

# Environmental Health

Environmental issues encompass all areas of our lives. Whether related to air quality, drinking or surface water, food service, housing, or solid/liquid waste disposal, each of us are affected by these and other issues on a daily basis. The control and management of environmental agents are what the Environmental Health Division does through its inspections, permitting process and consultations. Some of the activity highlights this past year include:

- Local tattoo parlors are now licensed and regularly inspected.
- Certified Food Manager Program was very successful, 90% of facilities in compliance. 69 Certified Managers have gone through the class.
- New Sanitarian, Si Tanton, joined us in September. Si will be involved in all EH programs with focus on ground water & tattoo programs.
- Methamphetamine continues to be a major problem; staff works with area law enforcement in a collaborative effort to clean up the properties and protect public health.
- B-93 flooding aftermath
- Numerous septic tank installer meetings were held to advise installers of rule changes and commence licensure activities, 50-60 contractors were in attendance.
- New Sanitary Code was adopted April 2009.
- Implemented a new "risk based" classification concept for food service establishments.



Complaints Received (All types)	80
Routine Food Inspections	335
Swimming Pool Inspections	13
Radon Test Kits Distributed	462
Well Permits Issued	107
Septic Permits Issued	98
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	5
Methamphetamine Investigations	3

# Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness (PHP) is ready to respond to any health emergency-be it bioterrorism initiated or environmental, such as a flooding hazard. We are dedicated to protecting the health of Ionia citizens during public health emergencies. During 2009:

- PHP and the Environmental Health Division investigated several sites where methamphetamine was manufactured within Ionia County.
  - ◊ Unfortunately, the health department has witnessed an increase in the number of investigations involving the illegal production of methamphetamine.
  - ◊ The methods used to make the drug generate large amounts of hazardous material that has to be contained and disposed of before it contaminates other areas.
- Represented Ionia County on both the Regional Training and Equipment Committees for the Homeland Security Governing Board.
- PHP supported the Personal Health Section during the public health response to H1N1 Influenza.
  - ◊ We conducted 18 H1N1 clinics throughout the county at various locations to provide residents the opportunity to be vaccinated.
  - ◊ Approximately 7,000 residents were vaccinated between October and December 2009.
  - ◊ Met with local school districts prior to the start of the school year to plan for the fall flu season and discuss the H1N1 Influenza virus.
  - ◊ Local schools allowed us to use their facilities to conduct our H1N1 vaccination clinics and we cannot thank them enough for their support throughout 2009.
- Began discussions with the Michigan National Guard to participate in a statewide Pandemic Influenza exercise scheduled for June 2010.
- Participated in the Spectrum Health Pandemic Influenza table-top exercise.
- Assisted the Ionia Public Safety Department during the B-93/Ionia County Fairground recovery effort.



Phone: 616-527-5341 \* Fax: 616-527-5361 \* [www.ioniacounty.org](http://www.ioniacounty.org)

Ionia County Board of Commissioners:  
James L. Banks \* Lynn Mason \* Amanda M. Powell \* Jack Shattuck \* Mark Vroman \* Larry Tiejema \* Julie Calley

County Administrator:  
Mark Howe

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

# Ionia County Health Department



175 E. Adams Street  
Ionia, MI 48846



