Seneca County General Health District

Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 3, 2026 | VOLUME 36

SENECA COUNTY General Health District
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

WHAT'S GOING AROUND

Each month, SCGHD's epidemiologist outlines illnesses with the highest activity in Seneca County.

In March, a total of 34 disease cases were reported. Of these, 27 were confirmed and two investigations are ongoing.

Of the 27 probable/confirmed cases, five (19%) were chlamydia, one was a COVID-19 hospitalization, four were influenza-associated hospitalizations, and six were RSV hospitalizations. This means that roughly 41% of cases counted for March were hospitalizations from various respiratory diseases.

In March, there were also four different enteric (food or water-borne) disease cases and seven cases of different bacterial and viral diseases.

To help prevent respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay home and limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way. Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets that could make others sick.

Influenza activity in the county is currently LOW

COMPLEX MEDICAL HELP PROGRAM

Do you have or know of a child with a special health care need? The Complex Medical Help program (CMH) may be able to provide assistance!

CMH is a health care program at SCGHD that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers. It also helps families obtain payments for services their child needs.

Through the CMH program, public health nurses make home visits, do health and family assessments, provide coordination of care, and help families in implementing the child's plan of care. They also provide emotional support, education, and referral to other needed services.

Want to learn more?
Call (419) 447-3691 ext. 6358

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Kelly Thom has been selected as SCGHD's Employee of the Month.

Kelly is a fiscal specialist at the health district and was nominated by a co-worker for being a dedicated, knowledgeable, and reliable employee.

"Not only is she a hard worker, but she also has a great work ethic," her co-worker said. "Kelly demonstrates an exceptional understanding in her role, ensuring that her job duties are accurate, processed in a timely manner and completed with high accuracy. Kelly is a great asset to the health department."

SCGHD'S NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Meet James Richard M.D., SCGHD's new medical director!

Dr. Richard, a Fostoria native, stepped into the medical director role in January, soon after the retirement of previous medical director Dr. Wesley Hedges.

Dr. Richard has a lengthy medical background, including providing medical care locally and internationally to several underserved populations. He currently works for Community Health Services, where he serves the migrant population in Willard.

"We're so excited to have Dr. Richard as our medical director," said Seneca County Health Commissioner Julie Richards. "He has already played such a vital role in the health district's mission of preventing disease and promoting wellness, including providing medical services at health events in Fostoria and Tiffin."

SCGHD's medical director serves as the chief medical officer at the health district, providing clinical oversight, strategic direction, and expert consultation to ensure that public health programs are evidence-based, legally compliant, and community-focused. This leadership role is pivotal in advancing health and wellness of residents across Seneca County through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy.

Dr. James Richard poses with Seneca County Commissioner Julie Richards (upper left) and checks a patient's blood pressure at a recent health event (upper right). To the left, he poses with several SCGHD staff members.

SANDUSKY AND SENECA COUNTIES'

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

MONDAYS

9:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

92 E. PERRY ST. TIFFIN

Services available for men & women of all ages !

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- *Examinations by Licensed Healthcare Professionals*
- *Pap Tests & Screening for Cervical Cancer*
- *Birth Control Options*
- *STD Testing & Treatment*
- *HIV Testing & Counseling*
- *PrEP – HIV pre-exposure protection*
- *Patient Education & Counseling*
- *Pregnancy Testing*

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL: 1 (800) 524-7171

STI AWARENESS MONTH

April is STI Awareness Month. Did you know millions of new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in the United States?

Many STIs have no symptoms or may only cause mild symptoms, so people can have an infection but not know it. That's why testing is important to protect your health if you're sexually active. If you do receive a positive STI diagnosis, know that all STI's are treatable with medicine and some can be cured entirely.

To learn more about STI Awareness Month and to test your knowledge about STIs, click here