The week of April 1-7, 2019, is National Public Health Week and Richland Public Health along with other local health departments throughout Ohio are using the week to recognize 100 years of public health.

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of two legislative acts that shaped the future of public health in Ohio. The Hughes Act and Griswold Act, both enacted in 1919, established the modern day organization of local health departments.

Richland Public Health is taking this opportunity to reflect on public health efforts from the past 100 years to honor “How the Past Made Public Health Matter.” Public health has added 25 years to American life expectancy, reduced motor vehicle crash deaths by 90 percent, helped reduce sudden infant death rate by 50 percent, has eradicated smallpox, increased vaccinations against polio and other preventable diseases, reduced tobacco use, and improved maternal and infant healthcare.

We encourage all Richland County residents to remember the valuable contributions of public health to the general welfare of the nation and celebrate 100 years of public health in Ohio.

2018 Annual Report Available Online

Richland Public Health’s 2018 Annual Report is available online. The 12-page report includes highlights of activities, statistics, and photos from this past year. The report is available for viewing while on the website (richlandhealth.org) as a scrolling read or as a PDF download. The simplest way to find the report is by clicking on the link in the banner at the top of the page that contains the link to the Annual Report. It is also listed on the main menu under the “About Us” tab.

After reading the Annual Report, fill out the survey included and you will be entered into a contest to win a $100 gift card of your choice. Don’t have access to a computer? Call 419-774-4761 and we’ll mail you a copy of the 2018 Annual Report with a Survey form to return to us to enter the drawing.
Keep the Spring in Your Step and Avoid Weather-Related Falls

After a long, hard winter, Spring is finally here. We can get out and enjoy the outdoors and get some much-needed exercise. However, severe spring weather and other conditions can increase your risk of falling:

• Rain and mud – Mud can be as slippery as snow and ice and can get on a variety of surfaces indoors and out. Avoid walkways that are covered with mud. Clean wet and dried mud off of your shoes and walking aids to maintain the most traction.

• Storms – Spring storms can cause a variety of tripping hazards from power outages to debris in outdoor walkways. If you can’t see the path before you, find another way.

• Flooding – Never walk or drive into flood waters! Still water can make you trip and moving water can knock you off your feet.

• Increased activity – Ask your doctor or physical therapist about strategies to safely increase your activity level.

Falls are not a normal part of aging, but as we age, we may be more susceptible to serious injury from a fall. One in three Ohioans age 65 and older will fall this year, and that rate goes up to one in two after age 79.

Fortunately, most falls can be prevented when you understand your risks and take steps to remove or avoid hazards.

Visit www.steadyu.ohio.gov for more tips and resources to prevent falls.

Say NO Mosquitoes!

Richland Public Health’s mosquito messaging the next couple of months will be on eliminating mosquito breeding grounds before they have a chance to get their populations growing.

For home owners, that means eliminating anywhere standing water may pool for seven days or more. In addition to being annoying, there’s the possibility of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus or Zika virus.

To find out more about what you can do to say “NO” to mosquitoes, see our information page on our website: richlandhealth.org/our-community/mosquitoes.

When it becomes necessary, this website page will also contain the weekly mosquito spraying schedule.

The Richland Public Health “Health Report” is a monthly production of Health Education/Promotion. Suggestions and corrections, including mailing label corrections, are welcome. Call Reed Richmond, Health Educator/Web Editor, at 419-774-4726.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division directs a variety of programs that prevent, protect and educate our community about potentially harmful elements in our environment.

Contacts*.................February .. YTD

Food..........................................................198 .... 833
Emergency Preparedness..............0 .... 3
Housing.........................................................1 .... 1
Indoor Air Quality.................................1 .... 7
Institutions..................................................0 .... 1
Plumbing - Commercial......................167 .... 624
Plumbing - Residential......................96 .... 233
Private Water Systems...............104 .... 154
Public Swimming Pools.........15 .... 61
Rabies..........................................................32 .... 107
Schools.......................................................15 .... 32
Sewage Treatment Systems........81 .... 283
Solid Waste..........................................13 .... 71
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities........19 .... 56
Vector Control.................................3 .... 12
Totals All Contacts.........................681 .... 2,488

*Inspections, investigations and consultations

VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, check the website at richlandhealth.org or call 419-774-4500.

February .. YTD

Total Deaths (all ages)......................112 .... 234
Ina....................................................................128
Female.......................................................57 .... 126
Causes of Death

Heart Related............................................29 .... 76
Cancer......................................................28 .... 48
Alzheimers/Dementia.............................12 .... 23
Lung Diseases...........................................10 .... 15
Accidents (drug/falls/crashes)..............6 .... 12
Flu/Pneumonia..........................................2 .... 10
Strokes/CVA...............................................5 .... 8
Renal/Kidney..............................................4 .... 8
Infant Mortality (see below)....................1 .... 2
Suicides......................................................0 .... 1
Homicides..................................................1 .... 1
Deaths Pending Autopsy..........................1 .... 2
Other (not listed above)......................13 .... 28

*repeat births = 2nd or more live births
Birth & Death statistics include City of Shelby

Infant Mortality: Richland County

For February: 1
For 2019 to date: 2

Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Infant deaths are considered an important indicator of the overall health of a society. Deaths to residents occurring outside of Richland County are not reflected in county death statistics. KNOW the SAFE SLEEP ABC’s: Alone, on Back, in a Crib.

CALLING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Main Number..................................419-774-4500
Public Health Clinic....................419-774-4700
Public Health Nursing..................419-774-4540
Environmental Health..................419-774-4520
WIC.............................................419-774-4560