



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Allegan County Health Department

Together; striving for a healthier Allegan County

CONTENTS

- 01** a letter from our health officer
- 02** public health administration
- 03** a year in review
- 04** COVID-19 response
- 06** environmental health
- 08** personal health
- 10** emergency preparedness
- 11** resource recovery, animal shelter, and my community dental centers
- 12** financial summary
- 13** COVID-19 funding summary
- 14** governance, mission, and vision
- 15** thank you

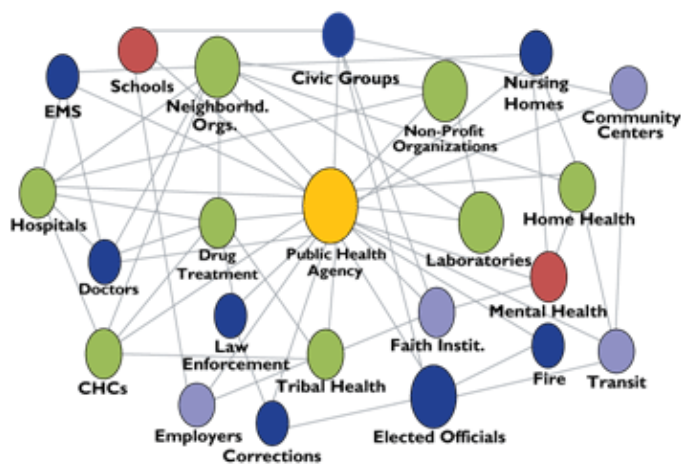
A LETTER FROM OUR HEALTH OFFICER



Dear Board of Commissioners and Community,

2020 turned to be a very different year than many of us had planned. In our 2019 Public Health Annual Report, we focused on improving partnerships and processes to become a well-oiled machine. However, it became obvious that our Public Health machine was much larger than the local health department and health systems as a pandemic emerged that pushed Public Health to the forefront. It quickly became apparent that schools, public safety, emergency management, businesses, local unit of governments, non-profits, and volunteers/community members all greatly influenced public health outcomes and resilience in a community. We recognized this response was “going to take a village”!

Communication was vital with our community leaders and community. If I had to choose the biggest challenge, it would be communication with the ever-changing guidance and information as the pandemic evolved. We established a weekly “Community Leaders” meeting with leaders to present them with recent information and data and provide an opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions.



We would not have been able to do effective contact tracing in schools and businesses without their help. Schools and businesses helped us identify close contacts and minimize transmission and the amount of virus in the community. Public Safety, Emergency Management, and volunteers provided resources for events, such as testing, in the community. Many non-profits took the lead on providing basic needs to those who were in financial hardships and our health providers providing needed care for COVID and non-COVID patients. This pandemic pushed us to forge partnerships that I believe will benefit our community into the future. It brought to light that health and the economy intersect. That social determinants of health matter. That all sectors are essential “parts” of the public health machine and improving health and economic outcomes in our community.

While 2020 was hard for many of us for different reasons, it is important to recognize that amongst adversity comes growth and the ability to recover with a better “well-oiled machine”.

I look forward to continuing to partner with you all on improving the well being of our community because it takes all of us.

yours in health,

Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Health Officer

Source: Public Health Practice Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Public Health Performance Standards Program, User Guide (first edition), 2002.

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



ADMINISTRATION

WHO WE ARE



Pictured (left to right): Randy Rapp, Lisa Letts, Angelique Joynes, Dr. Rik Tooker

Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Health Officer

Randy Rapp, RS
Environmental Health Manager

Lisa Letts, BSN, RN
Personal Health Manager

Rik Tooker, MD, MPH
Medical Director

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**PURPOSE: Together;
Striving for a Healthier
Allegan County.**

Our strategic framework influences community health outcomes, while improved community health outcomes align with the Organization's vision and purpose of the Department.

See Allegan County's Strategic Map [here](#).



A YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 Highlights

New challenges arose as a global pandemic emerged. Normal operations shifted to responding to the pandemic and its affects on the Allegan County community. Despite the hardships, the collective community continued to follow our purpose - together; striving for a healthier Allegan County.

Strengthening Community Partnerships



Communication was a vital piece in effectively responding to this pandemic. Starting March 2020, we began meeting weekly, then bi-weekly, with community leaders to provide local updates and technical assistance to businesses and schools.

28 ACHD COVID-19 Community Updates



began attending **weekly** School Superintendent meetings

With the help of Allegan County Information Services, we launched a SharePoint site for the school districts and ACHD to streamline case identification and contact tracing efforts. This helped both parties stay in regular communication while striving for in-person learning at the schools.



Training Health Department Team Members to be Case Investigators

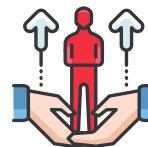
As COVID-19 cases began to increase, the Personal Health Team could not keep up with the demand of timely case investigations and contact tracing efforts. By October 2020, the Personal Health Team had trained all staff to be case investigators as well as other County employees.



Employee Time

With increase case investigation and response activities, we saw a **decrease** in the hours team members spent on professional development for service area as well as the amount of Paid Time Off (PTO) hours taken by employees. The decreases in these two areas allowed us to continue essential public health services at some level.

330.5 hours team members spent on professional development for service area
73.5% DECREASE FROM 2019



3,498.5 hours of overtime worked



3,454 amount of PTO hours taken by employees
28% DECREASE FROM 2019

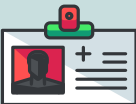
Essential Public Health Services Continue amid Pandemic



Despite priorities being shifted to the COVID-19 Response, essential services continued including:

- immunizations
- STI/HIV testing
- Hearing and Vision screenings
- All Environmental Health services, following the Emergency Orders and Epidemic Orders

New Positions



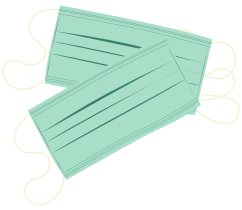
An **Epidemiologist** and **Health Educator** were added to the Administration Team.

An Environmental Health **Field Coordinator** was added to the EH Team.



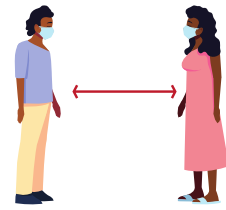
Social Media Following Grows by 1,103%

In January 2020, ACHD's Facebook page had **494 followers**. By the end of 2020, we had **5,942 followers**. Our biggest jump in followers was from March 2020 (513 followers) to April 2020 (5,008 followers).



COVID-19 RESPONSE

timeline



JANUARY 2020

ACHD begins to monitor travelers coming from Wuhan, China and Mainland China

MARCH 9, 2020

ACHD begins a weekly COVID-19 Update call for community leaders and businesses

MARCH 21, 2020

- ACHD confirms **first COVID-19 case in Allegan County** resident.
- A press briefing is held with spokespersons from Allegan County Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Board of Commissioners, and Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) fully activates.

APRIL 24, 2020

ACHD announces **first COVID-19 related death**

JUNE 6, 2020

ACHD offers free COVID testing site at Human Services Building Parking lot with Michigan National Guard support. **176 tested**

JULY 2020

ACHD partners with Intercare and Schools to offer weekly pop-up testing sites across county through September. **over 415 tested**

OCTOBER 2020

Planning for mass vaccination began

NOVEMBER 2020

Allegan County COVID-19 cases surge, with a **peak of a 7 day average of 106 cases per day**

DECEMBER 28, 2020

ACHD administers first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

DECEMBER 2019

A novel virus emerges from Wuhan, China

JANUARY 2020

First US COVID-19 case confirmed

MARCH 10, 2020

Michigan confirms the first two COVID-19 cases

MARCH 24, 2020

Michigan Governor issues "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order and keeps open essential services

MARCH 31, 2020

ACHD publishes **COVID-19 Return to Work Toolkit** for businesses, including screening tool and educational materials for workers.

MAY 2020

ACHD partners with Intercare Community Health Network to offer COVID-19 testing in Allegan County

JUNE 21, 2020

Allegan County EOC deactivates

JULY 31, 2020

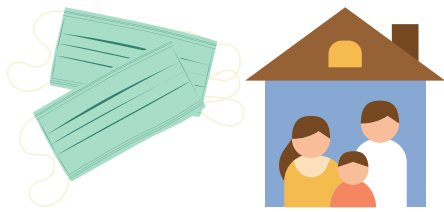
ACHD publishes **Return to School Toolkit** including Student Screening form and educational materials to share with parents and staff

SEPTEMBER 2020

ACHD partners with HONU and Allegan County Transportation to offer testing at ACT building through December **over 670 tested**

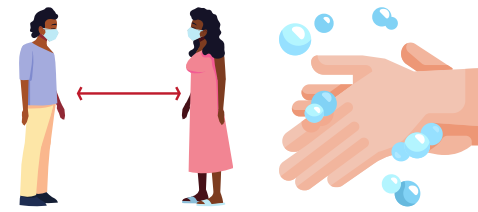
NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Allegan County EOC reactivates



COVID-19 RESPONSE

at a glance



21 testing events



over

1,610 people tested



62 educational materials created including **guidance documents** and **business signage**



1,800+ calls & emails fielded

through our **COVID-19 hotline** and **email**



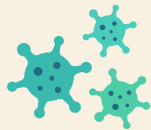
7,788

COVID-19 Case Investigations



monitored **6,570** people

5,831 total cases



177 hospitalizations



102 COVID-19 related deaths

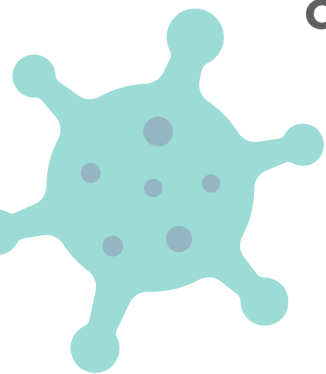
RESPONDING TO OUTBREAKS

One response activity in this pandemic was providing technical assistance to businesses. An early example of this was in early April 2020, Public Health began to notice cases from a local business. After discussions with neighboring counties, we learned of more cases that could be traced back to the business. With concerns of workplace safety on the rise, we communicated to the business and evaluated mitigation strategies in place. We continued to build our relationship with the business and monitor cases. This outbreak was resolved. This outbreak led to an effective public/private partnership that was then used as a model for other outbreaks moving forward.



COVID-19 BRINGS ATTENTION TO HEALTH DISPARITIES

On a national, state, and local level, we saw minority populations disproportionately be more affected by COVID-19. In May 2020, 35% of our COVID-19 cases reported Hispanic Ethnicity in Allegan County, while 7% of Hispanic Ethnicity made up Allegan County's population. Through partnership with agencies, businesses, and the state, COVID-19 testing was expanded with focused efforts in migrant workers due to the increased risk of exposure on the job. With specific communications on mitigation practices on and off the job and the increase in testing capacities, we saw the percentage of Hispanic related cases slowly decrease from the overall case count. By December 2020, our percentage of COVID-19 cases reporting Hispanic Ethnicity was down to 12.3%.



TECHNOLOGY IN A PANDEMIC


In March 2020, many of us replaced our work desks to a new workspace in the home as all non-essential services had to work from home. **Technology became our new best friend** and many of us had to face a learning curve. In the world of public health, **we had to work to overcome the need for rapid communication for identifying cases and close contacts in a virtual way.** We learned quickly across the state that our public health technology infrastructure was not built for the demand it saw, causing barriers for local health departments. This gap highlighted the need for updating the way case investigations are completed. We used technology to our benefit which helped build capacity for our team. **The use of Qualtrics, Microsoft Teams, SharePoint and other tools are now rooted in our day to day operations for identifying cases and close contacts and internal and external communications.**




ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH at a glance

FIELD

685 well permits issued
 11% increase from 2019



401 SESC permits issued
 33% increase from 2019



3,466 SESC inspections
 31% increase from 2019

367 final well inspections completed
 25% decrease from 2019



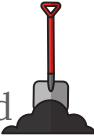
691 sewage disposal permits issued
 14% increase from 2019



537 final septic inspections
 25% increase from 2019



139 abandoned wells plugged
 34% decrease from 2019



Met the 14 business day turn-around **98.5%** of the time for permits and loan evaluations




FOOD

421 food establishments inspected
 39% decrease from 2019



30 temporary food inspections
 66% decrease from 2019



20 food borne investigations/complaints
 18% increase from 2019




OTHER SERVICES


20 campground inspections
 29% decrease from 2019




84 public pool inspections
 15% decrease from 2019



33 ground water samples collected
 23% decrease from 2019



5 body art inspections
 50% decrease from 2019



1,454 EH Record Requests processed
 41% decrease from 2019



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH highlights

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RESTAURANTS, CHURCHES, & OTHER FOOD DISTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



With the Stay at Home order in place, many restaurants and food serving agencies were looking for direction on what to do and what they needed to do to keep people safe.

Our Food Service Team created email lists for Fixed Food Licensed Facilities (Restaurants, Churches, Schools, etc.) Special Transitory Units and Mobile Units to quickly share updated information on Emergency Orders, Testing, Vaccine Sign up, and other information regarding the pandemic. This allowed for the food team to share specific, or essential, portions of the information to specific groups. Overall, the response has been positive with this communication channel.

Our food team was also available to provide these businesses and agencies with technical assistance regarding COVID-19. We went on site when it was appropriate to review and assist with layout and procedures, and were available by phone or email to help with quarantine and isolation questions, determining disinfectant approved by the EPA, and helping these businesses stay compliant with Emergency Orders. The team also reviewed COVID-19 Preparedness Plans upon request.

VECTOR BORNE SURVEY GRANT CONTINUES



The grant work around vectors, and vector borne viruses continued in 2020. The purpose of the grant is to:

- Surveil the mosquitos in Allegan County identifying the different species
- Surveilling for the mosquito species the may transmit the Zika virus
- Surveilling for ticks, via tick drags, to identify if they carry the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease
- Educate the citizenry of Allegan County in the prevention of the transmission of vector borne diseases and arboviruses

This work will continue in 2021 as vector borne viruses continue to be emerging diseases.

GROUND WATER STUDY BEGINS

The majority of private wells and city/township water in Allegan County are supplied by ground water. Currently, government agencies throughout Allegan County do not have easy access to important and reliable data needed to make decisions and develop plans regarding water availability and quality. After 2019 Board of Commissioners approval, the project was underway. The first task was developing a survey to understand the current knowledge and perceptions of stakeholders, residents, and businesses regarding groundwater. The groundwater survey was distributed in August 2020 and results were compiled by the end of December 2020. A presentation covering survey results and next steps for the project will occur in 2021.



PERSONAL HEALTH at a glance



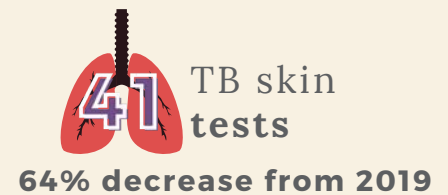
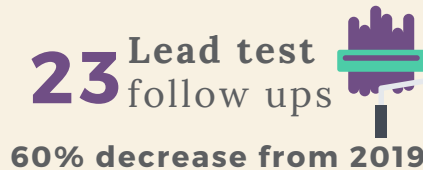
Case investigation and contact tracing was a main priority for the Personal Health Team. Overall services were down as many people stayed home, but our number of communicable disease investigations increased by 1,549% for 2020.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

provided to children and adults with qualified medical diagnosis.



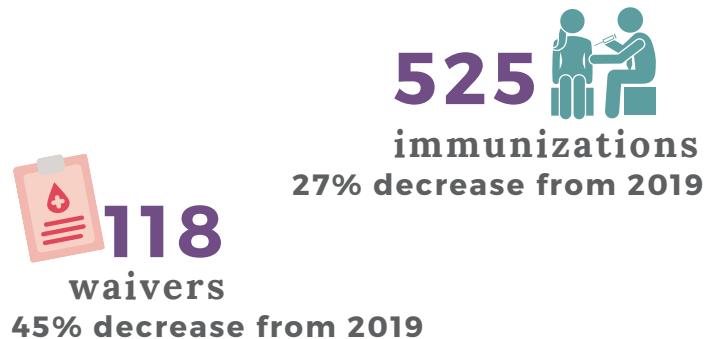
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



HEARING AND VISION



IMMUNIZATIONS



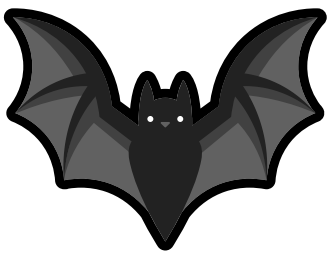
SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES



PERSONAL HEALTH highlights

EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS (EEE) STRIKES AGAIN

Similar to 2019, Michigan saw EEE activity. EEE is an extremely rare but serious and often fatal infection that causes encephalitis or inflammation of the brain. It is spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with EEE virus. In 2020, EEE infected 3 Michigan residents, with one of these cases being fatal. **EEE also infected 41 animals across the state, with one animal case in Allegan County.** With cases across the state trending higher than 2019, MDHHS aerially sprayed parts of the state with insecticide to kill mosquitoes and reduce the risk of infection. A 5-mile radius in Dorr Township was sprayed during this operation.



RABIES CASES INCREASE BY 60%

In 2020, Allegan County had **three** animals test positive for rabies and investigated **eight** cases of potential exposure. The team plans to provide more education and awareness around rabies in 2021 through social media and new releases.

PLANNING FOR MASS VACCINATIONS

The Personal Health Team continued to be busy throughout 2020. In December 2020, the team had to balance response activities such as case investigations, contact tracing, and testing efforts to prepare for the largest vaccine roll out in our history. Part of the preparation included becoming a CDC approved COVID-19 Vaccine Provider. To do this, we had to ensure we met all the requirements, recommendations, and guidance for the vaccine. This included:



- Understanding the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations for Vaccine Prioritization
- Meeting the vaccine administration and 24 hour reporting requirements
- Following the Safe Immunization Practices requirements
- Storing and handling vaccine properly
- Reporting to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following any adverse event identified by the CDC

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

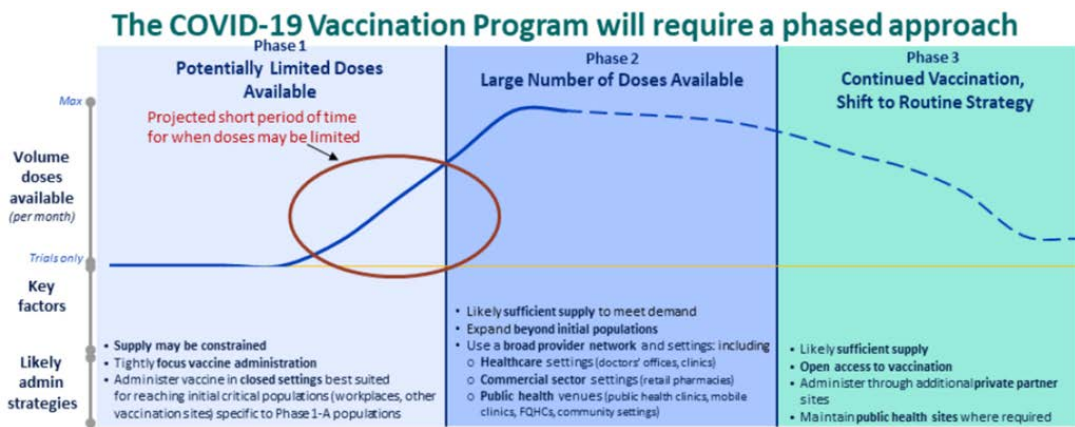


The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Bioterrorism Division develops plans, conducts trainings and collaborates with Community, Regional, and State stakeholders to prepare for and protect the public in a disaster or emergency situation. These plans have been put to test during this pandemic and which identified opportunities for operational improvements that have been implemented.

COVID-19 MASS VACCINATION PLANNING

At the November 12th Board of Commissioners meeting, a presentation to County Administration and stakeholders took place to:

- Review the Allegan County Public Health COVID-19 Community Vaccination base plan.
- Identify details of the proposed phase approach of the COVID-19 vaccine release.
- Discuss additional assistance needed from the Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
- Provide information on the December 2020 vaccination release, what MDHHS and CDC viewed as the local public health’s role in this part of the response, the supplies needed, and how distribution to administer would occur.



FORMATION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION TASK FORCE

The Allegan County COVID-19 Community Vaccination Task Force was formed to focus on the effective deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine in Allegan County. The task force met bi-weekly and worked to:

- Identify the Human Capital need.
- Explore costs for vaccination mitigation strategies.
- Estimate number of population per priority group.
- Survey agencies for support availability.
- Deploy the MI Volunteer Registry platform.
- Develop the Allegan County Volunteers’ policies and procedures.
- Determine facilities for points of vaccinations (POV).
- Develop POVs’ standardized schematics.
- Conduct inspections of the POVs.
- Evaluate thru-put rate.
- Determine Physical Assets and Supply needs.
- Provide weekly updates to the EOC.

This multi-sector group was important to ensure that all aspects of planning were addressed. We thank each member that contributed their time and expertise for the good of Allegan County.

Members:

Kathy Yonkers-Wright (ACHD)

Dan Wedge (Allegan County)

Dr. Richard Tooker (Allegan County Community Mental Health/ACHD)

Scott Corbin (Allegan County EOC)

Mike Larsen (Sheriff’s Department)

Greg Janik (Saugatuck Twp. Fire Chief)

Billy Bregg (Allegan Area Educational

Service Agency (AAESA)

Craig Gardner (AAESA)

Ryan Cronk (Acension Borgess)

Margaret Brown (Holland Hospital)

Alex Yared (Perrigo)

Steve Sedore (Allegan County)

RESOURCE RECOVERY

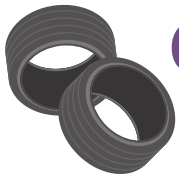
The Resource Recovery Program serves 18 communities in Allegan County. Find more information on Resource Recovery, visit www.allgeancounty.org/health.



1,690 TONS
total volume of
single-stream recycling



85,766 LBS
of e-waste recycled



6,464
scrap tires
collected

33,964 LBS
household hazardous waste
collected & properly disposed of



highlights

- Voters approved increased funding in **eight** municipalities.
- Through a regional partnership, **1,326** illegally dumped scrap tires were collected from the Allegan State Game Area and recycled.

ANIMAL SHELTER



Public Health and Animal Control partner with Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance who operate the Animal Shelter. Wishbone offers pet adoption services, education about the importance of safe animal care and housing and reuniting strays with their families through the Animal Shelter.



311
cats adopted
7% increase from 2019



263
dogs adopted
12% decrease from 2019

MY COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTER

My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, established a partnership with Public Health to provide dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents.



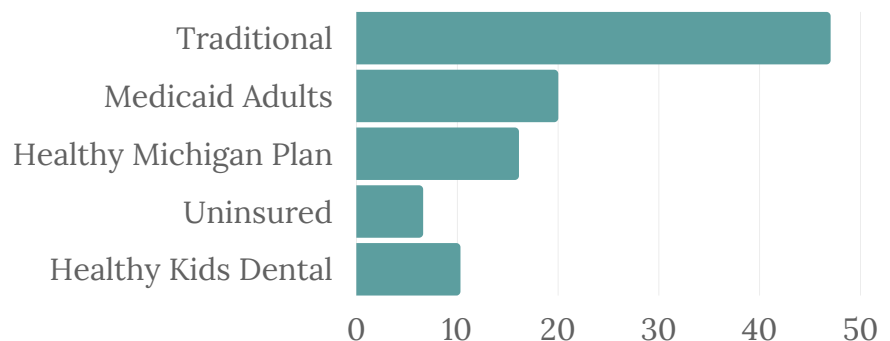
Source: Google Maps

Address: 1535 Lincoln Rd, Allegan

2,302
patients served



Average Type of Patient Coverage (%), 2020



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020

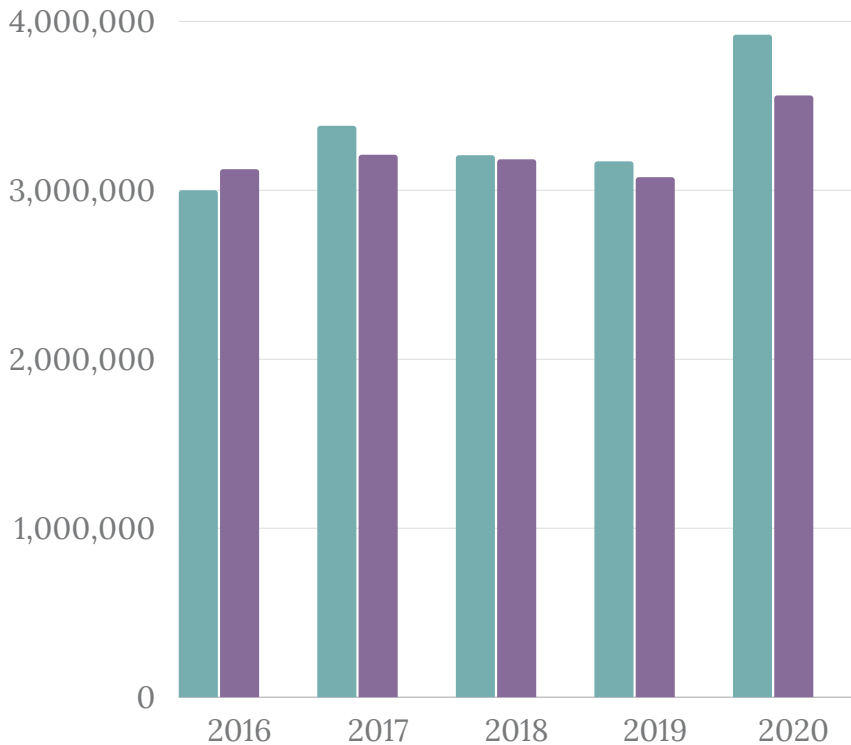
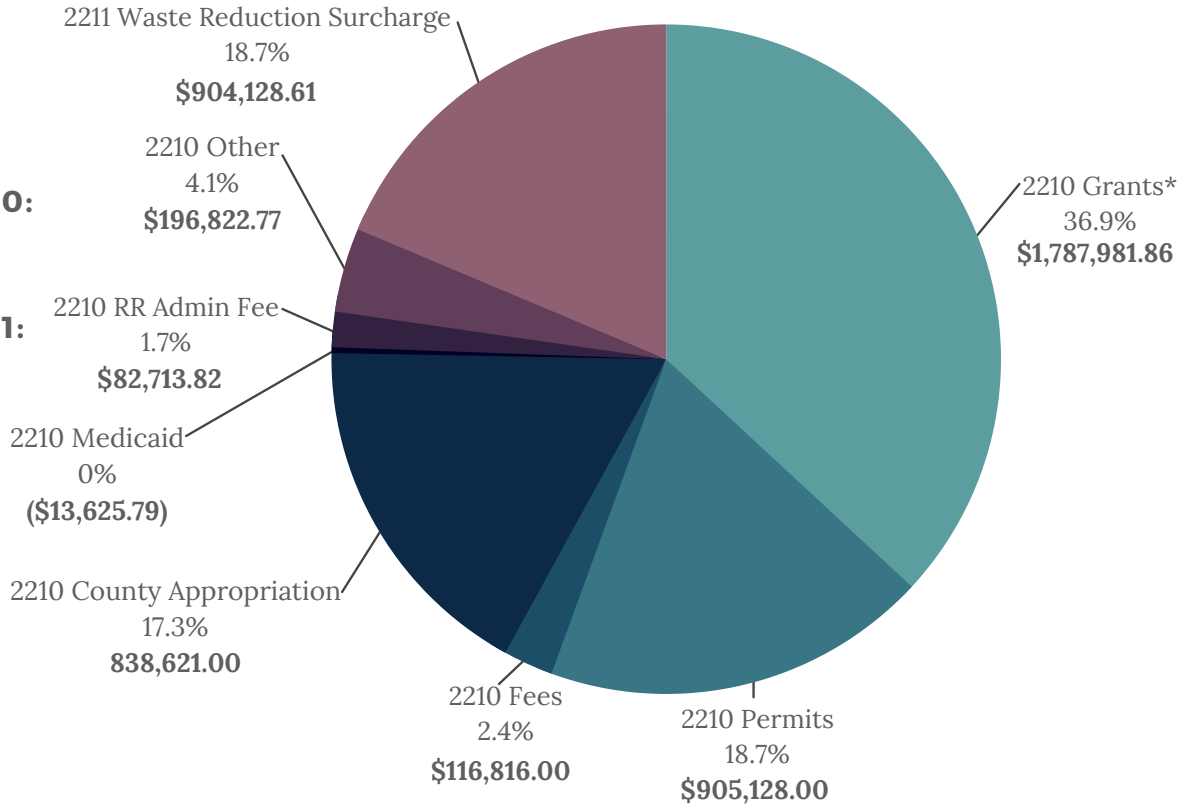
REVENUE

The Health Department budget is from two funds. Fund 2211 supports all recycling activities. The primary revenue for recycling is the recycling surcharge. Fund 2210 supports all Public Health operations. Revenue in Fund 2210 generally includes the County General Fund allocation, State funding, grants, permits, fees, and Medicaid reimbursement.

TOTAL REVENUE 2210:
\$3,914,457.66

TOTAL REVENUE 2211:
\$904,128.61

*Includes COVID-19 Grant Funding from Federal and State



REVENUE & EXPENDITURES BY YEAR

- Revenue
- Expenditures

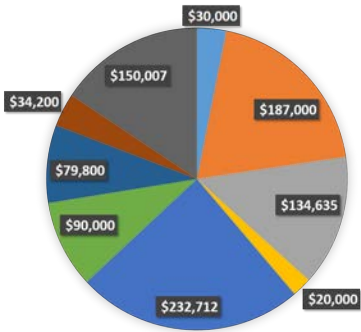
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2210:
\$3,555,591.121



COVID-19 FUNDING SUMMARY

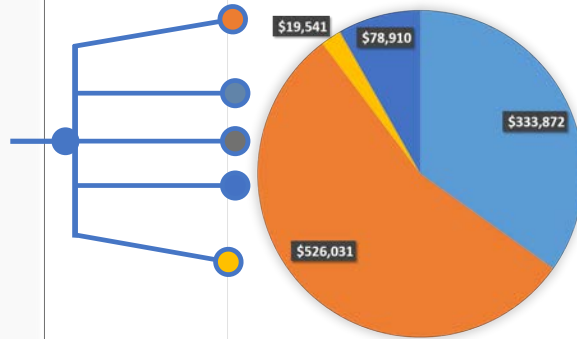
COVID-19 2020-2021 FUNDING

- 2020 COVID-19 Response - MDHHS
- 2020 COVID-PHEP - Federal
- 2020 ELC MONT - MDHHS
- 2020 ELC INF/PREV - MDHHS
- 2021 ELC MONT - MDHHS
- 2021 ELC INF/PREV - MDHHS
- 2020 CRF LHD Contact Tracing
- 2021 CRF LHD Contact Tracing
- 2021 CRF LHD Testing



COVID-19 Mitigation Components

- Enhanced Ability to Test
- Robust Case Investigation and Contract Tracing
- Sufficient Health Care Capacity
- Best Practices for Organizations
- Community Vaccination and/or Herd Immunity



TOTAL BUDGET* FOR COVID: \$958,354

*2020 funding carried over to 2021 FY

MITIGATION COMPONENTS

Enhanced Ability to Test



Robust Case Investigation and Contract Tracing



Sufficient Health Care Capacity



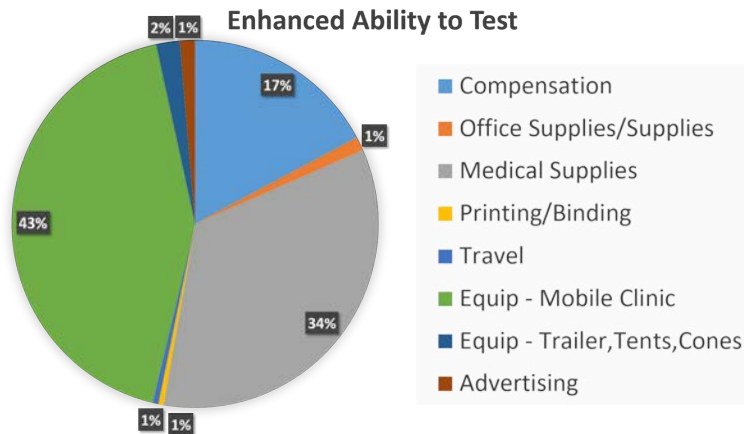
Best Practices for Organizations



Community Vaccination and/or Herd Immunity

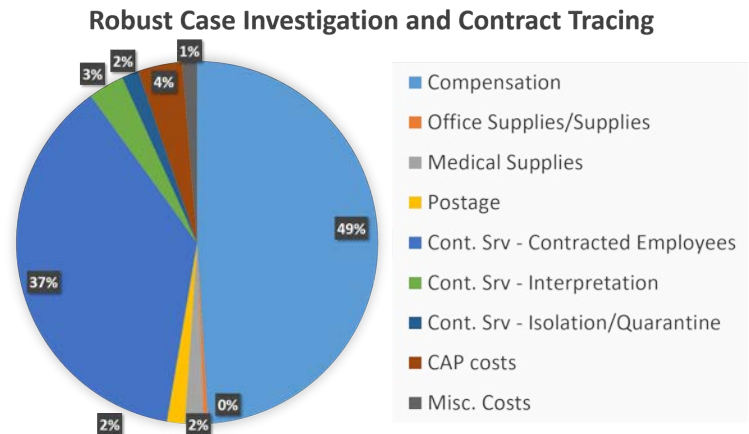


Enhanced Ability to Test



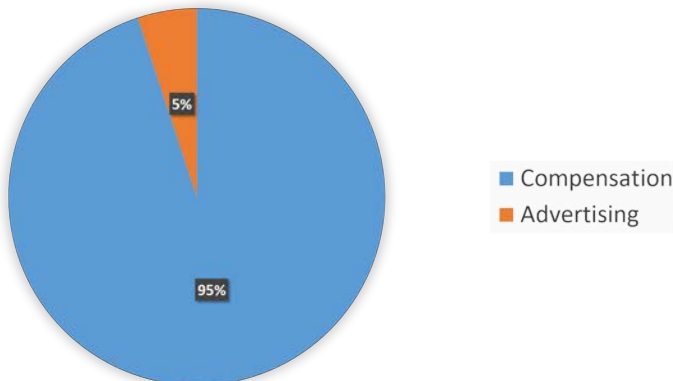
TOTAL: \$333,872

Robust Case Investigation and Contract Tracing



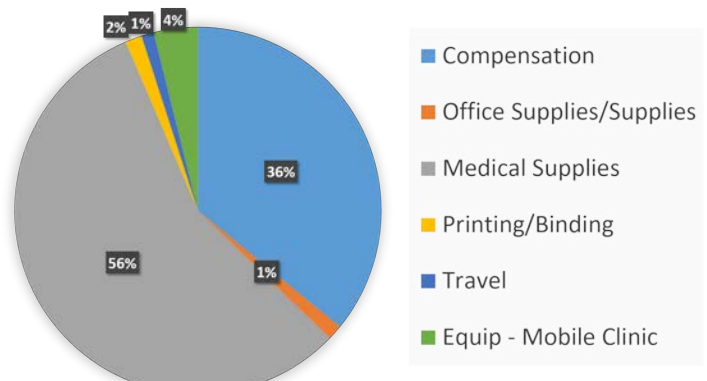
TOTAL: \$541,790

Best Practices for Organizations



TOTAL: \$19,541

Community Vaccination and/or Herd Immunity



TOTAL: \$78,910

GOVERNANCE

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) is the governing board of the Public Health Department. The BOC employs a County Administrator who is recognized as the Chief Administrative Officer of the County. Representatives are below. For more information on our BOC, visit www.allegancounty.org



Dean Kapenga,
District 1



Jim Storey,
District 2



Max R. Thiele,
District 3



Mark DeYoung,
District 4



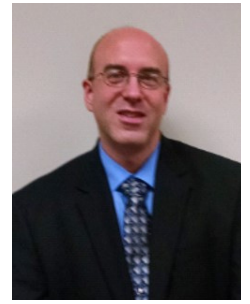
Tom Jessup,
District 5



Gale Dugan,
District 6



Rick Cain,
District 7



Robert J. Sarro,
County Administrator



MISSION

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper

VISION

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners is committed to providing our citizens superior and innovative services, being judicious and efficient in the expenditure of resources and **promoting a safe, clean and healthy environment in which to live, work and play.**





IT TAKES A VILLAGE

While 2020 did not fall short of its challenges, we would not have been as successful without the support we received from our community, Board of Commissioners, County Administration, schools, public safety, emergency management, businesses, local unit of governments, non-profits, and volunteers/community members local volunteers, Michigan National Guard, and MDHHS.

THANK YOU!





HEALTH Department



allegancounty.org/health



[@AlleganCountyHD](https://twitter.com/AlleganCountyHD)