



**KENT CITY  
HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT  
2018  
Annual Report**

# Members of the Board



Joan Seidel	Term Expires 08/16/2020
Michelle Frederick	Term Expires 09/21/2021
Christopher Woolverton	Term Expires 04/20/2022
Emily Mattern	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Pamela Ferguson	Term Expires 12/31/2024
Jack Amrhein	Council Appointment
Jeff Neistadt	Health Commissioner

## Medical Director- Dr. Kirk A. Stiffler, MD, MPH

### Mission

Through public health services prevent disease and injury, promote positive health, and connect city of Kent residents to public health services in order to improve the overall health status of the community.

### Vision

Elevate the public health status of the city of Kent residents through the promotion of health equity and the prevention of acute and chronic health conditions and injuries. Whenever possible, employ strategies, policies, and interventions to promote positive health outcomes and reduce health disparities in our community.

### Core Values

Accountability, Community Service, Education, Partnerships, Protection

## Kent City Health Department

414 East Main Street  
 P.O. Box 5192  
 Kent, Ohio 44240  
 330-678-8109

2018 Annual Report Table of Contents	
Overview	3
Communicable Disease	3
Accreditation	4
Vital Statistics	5
Immunizations	5
Mosquito Program	6
Food Safety	7
Rabies Investigation	8
Bed Bug Investigations	9
School Inspections	9
Housing	10
Solid Waste	11
Swimming Pools & Spas	12
Tattoo and Body Piercing	12

# Overview of

# Operations

The Kent City Health Department provides public health-related services to citizens within the city limits of Kent, Ohio. These services include:

- Annual Licensing and Inspection of Restaurants, Vending Machines, Public Swimming Pools and Spas, Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments, Sanitation Vehicles, Schools, Multiple-Use Housing Properties
- Sponsoring a Monthly Children's Immunization Program
- Monitoring Communicable Diseases
- Administering the City's Mosquito Control Program
- Investigating Nuisance Complaints
- Investigating Animal Bites for Rabies Exposure
- Assisting Indigent Residents
- Operating an Academic Health Department with Kent State University
- Conducting Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Strategies



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Kent City Health Department is also responsible for applying for National Public Health Department Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB); and Vital Statistics of birth and death records for Portage County.

## Communicable Diseases

The Kent City Health Department works in conjunction with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Ohio Department of Health](#) to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Communicable Disease defined is referred to as a disease which may be transmitted directly or indirectly from one individual to another. Communicable diseases are required by law to be reported to local Health Departments for the purposes of statistics, treatment follow-up, and prevention of community epidemics. These reports are used to protect the identifying outbreaks, developing policies to promote wellness, and offering a snapshot of the community. The Health Department monitors communicable diseases. To accomplish this, physicians, hospitals, schools, day care centers, and laboratories are required to report all cases of communicable disease to the Health Department. The Kent City Health Department contracts with the [Portage County Health Department](#) to contain the spread of diseases, manage outbreaks, and provide education and outreach.

**In 2018, there were a total of 527 communicable diseases reported from Kent residents.**



# Accreditation

The Kent City Health Department (KHD) is now closer in their journey towards National Public Health Department Accreditation. Accreditation is awarded by the non-profit [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#) and is a measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, evidence-based standards.

The goal of this program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of local health departments.

***The Kent City Health Department has officially applied for accreditation and has submitted proper documentation to PHAB. Currently, the documentation is continuing to be refined and a site visit for an in-person audit by PHAB is expected to be scheduled by the end of 2019.***

## Community Health Assessment

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a health status assessment of the community. KHD has worked alongside the Portage County Health Department (PCHD) and the Northwest Hospital Council to compile data collected from Portage County and Kent city residents along with health information from the Ohio Department of Health and other national, state, and local sources. The 2016 released [CHA](#) can be found on the Kent City Health Department's website.

A new CHA is currently in the early development stages of question selection.

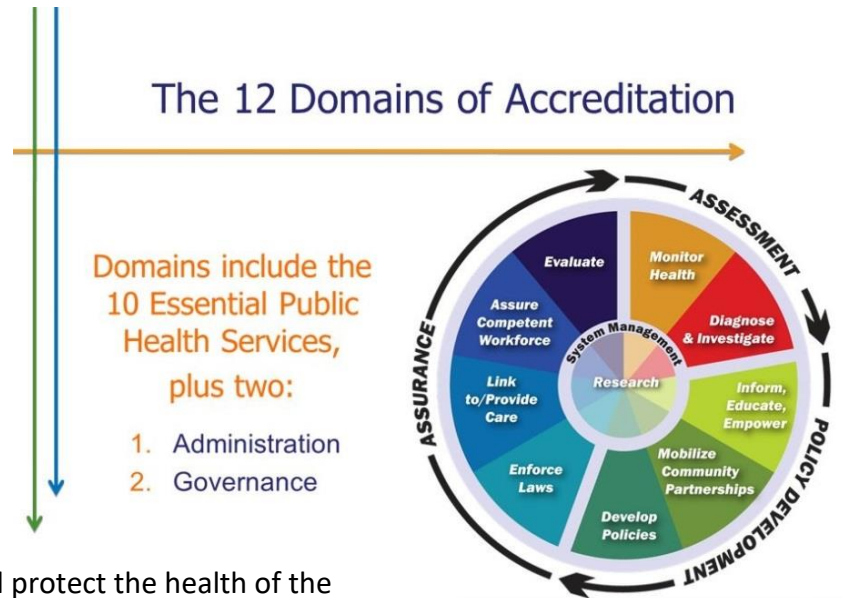
## Community Health Improvement Plan

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems within a community. Based on the results of the CHA, KHD and PCHD are working together on the CHIP by addressing gaps and barriers to health. This plan is critical for developing policies and to target efforts that promote optimal health outcomes. The second year of the CHIP recently concluded, with updates on all of the progress that has been made and revisions moving forward. The [2017-2018 CHIP](#) annual report can be found on the Kent City Health Department's website.

## Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is a living document that is designed to establish realistic goals and

## The 12 Domains of Accreditation



objectives that our consistent with the vision and mission of KHD. The KHD [Strategic Plan 2016-2020](#), which was updated in November 2018, is available on the Kent City Health Department's website.

# Vital Statistics

Birth & death records for all of Portage County dating from 1909 – present that are kept and maintained by the Kent City Health Department; assuring accuracy in filing, orderly preservation, retrieval and issuance.

A total of **4294** certified birth certificates and **5487** certified death certificate copies were issued by the Kent City Health Department in 2018.

[http://www.kentpublichealth.org/vital\\_statistics.php](http://www.kentpublichealth.org/vital_statistics.php)



# Immunizations

A monthly immunization clinic for children is held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Kent City Health Department through a contract with the Portage County Health Department.

A total of **156** immunizations were given at the Kent City Health Department in 2018.

# Childhood Immunization Schedule 2018



# Mosquito Control Program

## Program Goals

- To educate the public on practices that will reduce the number of mosquito breeding sites and methods to use to reduce feeding activities of mosquitoes.
- To monitor mosquito populations in the city of Kent in order to determine problem areas where control measures are needed.
- To reduce the number of disease-carrying and pest mosquitoes in an environmentally responsible manner.

## Education and Information

Kent City Health Department provides information on matters such as mosquito repellents, vector-borne disease information, proper practices for mosquito larva reduction and control methods used. In 2018, KHD responded to 8 mosquito related complaints.



## Surveillance

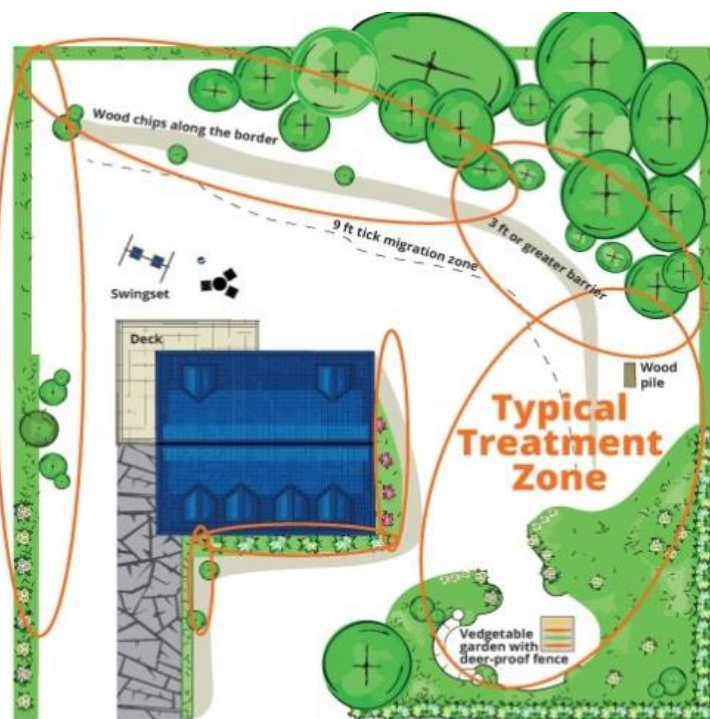
Monitoring of mosquito populations throughout the county by regularly inspecting bodies of water known to harbor larvae and monitoring adult populations through the use of special traps. Weekly mosquito counts at each location are compared with historical averages in order to delineate problem areas where control efforts should be concentrated. Within the city of Kent, 221 mosquito traps were set in 2018, yielding over 26,467 female mosquitoes. 566 pools (vials of 50) of Culex species were sent to the Ohio Department of Health Lab for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing. During 2018, 55 mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile Virus.

## Larviciding

Mosquito control is most effective in the larval stages since they are concentrated in a smaller area and cannot fly away. Larval control is achieved through source reduction (elimination of standing water) and through the use of safe, effective chemical control methods that minimize their impact on the environment. In 2018, over 520 mosquito breeding sites were inspected and treated covering more than 100 acres.

## Adulticiding

Spraying adult mosquitoes is occasionally necessary to protect public health when mosquito populations are unusually high or mosquito-borne diseases have been detected.



This program reduces the number of adult disease carrying and pest mosquitoes by the spraying of residential areas with ultra-low-volume (ULV) mist spray equipment. **8** total ULV spray applications were performed in the city of Kent in 2018 covering more than **317** miles of roadway. During 2018, approximately **11,540** of residential areas were treated with ultra-low-volume (ULV) mist spray equipment.

## Food Safety

Food Service is made up of restaurants, taverns, food vending machines and grocery stores etc., and is inspected on a quarterly basis to determine if accepted sanitary standards are used to ensure safe and wholesome food for the consumer. Keeping your favorite dining and food shopping place safe is the goal of this program. Non-critical violations are primarily maintenance and sanitation issues that are not likely to be the cause of a foodborne illness. Critical violations are those food handling practices that, when not done properly, are most likely to lead to foodborne illnesses. Critical violations items found during an inspection must be corrected immediately.

These food handling practices include:

- Controlling temperature, such as cooking meats to the right temperature to kill foodborne disease germs, keeping food hot enough until it is served, and keeping food cold enough.
- Cooling food properly, washing hands, and using utensils instead of bare hands on "ready-to-eat" food.
- Storing food.
- Serving practices.



### Food Safety Overview in the city of Kent during 2018

- ❖ Food Service Operations total: **140**
- ❖ Mobile Food Service Operations total: **7**
- ❖ Retail Food Establishments total: **44**
- ❖ Vending Operations total: **23**

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• **543** inspections conducted:

• **2,108** violations documented:

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335 standard

33 standard/critical control point

4 standard/process review

80 follow-up

23 pre-licensing

26 complaints

19 consultations

23 other

535 critical violations

- **30 complaints received**

- **21 special events attended:**

37 temporary facilities licensed/inspected

36 mobile food operators inspected

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## Rabies Investigations

Per Ohio Revised Code, animal bite incidents should be reported within 24 hours to a health commissioner of the local health jurisdiction for investigation to assist in protecting the public from possible rabies exposures. All reports of animal bites occurring in the city of Kent are investigated by the Kent City Health Department. The Kent City Health Department follows up on bites by animals in the city to prevent possible rabies outbreaks.



SPECIES OR ANIMAL  <u>GROUP</u>	HUMAN EXPOSURE EVENTS			
	<u>1. BITES</u>	<u>2. NON-BITE</u>	<u>3. OTHER RABIES EXPOSURE EVENTS</u>	<u>4. TOTAL EVENTS</u>
<i>Cat</i>	-	-	1	1
<i>Dog</i>	28	-	-	28
<i>Raccoon</i>	-	1	8	9

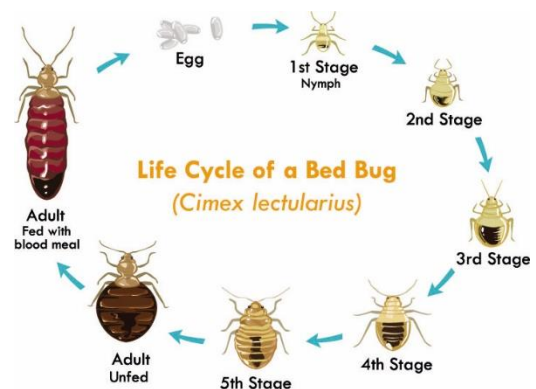


<i>Rodent/Rabbit (wild)</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Bat</i>	1	4	-	5
<b>TOTALS FOR 2018</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>

## Bed Bug Investigations

Public health officials and pest control operators in northeast Ohio are responding to bed bug nuisance complaints. Bed bug infestations are found where people sleep: apartments, dorms, hotels, private homes and cabins. They are also found in office buildings, retail stores, hospitals, dormitories, nursing homes, libraries, movie theaters, buses, or any other places where people gather. Bed bugs have spread throughout the United States. Contact with bed bugs can occur anywhere, even at schools. The [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) has identified and placed the bed bug on the [Pest of Significant Public Health Importance](#) list under Federal Pesticide Law.

**In 2018, there were a total of 5 bed bug investigations resulting from nuisance complaints received for the city of Kent.**



## School Inspections

The Kent City Health Department also inspects public and private schools for environmental health and safety concerns. The school inspection program works to improve the environmental health of Ohio's schools through non-regulatory means. Poor environmental conditions can thwart academic progress by making it harder for students to concentrate, causing or exacerbating illness in students and staff, increasing absences and lost work days, and diverting school funds to pay for costly repair and remediation projects.



**IN 2018, THE KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED 9 SCHOOL INSPECTIONS AND MADE 66 RECOMMENDATIONS.**

## Multiple-Use Housing Program

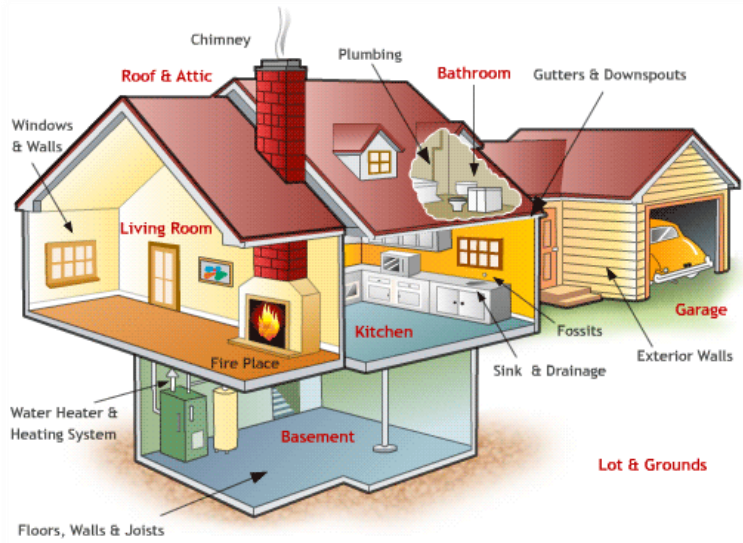
The Kent City Health Department annually inspects each of the licensed multiple-use rental properties within the city limits to help protect tenants from unsafe living conditions by enforcing the maintenance standards outlined in the [Environmental Health and Housing Maintenance Code](#). There are a large number of residents that live in rental properties in the city of Kent and the code was originated to improve the environmental health, safety, and sanitation levels of these rental properties.

**The requirements outlined in the housing code include minimum standards regarding:**

- 1. Smoke Alarms**
- 2. Carbon Monoxide Alarms**
- 3. Fire Extinguishers**
- 4. Means Of Egress**
- 5. Solid Waste**
- 6. Ventilation**
- 7. Electrical And Lighting**
- 8. Plumbing**
- 9. Handrails**
- 10. Other Property Maintenance Areas**

Owners that fail to meet the minimum standards outlined in the housing code are required to make timely repairs to comply with the code. These properties include a total of **10,763** bedrooms that must be inspected annually to ensure compliance with the housing code. The properties also include other rooms (kitchens, bathrooms, basements, etc.) that are inspected in conjunction with the bedrooms.

**The Kent City Health Department inspected each of the 309 properties in the city of Kent that were licensed in 2018 with approximately 3527 violations calculated after 557 inspections.**



# Solid Waste Program

The Kent City Health Department enforces the stricter rules of the solid waste program allowed by Kent City Council to encourage compliance with the local solid waste ordinance; making it easier to control trash violations that stem from nuisance complaints.

Solid waste violations may include:

- Excessive trash littering tree lawns, porches, and front yards.
- Discarded trash and furniture that remain along the tree lawn for multiple days before removal.
- Empty solid waste containers sit along the tree lawn for multiple days after pickup.
- Improper storage containers used to store solid waste.

Sanitarians issue citations with fines resulting from violations of the city of [Kent codified ordinance 521.08](#). Those in violation are then given 24 hours to comply or risk a secondary fine.

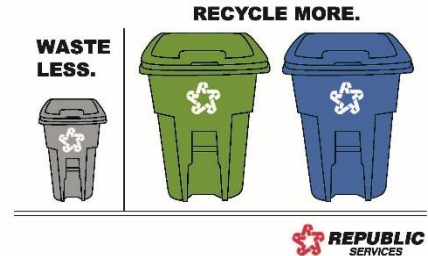
**In 2018, the Kent City Health Department investigated 49 solid waste complaints in the city of Kent resulting in 17 citations issued.**



## Solid Waste Haulers

Annual inspections of all solid waste haulers are conducted to ensure that they are not creating a danger to the public's health or the environment. These vehicles are regulated through the codified ordinances of Kent.

The Kent City Health Department licensed 27 solid waste haulers in 2018.



## Swimming Pools & Spa

### Recreational Water Program

The recreational water program consists of swimming pools and spa inspections of public establishments. These establishments also include the swimming pools at multi-unit housing complexes. Swimming pools can be the source of many diseases and injuries, such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and E. coli as well as slips, falls, and accidental entrapment. The purpose of the Kent City Health Department Recreational Water inspection program is to assure that all public swimming pools and spas are maintained in a safe and healthful condition. In light of these considerations, the proper construction, maintenance, and operation of public swimming pools and spas are of significant public health importance.



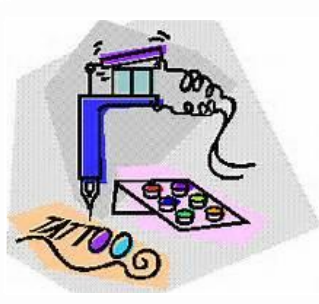
In 2018, the Kent City Health Department licensed a total of 18 Swimming Pools and Spa facilities in the city of Kent. During 2018, there were a total of 61 (29 Standard, 18 Inventory, 9 Follow-up, 5 Complaint) inspections of the facilities with 122 violations cited.

## Tattoo & Body Piercing

### Body Art Establishments

The Kent City Health Department provides sanitation and safety standards for the regulation of body art establishments, and conducts plan review and licensing of the facility that provides tattoos and body piercings. Prevention of injury and disease is the goal of inspections and consultation with licensed artists at these facilities. Possible health risk complications of body art include:

- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Bacterial and/or viral infections of the skin or other parts of the body
- Mild to fatal allergic reactions



In addition to the risk of infection and allergic reaction, regarding the toxicity of certain heavy metals and pigments associated with some dyes used in tattooing, including aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, chromium, cobalt, lead, nickel, selenium, and titanium.

**In 2018, the Kent City Health Department licensed 5 Body Art Establishments in the city of Kent. During 2018, there were at total of 10 (7 Standard, 2 Other, 1 Follow-up, 0 Complaint) inspections of the facilities with 14 violations cited.**