3,082 reports of communicable disease, representing 42 different diseases.
- Inspected 451 child safety seats, correcting misuse of the 86% that were improperly installed to protect kids from injuries.
- Screened 15,067 children for lead poisoning.
- Improved nutrition and increased physical activity for more than 400 children in 23 pre-Kindergarten classrooms in Columbus City Schools.
- Examined and treated 9,105 individuals to control sexually transmitted diseases.
- Conducted 13,000 patient visits for the treatment of tuberculosis, plus 10,500 outreach/education visits.
- Provided nearly 100 taxi rides home from local bars to help prevent impaired driving.
- Provided intervention to 361 families whose children were at risk for abuse and neglect.
- Conducted 24 community forums to address health disparities in Columbus.
- Coordinated and participated in 25 exercises to prepare for possible natural, accidental or terrorist threats.
- Completed 12,871 inspections of food facilities, such as restaurants and mobile food carts.

HEALTHIER, SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

- Improved access to fresh food through three Farmers' Markets attended by more than 9,500 residents.
- Created walking maps for 15 city neighborhoods, giving residents access to safe, convenient walking options.
- Closely monitored signs of flu in Columbus and reported weekly to health officials.
- Reached 112 organizations enrolled in the Worksite Wellness Network, totaling 214,930 employees.
- Treated hundreds of areas for disease carrying mosquitoes, and getting rid of nearly 200 sources of West Nile Virus.
- Ensured safe water facilities by inspecting and licensing 756 pools and spas.
- Registered 24,366 births and 10,941 deaths in Franklin County, and issued 102,711 birth and death certificates.
- Facilitated three Community Health Advisory Committees and established a new North Side committee.
- Held Food Safety Education classes in English, Spanish and Chinese, educating nearly 2,000 food service workers.
- Inspected 273 schools and institutions to protect the health and safety of children.
- Held the BikeColumbus Event with 200 bikers, raising more than \$30,000 for the Institute for Active Living Foundation.
- Helped create a system where food is grown, harvested, prepared and eaten within a Linden area neighborhood.



H1N1 a local response to a global pandemic

In early 2009, pandemic H1N1 first emerged as a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009.

It was originally referred to as “swine flu” because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs (swine) in North America. Later, it was termed H1N1 because further testing showed this flu strain was made up of bird (avian), swine and human flu viruses.

Columbus faced a complicated public health crisis, as did the rest of the U.S. and countries across the world. Not knowing how deadly this flu virus would be, public health implemented plans created for bird flu, a fairly deadly virus, and readjusted as more was known about H1N1.

“When you are faced with a pandemic, you do not get a second chance to get it right. You come on strong, and scale back as needed,” explains Dr. Teresa Long, Columbus Health Commissioner.

Slowing the spread of flu became the shared responsibility of many partners in the community, including healthcare, hospitals, schools, universities, volunteer organizations, businesses and others.

Before vaccine became available, critical flu prevention measures included getting a seasonal flu shot, hand washing, covering your cough, and staying home when sick.

Once vaccine became available in October, Columbus Public Health began community vaccination clinics to

protect large numbers of people as quickly and efficiently as possible. Initially, vaccine supply was limited and efforts were focused on vaccinating people determined to be at the highest risk for complications from flu illness, like pregnant women and children. As vaccine supply became plentiful, clinics opened up to everyone by December 2009.

Public information campaigns were critical to explain about the vaccine, especially its safety. Web-based calendars, Twitter and Facebook helped share information quickly and special efforts were made to reach vulnerable people in neighborhoods with typically lower vaccination rates.

By the end of February 2010, Columbus Public Health alone had vaccinated more than 45,000 people. It is anticipated that next year’s flu vaccine will contain components of the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. Health officials continue to monitor flu-like illness and plan for the next flu season.





Photographs, clockwise beginning top left: An esteemed group of minority leaders and physicians met at Columbus Public Health for a press conference; A young girl gets her first dose of the H1N1 vaccine as a nasal spray; H1N1 vaccine is prepared for clients at an H1N1 clinic; Dr. Mysheika LeMaile-Williams, Columbus Public Health's Medical Director, prepares for a public service announcement; A local mother receives the H1N1 vaccine at Veteran's Memorial.



OUR “TOPS” LIST: 2009 RECOGNITIONS

Model Program for Infant Safe Sleep

Franklin County Infant Safe Sleep and SIDS Reduction Task Force received two national recognitions for being a model to other programs.

Top Program for Childhood Obesity Prevention

The Healthy Children, Healthy Weights Program was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of the top eleven community programs in the nation for the prevention of childhood overweight and obesity.

2009 BOARD OF HEALTH



Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH

Professor & Director
Faculty Development
College of Public Health
The Ohio State University



Martin S. Seltzer, JD, PhD

Attorney at Law
Porter, Wright, Morris and Arthur, LLP



Augustus G. Parker III, MD

President & Founder
Columbus Women's Care, Inc.
Director of Mt. Carmel Obstetrical &
Gynecology Clinical Services



John H. Boxill, MA

Chief Operating Officer
New Salem Baptist Missionary



Karen Jefferson Morrison, JD, MS

President, OhioHealth Foundation
Senior Vice President, External Affairs

Number 1 in Food Protection

City of Columbus/Public Health won a national award for its excellence in food protection – the 2009 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award for Excellence in Food Protection.

Columbus Public Health received the award for its innovative and effective strategies to protect residents and visitors from



food borne illnesses. Specifically, it was recognized for the use of the color-coded restaurant SIGNS program, its focus on education and outreach through multilingual efforts, and its partnership with community and industry.

2009 BUDGET

Total Receipts by Source - \$40,850,157

Grants - \$17,412,245 (42.6%)
General Fund Subsidy - \$16,364,837 (40.1%)
Environmental Health Fees - \$3,120,779 (7.7%)
Vital Statistic Fees - \$1,998,718 (4.9%)
Clinic Fees - \$1,362,802 (3.3%)
Other Fees - \$590,776 (1.4%)

Total Expenditures by Division - \$40,971,157

Maternal & Child Health - \$9,614,806 (23.5%)
Administration - \$8,419,882 (20.6%)
Infectious Diseases - \$8,036,255 (19.6%)
Neighborhood Health Centers Support - \$4,801,358 (11.7%)
Community Health - \$4,382,997 (10.7%)
Environmental Health - \$4,186,641 (10.2%)
Planning & Peak Performance - \$1,529,218 (3.7%)

Total Expenditures by Category - \$40,971,157

Personnel - \$28,171,977 (68.8%)
Services for Operations - \$5,930,405 (14.5%)
Neighborhood Health Centers Support - \$4,801,358 (11.7%)
Capital Outlay (\$27,150) & Other Disbursements
(\$1,133,037) - \$1,160,187 (2.8%)
Materials & Supplies - \$907,229 (2.2%)

LOCAL CONVERSATIONS ON MINORITY HEALTH

This past year, the Columbus Local Office of Minority Health brought together members of the community to lay out a plan toward ending health disparities – the gap found in rates of disease, health outcomes and access to healthcare found between minorities and Caucasians.

This community forum examined community resources and gaps, services, and the infrastructure needed to make long-term change. The audience consisted of a broad range of local leaders, organizations, and sectors.



The group outlined strategies for change as part of a plan of action to move Columbus toward a goal of health equity among different populations of people. As with other Ohio cities, the resulting plan becomes part of a national blueprint for the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities.

This action builds on years of work by Columbus Public Health and other community organizations to effect long-term change.

Where we are born, live and work profoundly affect our health in many ways, making some people more at risk than others for things like heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and even cancer.

Providing more opportunity, training for better jobs, investing in schools, and improving housing are as much strategies for better health as diet, smoking, and exercise.

Because the choices we make are shaped by the choices we have, Columbus Public Health and many partners are working toward making better choices possible for all Columbus residents.

NEW IN 2010: HEALTHIER CHOICES MADE EASIER

In an effort to fight against childhood obesity and related conditions such as diabetes, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced the formation of a new Healthier Choices Committee.

The committee will focus on exploring options to give consumers healthier menu options, as well as information about what they are eating.

Chaired by Columbus Public Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa C. Long, the committee will include representatives from Bob Evans, Donatos Pizza, White Castle, the Central Ohio Restaurant Association, consumers and other restaurant representatives.

During the most recent school year, 43 percent of kindergartners, 40 percent of third graders and 46 percent of fifth graders were overweight. Additionally, six out of every 10 adults in the city are overweight, with three out of



10 obese. More than 7 percent of Columbus adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, and the rate is almost twice as high among blacks compared to whites.

“Obesity and related conditions such as diabetes and heart disease threaten a whole new generation of our children,” said Dr. Long. “In addition to giving people the information they need, we also want to help parents embrace healthier choices.”




**Columbus
Public Health**
Healthier, Safer People



City of Columbus
 Michael B. Coleman,
 Mayor

240 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.publichealth.columbus.gov

