

## Personal Health - Peggy Shaul-Norman

- Starting January 2019 we offered Birthing Classes at the Health Department as two 3-hour evening classes or one 6-hour class offered on a select Saturday per month. The class followed Maternal Infant Health and Medicaid guidelines and was billable to Medicaid and Blue Cross. This was a tremendous service to Ionia County residents as the nearest prenatal classes are in Grand Rapids or Lansing. Classes were also available in the home for bed-ridden expectant mothers who are unable to travel.
- Hepatitis A vaccine continues to be distributed to high risk individuals and those needing the second dose of vaccine; this includes incarcerated individuals at the jail, persons participating in Drug Court, and clients at Right Door. The only large vaccination event in 2019 was to offer vaccine to Ionia Free Fair employees and attendees.
- Communicable Disease (CD) continues to work on the increase of STDs in Ionia County. Our action plan included awareness, e.g., social media, press releases, and distribution of information and condoms to healthcare providers.
- Our new Medical Director Dr. Shoyinka is becoming acquainted with HD personnel, processes, and procedures. Staff are impressed at how fast Doctor responds to ICHD questions, calls, and messages.
- ICHD entered into an MOU with Mid-Michigan District Health Department to share coverage for International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC). Both Health Departments benefit from this agreement.

### 2019 Highlights:

WIC Average Monthly Participation	1382	Hearing Screenings	3445
Immunizations (includes Flu)	2720	Vision Screenings	3633
Maternal Infant Health Program Site Visits	527	Animal Bites Reported	236
Communicable Disease Cases (included STD)	432		

## Community Health - Debbie Thalison

- On behalf of the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative (ICSAI), staff facilitated a number of training events and classes for community members including, Teen Intervene , Parenting Wisely, and TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures).
- The coalition received funding through the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant which made it possible to purchase Naloxone/Narcan to distribute, and to purchase an enclosed trailer and supplies to create a Hidden in Plain Sight trailer (HIPS).
- Provided Human Trafficking training and Drug Use Recognition Training for local professionals.
- Distributed vendor education packets face-to-face to all local establishments.
- Partnered with Michigan Tobacco Investigators to inspect 26% of tobacco vendors in Ionia County.
- Collaborated with B Safe Driving School and Saranac driving class, providing students with impaired driving presentation opportunities/information. A total of 15 sessions were held, with 254 students in attendance.
- Partnered with local law enforcement officials to promote proper prescription drug disposal and promoted the (4) medication drop boxes available in the county.
- Received a grant from Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) partnering with Ionia Intermediate School District (ISD) to provide Medical Marijuana Overview training for medical and law enforcement professionals.
- A total of 290 youth participated in the Gambling Disorder Prevalence Study in Ionia County.



# Ionia County Health Department

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**We empower residents to live long and healthy lives by protecting the environment, providing health services, and educating the public to achieve positive health outcomes.**

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## Letter to the Community

It is with great pride that the Ionia County Health Department presents our 2019 Annual Report. When you look through this report, you will see the vast array of important services that ICHD provides to the citizens of Ionia County.

While we are proud of the efficient and professional way in which we provide services, we are constantly looking for new services to provide and ways to improve existing services. You will see evidence of that in this report.

We had two standout events in 2019. The first was the threat of a Chlorine gas release in Belding. We spent several months working closely with the City of Belding and State agencies to mitigate this threat. The second event was our receipt of the 2019 Director's Award from MDHHS. The award was given in recognition of our work with the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative.

The staff of ICHD will continue to look to the future of public health while staying firmly grounded in the present. As always, our focus will be squarely on preventing disease, protecting public health, and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

**Ken Bowen, REHS, MS**

## Ionia County Health Department Staff

Ken Bowen, REHS, MS  
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 Mark Novak, REHS, RS

Health Officer  
 Public Health Nurse  
 Public Health Nurse  
 Environmental Sanitarian  
 Certified Hearing Technician  
 Breastfeeding Peer Counselor  
 Administrative Secretary  
 Outreach Worker  
 Outreach Worker  
 Office Manager  
 Public Health Nurse  
 Medical Director  
 Environmental Sanitarian

Jason Petersen, BS  
 Deb Pung, BSN  
 Peggy Shaull-Norman, RN, MSN, MBA  
 Chad Shaw, BBA  
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 Chris Simon, RN  
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 Gayle Stevenson  
 Sarah Tahvonen, LLMSW, RAC, RCS  
 Deb Thalison, MA, CCS-M, ICCJP, CPC-M  
 Melinda Theisen  
 Ashley Wardell

Environmental Sanitarian  
 Public Health Nurse  
 Personal Health Director  
 Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
 Administrative Secretary  
 Public Health Nurse  
 Registered Dietitian  
 Certified Vision Technician  
 Social Worker  
 Community Health Supervisor  
 Outreach Worker  
 Program Technician

## Environmental Health

- Responded to incoming PFAS sample results around the county. We provided resources and held community meetings to educate and answer resident questions.
- Participated in a Vapor Intrusion investigation in Ionia.
- Worked with multiple public water supplies to resolve positive coliform bacteria sample results.
- Conducted door-knocking in Belding with MDHHS in response to the KMI Chlorine emergency.
- Noted an increase in septic failures (older existing system failures) and septic complaints
- Worked with public water supplies to resolve high lead results.
- Gave bed bug presentations to other agencies.
- Issued cease and desist orders for illegal internet food sales and illegal body art operations.
- Helped train a new Sanitarians from other Health Departments as a courtesy to our colleagues.
- Facilitated 3 Food Safety Manager Training Courses for county businesses.
- Provided norovirus disinfection guidelines to all food establishments, licensed daycares, adult foster care homes, and schools.

Complaints Received (All)	108	Public Swimming Pools Inspected	12
Methamphetamine Investigations	0	Septic Permits Issued	157
Food Illness Investigations	18	Well Permits Issued	176
Routine Food Inspections	355	Land Evaluations	114
Temporary Food Inspections	52	Radon Kits Distributed	64

## Emergency Preparedness - Chad Shaw

We have begun the process of re-recognition for national Project Public Health Ready accreditation through the National Association of City and County Health Officials. This endeavor was initially completed in 2014 and requires resubmission every 5 years. The process entails improving our response plans based on best practices performed by health departments around the United States and making them fit best for our community. We are one of a few counties in the state that currently hold these credentials.

We have been quite busy with public outreach and education due to prolonged events. We continue to provide outreach and vaccinations for the nationwide Hepatitis A and measles outbreaks in order to prevent further spread. Part of this is tracking vaccinations given to the five at-risk groups most likely to come into contact with the Hepatitis A. We send weekly updates to the state on the clinics we perform to best support our local community.

This year was rather busy in regards to the Emergency Preparedness program. We had continued response to ongoing public health events that have occurred throughout the county. These responses include PFAS investigations and remediation, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and harmful algal blooms in local lakes. We also had a major emergency response to the threat of a Chlorine gas release. We end 2019 with influenza season and have been following this year's impact closely as well as sharing best practices for avoidance of the flu throughout the community. There have been many cases this year so it was important to get the word out on the necessity to vaccinate. We have also been intently focusing on the Novel Coronavirus that has been declared a National Public Health Emergency and preparing for if we begin to see potential cases in Michigan.



**Ionia County Board of Commissioners:**  
 David Hodges \* Larry Tiejema \* Karen L Banks \* Chris Bredice \*  
 \* Scott Wirtz \* Jack Shattuck \* Georgia Sharp

**County Administrator:**  
 Stephanie Hurlbut

## 2019 Financials

