



# Quarterly Newsletter

*Protecting and promoting the health of the residents of Cuyahoga County*

[www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net)

Vol. 1 Issue 4—Dec. 2006

## Cuyahoga County Board of Health

5550 Venture Drive  
Parma, OH 44130

*Greg Gatt, Board President*

*Joseph Bucci*

*David Litaker, M.D., Ph.D.*

*Debbie Moss, Esq.*

*Charles Riehl, Esq.*

*Terry Allan, Health Commissioner*

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### CCBH Mission

*Prevent Disease and Injury, Promote Positive Health Outcomes and Provide Critical Services to Improve the Health Status of the Community*

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### CCBH Vision

*To Optimize the Public Health Status of the Community through Transformational Programming that Creates a Clear Line of Sight Between What We Do Every Day and How the Organization Performs*

## SmokeFreeOhio

*Terry Allan, Health Commissioner*

I am pleased to announce that on December 7th the residents of Cuyahoga County and all of Ohio will begin enjoying the benefits of the SmokeFree Ohio law that voters overwhelmingly passed in November. That's when the law takes effect and nearly all public places will be required to go smokefree.

Workers and customers in Ohio's restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, bingo halls, and most other workplaces will be protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke. From a public health standpoint, this statewide law represents one of the most important public policies in our generation. Secondhand smoke has been scientifically proven to cause a number of serious and often fatal conditions including lung cancer, heart disease, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and other child and adult respiratory problems.

It is also significant to mention that the effort to make Ohio smoke-free was not a government-led effort. It was initiated by the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and American Heart Association. Its passage was the result of a groundswell of support from the public — thousands of private citizens volunteered and hundreds of private businesses endorsed the campaign. And nearly 60% of Ohio's voters said 'Yes' to protecting

their health.

Now that SmokeFree Ohio is the law of the land it is the responsibility of health departments to ensure that it is implemented properly. We at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health are working with the Ohio Department of Health and other local health departments to develop rules and procedures for educating consumers and businesses, responding to complaints, and monitoring compliance. As part of our effort, the bulk of this newsletter is devoted to providing the most current information available. We have also mailed a letter to businesses throughout the County explaining the law and their responsibilities (see attachment).

It is our intention that the implementation of the new law goes smoothly so that its beneficial effects can be fully realized by all customers and workers. We are anxious to work in each of our communities to make sure this happens.

I also want to encourage individuals who smoke and want to quit to take advantage of this opportunity. Many people from states with similar laws have found this to be the perfect time to quit smoking, so we have included several resources to help folks do just that.

We've also included a new set of performance standards that we are using to assess and improve all the services we provide.

The Board of Health is here to help all of us live healthier lives. Please let us know how we can help as the new law gets implemented.

### WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

The SmokeFree Ohio law prohibits smoking in most workplaces including restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and bingo halls. The only places that are exempt from the law are:

- ◆ Private residences, except during hours used as public businesses.
- ◆ Tobacco specialty shops with less than 20 percent nontobacco sales.
- ◆ Up to 20 percent of rooms in hotels, motels, and other lodging facilities.
- ◆ Private clubs meeting specific criteria.
- ◆ Wholly family owned and operated businesses with no nonfamily members present.
- ◆ Designated smoking areas for nursing home residents.
- ◆ Outdoor patios.

### WHAT SHOULD BUSINESSES DO NOW?

The law goes into effect on Dec. 7, 2006. That means businesses are required to comply with the law beginning on that date.

To comply with the law businesses must:

- ◆ Remove all ashtrays and other receptacles used for disposing of smoking materials from any area where smoking is prohibited by the law.
- ◆ Inform customers and employees that smoking is not permitted.
- ◆ Post no smoking signs where smoking is prohibited including at each entrance. The signs shown below can be downloaded from [www.odh.ohio.gov/alerts/ohiosmokingban.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/alerts/ohiosmokingban.aspx)



### WHAT IF SOMEONE VIOLATES THE LAW?

Until the rules are developed, CCBH will respond to any complaints that we receive by working with business owners to assure that their business is smoke free under the new law.

The Ohio Department of Health will be working with local health departments and industry members to develop enforcement rules. Once the rules are established there will be a mechanism for fines and other enforcement.

Businesses that violate the law may be fined. Upon the receipt of a first report that a proprietor of a public place or place of employment or an individual has violated any provision of the law, a warning letter shall be issued. Upon a second or subsequent violation by a proprietor or individual, a fine will be imposed. The fine for a proprietor shall not be less than \$100 and may escalate to a maximum of \$2,500 for repeated violations in a two year period. The fine for an individual shall be a maximum of \$100.

### HOW CAN COMPLAINTS BE FILED IF A BUSINESS VIOLATES THE LAW?

After Dec. 7, 2006, individuals can report violations to the Ohio Department of Health by calling 1-866-559-OHIO (6446) or by sending an email to: [nosmoke@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:nosmoke@odh.ohio.gov). Or individuals can call CCBH at 216-201-2001.



### HELPING PEOPLE QUIT

Now that Ohioans have decided to protect residents from secondhand smoke, it is a great time for smokers

who want to quit to do so. CCBH supports several smoking cessation programs through a Tobacco Reduction grant from the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation.

**Freedom From Smoking® (FFS)** is a nationally recognized adult cessation program developed by the American Lung Association® and provided through the Cuyahoga County Partnership for Tobacco Reduction. FFS provides a group setting designed to help people learn the skills they need to successfully stop smoking. During the six week program, special attention is given to developing a quitting strategy, dealing with recovery symptoms, controlling weight, managing stress through relaxation, assertiveness techniques, and staying off cigarettes.

Freedom From Smoking is currently being offered at the following health-care facilities: Lakewood Hospital, MetroHealth Medical Center and Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Services.

*For more information please contact:*

Lakewood Hospital  
Mary Ann Marsal  
216-521-4200 ext. 8093  
[mmarsal@lkw.org](mailto:mmarsal@lkw.org)

MetroHealth Medical Center  
Melita Stringer  
216-778-7503  
[mstringer@metrohealth.org](mailto:mstringer@metrohealth.org)

NE Ohio Neighborhood Services  
Karen Wilkes  
216-231-7700  
[kwilkes499@aol.com](mailto:kwilkes499@aol.com)

In addition to these resources, the state-sponsored **Ohio Tobacco Quit Line** has proven to be an effective means of helping people quit smoking. Trained quitting specialists are available via a toll-free phone number (1-800-QUIT NOW). Quit Line services are free to all Ohioans. Callers may also qualify for free or reduced cost Nicotine patches that have been proven to increase the success rate in quitting.

For more information and other quitting resources see [www.ohioquits.com](http://www.ohioquits.com).



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

## ***Functions of a Local Health Department***

Every citizen has the right to expect their local health department to perform various functions that contribute to the health of their community. Recently the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) developed an *Operational Definition* of what a fully functioning health department is. CCBH is using this definition to assess our operational capacity and performance. We welcome your views concerning how well you think we measure up to these standards.

You will also begin to see the new Public Health logo developed by NACCHO appear on future CCBH materials. It is intended to provide a common brand identity for local health departments that will become recognizable in the community.

### ***Operational Definition of a Functional Local Health Department***

Governmental public health departments are responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that keep people healthy. At the local level, the governmental public health presence, or "local health department," can take many forms. Furthermore, each community has a unique "public health system" comprising individuals and public and private entities that are engaged in activities that affect the public's health. Regardless of its governance or structure, regardless of where specific authorities are vested or where particular services are delivered, everyone, no matter where they live, should reasonably expect the local health department to meet certain standards.

### **A FUNCTIONAL LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

- ◆ Understands the specific health is-

sues confronting the community, and how physical, behavioral, environmental, social, and economic conditions affect them.

- ◆ Investigates health problems and health threats.
- ◆ Prevents, minimizes, and contains adverse health effects from communicable diseases, disease outbreaks from unsafe food and water, chronic diseases, environmental hazards, injuries, and risky health behaviors.
- ◆ Leads planning and response activities for public health emergencies.
- ◆ Collaborates with other local responders and with state and federal agencies to intervene in other emergencies with public health significance (e.g., natural disasters).
- ◆ Implements health promotion programs.
- ◆ Engages the community to address public health issues.
- ◆ Develops partnerships with public and private healthcare providers and institutions, community-based organizations, and other government agencies (e.g., housing authority, criminal justice, education) engaged in services that affect health to collectively identify, alleviate, and act on the sources of public health problems.
- ◆ Coordinates the public health system's efforts in an intentional, non-competitive, and non-duplicative manner.
- ◆ Addresses health disparities.
- ◆ Serves as an essential resource for local governing bodies and policymakers on up-to-date public health laws and policies.
- ◆ Provides science-based, timely, and culturally competent health information and health alerts to the media and to the community.
- ◆ Provides its expertise to others who treat or address issues of public health significance.
- ◆ Ensures compliance with public health laws and ordinances, using enforcement authority when appropriate.
- ◆ Employs well-trained staff members who have the necessary resources

to implement best practices and evidence-based programs and interventions.

- ◆ Facilitates research efforts, when approached by researchers, that benefit the community.
- ◆ Uses and contributes to the evidence base of public health.
- ◆ Strategically plans its services and activities, evaluates performance and outcomes, and makes adjustments as needed to continually improve its effectiveness, enhance the community's health status, and meet the community's expectations.

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### **2007 CCBH Fee Changes**

As required by Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has completed a cost methodology for the food protection program. Based on the outcomes of the cost methodology the CCBH is proposing a new fee schedule for all risk class categories for the licensing year 2007.

The CCBH maintains a food protection program consisting of inspections, education, and disease investigation while continually identifying ways to deliver information and services that will assist the food industry. The distribution of the Healthy Start Health Insurance for Families Program information for employees is just one example of our outreach efforts. We pride ourselves on running an efficient and effective program that helps prevent food-borne illness. We have maintained our fees without an increase over the last three years. However, this most recent cost methodology shows an increase in fees is needed to support the cost of the program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the hearing or any other matter please feel free to contact Rick Melendez, RS, Supervisor at (216) 201-2001 x1211 or Paul DeSario, R.S., M.P.H., Program Manager at x1243. You can visit our web site at [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net) for a complete list of the proposed fees.

## Cuyahoga County Board of Health Programs

**Administration Services:** We set policies, plan programs, and handle the fiscal, legal and human resource functions of the agency. Administration sets priorities and performance goals for four units that provide services to the community.

**Community Health Services:** We provide several programs that promote better health and prevent chronic disease. Safety and nutrition programs are offered as part of the overall plan to provide health care to the communities served.

- > Breast and Cervical Cancer Project
  - > Cardiovascular Health Program
  - > Child and Family Health Services
  - > Child Death Review
  - > Community Nutrition
  - > Dental OPTIONS Regional Referral Program
- > Home Injury Prevention Program
  - > Immunization Action Plan for physician offices
  - > Lead Poisoning Prevention
  - > Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program
  - > Tobacco Use Prevention Program

**Environmental Health Services:** We work to identify, prevent or eliminate diseases that are spread in water, food, wastes or by animals and insects.

- > Bathing Beaches
  - > Child Care
  - > Emergency/Disaster Preparedness
  - > Environmental Health Education
  - > Food Protection
  - > Healthy Homes
  - > Home Injury Prevention Program
  - > Household Sewage Systems
  - > Indoor Air Quality
  - > Jails & Institutions
  - > Lead Poisoning Prevention
  - > Manufactured Home Parks
  - > Marinas
- > Nuisances
  - > Nursing Home Education
  - > Private Water Supplies
  - > Rabies Prevention
  - > Schools Environments
  - > Semipublic Sewage Systems
  - > Solid Waste & Infectious Waste
  - > Swimming Pools
  - > Tattoo & Body Piercing
  - > Temporary Park Camps
  - > Vector Control
  - > Watershed Protection

**Epidemiology & Surveillance Services (E&S):** We track the spread of diseases that are passed from person to person. Chronic disease rates are also monitored. Diseases that are spread by food or water are investigated. E&S also works with communities to develop emergency preparedness plans.

- > Assist local communities with preparedness planning
- > Assist with designing, implementing, and analyzing health assessment surveys
- > Coordinate and conduct disease / outbreak investigations
- > Distribute reports, maps, and data via www.ccbh.net
- > Monitor and support surveillance activities for reportable disease as well as potential disease clusters
- > Provide information to medical care providers and the public on health threats

**Nursing Services:** We collaborate with individuals, families and communities to identify, plan and deliver public health nursing programs that include immunizations, lead screening, home visiting, and school health.

- > Blood pressure screenings for seniors
  - > Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps services
  - > Disease prevention and control
  - > Fatherhood programs
  - > Perinatal outreach
  - > Health curriculum & policy development
  - > Health screenings
  - > Health education: asthma, blood borne pathogens, CPR, care of premature infants, child abuse & neglect, communicable disease, Daddy 911, first aid, for students and school staff, maturation, medication administration, shaken baby syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome
- > Help Me Grow home visiting
  - > Immunizations and flu clinics
  - > Lead screening and education
  - > Office based physician immunization education
  - > Resource and referral to center based and home child care providers
  - > Technical assistance for child care providers of children with special needs
  - > Travel clinic

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For more information please contact us at:

**Administration..... (216) 201-2010**  
**Community Health..... (216) 201-2060**  
**Environmental Health.....(216) 201-2020**  
**E&S.....(216) 201-2090**  
**Nursing.....(216) 201-2040**



(216) 664-SMOKE (7665)



(216) 529-7690



(216) 491-1480



PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROVIDE™  
(216) 201-2001

To: Restaurants, Bars, Bowling Alleys, Bingo Hall Owners, other Business and Industry Organizations and the General Public

From: The Cuyahoga County Public Health Collaborative

Date: December 1, 2006

Re: Smoke Free Indoor Air legislative requirements

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On November 7, 2006, Ohio voters passed Issue 5, creating Ohio's new smoking ban under a new Chapter 3794 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). This new law requires public places and workplaces to be smoke free as of December 7, 2006. This law also requires the director of health to adopt rules focusing on education of the public and businesses as well as the designation of enforcement authority and enforcement procedures.

**ORC Chapter 3794 is effective December 7, 2006. Businesses and organizations are required to comply with the statute starting December 7, 2006.**

The Director of Health has six months, or until June 7, 2007, to adopt rules. However, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) hopes to have the rules adopted before the June 7th deadline. On December 7, 2006, the major requirements of the statute include:

- 1) Prohibiting smoking in any public place or place of employment.
- 2) Removing all ash trays and other receptacles used for disposing of smoking materials from any area where smoking is prohibited by the statute.
- 3) Posting conspicuous signs in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited, including at each entrance.
  - a. The statute requires these signs to say "No Smoking" or have the "No Smoking" international symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it).
  - b. The signs must be clearly legible and shall contain a toll free number for reporting violations.

Downloadable versions of acceptable signs will be posted on the ODH main web site at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) or on any of our local health department websites. These signs will include the toll free number for reporting violations [1-866-559-OHIO (6446)].

ODH has also established two toll-free phone lines:

**TOLL-FREE ENFORCEMENT LINE: CALL 1-866-559-OHIO (6446)**

**OR E-MAIL:** [nosmoke@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:nosmoke@odh.ohio.gov)

This line should be used for all enforcement related questions after Nov. 21, 2006 or to report violations after Dec. 7, 2006. This telephone number must appear on No Smoking signs as required by Section 3794.06 of the Revised Code.

**TOLL-FREE INFORMATION LINE: 1-866-ODH (634)-7654**

**OR E-MAIL:** [smkinfo@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:smkinfo@odh.ohio.gov)

This line should be used for general information concerning the law or for non-enforcement related questions.

The Cuyahoga County Public Health Collaborative has formed a **Smoke Free Advisory Council** comprised of various industry sectors that must comply with the law. Their role will be to assist in the development of our approach toward industry education and meeting the requirements in a uniform way throughout Cuyahoga County. We will provide regular updates through our websites where you will also find additional information concerning this issue.

The websites for the health departments can be found at:

Cleveland Department of Public Health: [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org)

Lakewood Health Department: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/city/health.htm>

Shaker Heights Health Department: <http://www.shakeronline.com/dept/health/>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health: [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net)

Until the rules are developed, we will respond to any complaints that we receive by working with business owners to assure that their business is smoke free under the new law.

Thank you in advance for helping us clear the air and ultimately improving the health of the citizens of Cuyahoga County.