

We are about to close the door on 2025, which proved to be a very interesting, tumultuous year. Yet Christmas has a way of helping put everything in perspective. The holiday helps us to refocus on what is important; foster family/community; emphasize goodwill and giving; have hope; demonstrate kindness; be expectant; make connections and have joy.

While change and challenges are inevitable, I can attest fully that the staff at your Meigs County Health Dept. (MCHD) continued to be resilient, persistent and committed to our mission: to prevent, promote, and protect the health and well-being of Meigs County. In 2025, we said hello to some new team members and goodbye to others while staying the course with continuing to provide you with the 10 Essential Public Health Services: Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets; Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population; Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it; Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health; Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health; Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health; Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy; Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce; Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement; Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Some particular work of interest in 2025 included the completion of a Social Return on Investment for which the MCHD contracted with Ohio University. The full report can be accessed at www.meigs-health.com and demonstrates how the MCHD wisely stewards your property taxes for the benefit of you, your family and friends. Also, the MCHD coordinated another successful Meigs County Cleanup Day and offered additional scrap tire abatement for County residents. In addition, the MCHD welcomed OhioHealth's Wellness on Wheels (WOW) mobile unit beginning in April. WOW provides convenient primary care, pediatrics and women's health/OB/GYN every Tuesday. Appointments can be made by calling 740-331-7373. Finally, the MCHD collaborated with Moxley Public Health to compile the 2026-2029 Meigs County Community Health Assessment, which will be released in Jan. 2026 and will be available for use by students, partners writing grant proposals, etc. Look for our complete 2025 Annual Report in late March 2025, which will be available at www.meigs-health.com, to see a summary of all the work done by your MCHD staff.

Also notable in 2025, was the passage of the MCHD's renewal levy. We greatly appreciate the majority of voter support and are grateful for the confidence instilled in the importance of the MCHD's role in the communities we serve. Thank you for sharing our vision to be a leader in

public health, providing solutions to community health challenges so that people enjoy optimal health in a clean and safe environment.

With 2026 just around the corner, the MCHD anticipates another busy year. We will be working on re-accreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board atop of the other daily tasks with which we are served.

Finally, I want to wish you, our MCHD stakeholder, a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We appreciate you greatly! Please feel free to contact me at Courtney.midkiff@meigs-health.com or at 740-992-6626 if you have any questions, comments or concerns that the MCHD can address.



Courtney C. Midkiff, BSC
Administrator