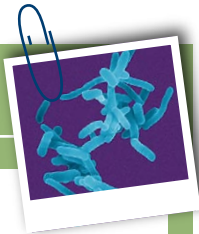






Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner

PATHOGEN:  
*Shigella*



'08 CASES IN  
COLUMBUS: 523  
(compared to 10 in '07)

TIMEFRAME: Ongoing since June 2008

**OUTBREAK PROFILE:** An unprecedented number of *Shigella* cases was reported in Columbus and Franklin County during the summer of 2008. At least half of the cases probably occurred as the result of disease spread within the home, although toddler-to-toddler contact is also a primary means of transmission. Proper hand washing and safe diaper handling are key to preventing new infections. More than 240 cases were reported by the end of August, and the outbreak continues into 2009 with 125 cases already reported April. CPH has assembled a task force to attack the problem and create a model that can be used to stop other diarrhea-spread illnesses.

## GREETINGS FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

This past year, Columbus Public Health celebrated a historic milestone – 175 years of helping people live healthier and safer lives in Columbus and central Ohio. It's a proud legacy we strive to honor and fulfill in our work every day.

Today's challenges are unique to our time, just like they were 175 years ago. We no longer have to worry about our children dying from malaria or cholera, but too many children and adults are now overweight or obese, making them susceptible to chronic diseases. Today, we can eat food and drink water with greater confidence as we have systems in place to protect our community, yet too many people don't have access to fresh and healthy foods in their neighborhoods. And, while many vaccine preventable diseases are a thing of the past, not everyone has equal access to preventative care for a foundation of good health.

Today's challenges require our innovation, leadership and collaboration just like they did back in the 1800s. In 2008, we kicked off the Institute for Active Living – a public/private partnership – which is working to fight childhood obesity and diabetes by building active communities. We expanded our

Farmers Markets to bring fresh, locally grown produce to more than 10,000 people in underserved neighborhoods. We also worked to combat health disparities and inequities by focusing on strategic, long-term solutions to achieve optimum health for all people at the community level.

Our work continues to evolve and, like our predecessors, we are called upon to go the extra mile. Whether investigating outbreaks or developing new strategies to provide health protection to our residents and visitors, this commitment will remain our focus, whatever the challenge, in 2009 and beyond.

Yours in good health,

Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner

## OUTBREAKS IN 2008: PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTIGATIONS

Disease outbreaks have been and will continue to be a key focus of public health. In the Summer of 2008, there was a concentration of outbreaks, some of which continue.

Outbreak investigation and response is a process that involves the cooperation of many Columbus Public Health colleagues. We have epidemiologists, doctors, sanitarians and nurses who all work together to identify, investigate, respond and prevent the pathogens that cause disease.

Columbus Public Health staff conducts these investigations in concert with other organizations, such as the Ohio Departments of Health and Agriculture, local hospitals and other local public health agencies. With the assistance and cooperation

of our partners, along with the media, we work together to identify the problem, communicate accurate health and safety information and find a solution.

"The challenge for local public health is having the capacity to respond to outbreaks when they occur," said Dr. Long. "For example, because food inspectors are already fully utilized with their day-to-day work, responding to an outbreak can cause delays in routine restaurant inspections -- another essential service."

Five outbreak investigations, including *Shigella*, *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, Syphilis and *Salmonella*, are highlighted in this report.

## HEALTHIER, SAFER FAMILIES

- Increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables through Farmers' Markets, serving more than 10,000 people and 16 farmers.
- Improved nutrition and increased physical activity at 46 childcare centers through Healthy Children, Healthy Weights, impacting 2,856 children under age 5 and their families.
- Registered 24,606 Franklin County births and 10,301 deaths, and issued 111,041 certified copies of birth and death certificates.
- Provided breast and cervical cancer screenings to 1,322 women, an 11% increase.
- Provided urgent dental care through more than 4,700 patient visits.
- Supported emergency shelters with nurses and sanitarians after the September windstorm.
- Provided preventative health services for low-income women at three prenatal clinic sites, caring for 1,552 perinatal clients through nearly 7,000 visits.
- Supported the work of AccessHealth Columbus to connect vulnerable people to healthcare.
- Provided more than \$5 million for primary healthcare to uninsured residents through Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, Inc.
- Served in leadership roles on state task forces focused on improving access to and quality of care for Ohio residents.
- Provided access to nutritious foods for a monthly average of 36,115 pregnant, breastfeeding, recently postpartum women, and infants and children under age 5 through the WIC program.
- Made nearly 4,000 home visits to parenting and pregnant mothers who delivered 158 babies.
- Protected residents, their families and the community against vaccine preventable diseases through 33,643 immunizations.
- Inspected 399 car safety seats and corrected the 86% of seats that were improperly installed.

## HEALTHIER, SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

- Created walking maps with safe routes and destinations for 11 Columbus neighborhoods.
- Assisted more than 47 community partners with wellness events and activities, conducting more than 6,000 blood pressure and blood sugar checks, which served more than 4,500 residents.
- Helped 61 families prevent asthma triggers, lead poisoning, and other safety hazards in their homes.
- Screened 12,766 children for lead poisoning and provided medical case management to 54 lead-poisoned children.
- Quarantined or tested 1,182 animals for rabies, consulted on 91 animal bites, and vaccinated 585 animals against rabies.
- Prevented the spread of HIV by providing 10,624 HIV tests at more than 20 locations.
- Prevented the spread of TB through more than 18,000 patient visits, and worked with 105 active and suspected TB cases to prevent spread.
- Provided drug and alcohol counseling and treatment to more than 1,200 people and 800 children through the YES program for kids with addicted parents.
- Installed two radar speed signs in the Dana Elementary School zone to slow drivers.
- Helped residents in the city's East, West and South quadrants address issues such as access to fruits and vegetables, physical fitness and healthier environmental conditions.
- Treated 51 Columbus locations to kill mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile and hundreds of areas with high mosquito populations.
- Trained 1,055 people on Pandemic influenza readiness, assisted with plan development for five Settlement Houses and 37 churches, and facilitated outreach to 400 faith organizations.
- Coordinated multi-disciplinary workgroups to harness area expertise in preparation for possible biological, chemical and radiological attacks and extreme weather conditions.
- Completed 13,000 inspections and licensed 6,678 retail food facilities to prevent foodborne illness.
- Licensed 54 body art establishments and issued 79 temporary body art licenses to reduce the risk of bloodborne illness.
- Hosted 10 community town hall meetings on health equity for more than 400 participants



PATHOGEN:  
Cryptosporidium

'08 CASES IN  
COLUMBUS: 220  
(compared to 18 in '07)

TIMEFRAME: July 1-Nov. 30, 2008

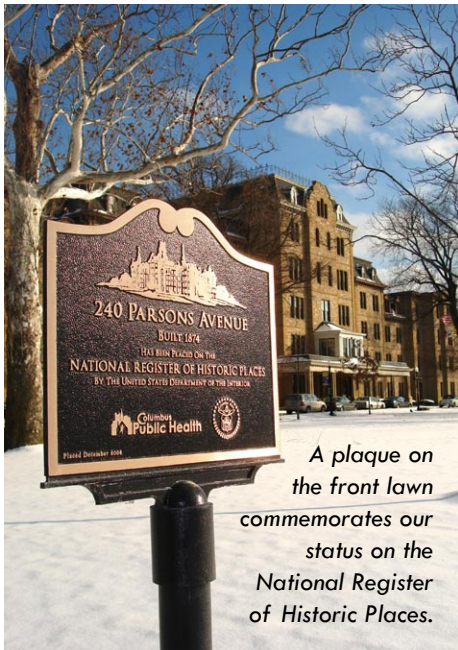
**OUTBREAK PROFILE:** Crypto is a diarrheal disease spread through feces of people or animals, mostly by accidentally swallowing contaminated water. This chlorine-resistant parasite is primarily associated with treated swimming places, such as pools and water parks. While six cases of crypto in six days is considered too much, the number had doubled a week later. By late August, 104 cases of crypto had been identified. Many of these people had visited a pool or water park before or during their illness. Because it was summer and crypto is a chlorine-resistant parasite, CPH alerted all pool operators to hyperchlorinate and educated the public about other preventive measures. Columbus drinking water was never implicated in the outbreak.

*"Public health is everyone's responsibility, from the individual choices we make to the public policy that affects entire communities."*

Teresa C. Long,  
Health Commissioner

# 2008

● OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY



A plaque on the front lawn commemorates our status on the National Register of Historic Places.



Our own Dr. Teresa C. Long with Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland, keynote speaker Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Columbus Public Health's Medical Director Dr. Mysheika LeMaile-Williams.

2008 marked 175 years of organized public health in Columbus. Throughout the year, Columbus Public Health commemorated past and current accomplishments through presentations, displays and installation educational pieces around the building. An event on December 12 (photos on this page) attracted more than 200 community partners to learn about past successes and future challenges. "Keeping people healthier and safer today requires a coordinated effort and innovative approaches involving many of our partners, including community organizations, health care systems, funders, political leadership, policy/decision makers and other key stakeholders," said Dr. Long, Health Commissioner.

Keynote speaker Kathleen Kennedy Townsend presented "Public and Private Sector Partnerships: Searching for Solutions to America's Social Problems." As Maryland's first woman Lt. Governor and in other significant public roles, Ms. Townsend's career has focused on creating public and private partnerships to solve some of the most intractable problems facing America today. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Julie Gerberding also addressed the crowd via video to mark the occasion and to invite participation in a national initiative to form public-private partnerships for health – the Alliance to Make U.S. Healthiest. For more information, go to: [www.healthiestnation.org](http://www.healthiestnation.org).



Guests included: Patricia Temple Gabbe, MD, OSU; Jerry Friedman, JD, OSU Medical Center; and Mark Siegel, DDS, Ohio Department of Health.



Our Columbus Public Health History timeline depicts local public health milestones in photographs and word.



◀ Mayor Michael Coleman kicked off the fourth annual Farmers' Market last July which brought nearly 4,000 central Ohioians to the Columbus Public Health campus. The markets brought more fruits and vegetables into the diets of area residents with limited access to fresh food, focusing on pregnant women and children in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program, and provided an opportunity for area growers.

*Photo: A local farmer distributes fresh produce at Columbus Public Health's third annual Farmers' Market.*

▲ Columbus Public Health, along with OSU College of Public Health and the Ohio Department of Health, hosted Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, the 15th Surgeon General of the U.S. on October 8. Dr. Elders, who was the first African American and the second woman to hold the position, spoke to the Columbus Metropolitan Club about challenges the new administration faces regarding health care.

*Photo, from left to right: Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, Columbus Board of Health member and OSU College of Public Health Associate Dean; Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH, Columbus Health Commissioner; Joycelyn Elders, 15th Surgeon General of the U.S.; Stanley Lemeshow, PhD, OSU College of Public Health Dean; Sandy Clary, Clary Communications and Columbus Metropolitan Club President; Joyce Beatty, Ohio House of Representatives; and, Charleta Tavares, Columbus City Council member.*

The PBS series "Unnatural Causes" premiered in the spring of 2008, sifting through evidence to discover there is more to health than bad habits, health care, or unlucky genes -- the social conditions in which we are born, live and work profoundly affect our health and longevity. Columbus Public Health and partners continued the conversation locally through programming on WOSU and community meetings.

*Photo, from left to right: Jerry Friedman, Columbus Medical Association Foundation (host); John Tolbert, Columbus Public Health - Community Health Director; Kevin Dixon, Cultural Competency for ADAMH Vice President; Doug Lumpkin, Franklin County Jobs and Family Services Executive Director; Marilyn Brown, Franklin County Board of Commissioners President; Suzanne Coleman Tolbert, Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation Executive Director; Not Shown: Dr. Teresa Long, Columbus Public Health Commissioner.*





**PATHOGEN:**  
**E. coli O157:H7**

**'08 CASES IN COLUMBUS: 6**  
(compared to 4 in '07)

**TIMEFRAME:** Approximately 4 weeks

**OUTBREAK PROFILE:** From the first reported cases in early June, the investigation took 26 days to identify and confirm the source for this outbreak of E. coli O157:H7. Columbus Public Health, the Ohio Departments of Health & Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention worked together to pinpoint and trigger the recall of over 5 million pounds of beef by Kroger and Nebraska Beef, Ltd. The contaminated meat affected people from Ohio and Michigan. This and other food-borne illnesses involve hours of CPH investigation and work with food licensed organizations to identify contaminated products and stop public exposure as quickly as possible.

## COLUMBUS BOARD OF HEALTH

### JUST THE FACTS

- First established in 1833 in response to an outbreak of Cholera.
- Made up of five members, serving four-year terms.
- Current members have expertise in various areas of public health: environmental law, community service and development, obstetrics and gynecology, public administration, academics and research, tobacco prevention, nursing, theology and zoology.
- Provides oversight to the operations of Columbus Public Health, including major and programmatic decisions.
- Pass health policies, regulations and enforce Ohio's health codes and city regulations.
- Holds monthly meetings which are open to the public. Get the schedule at [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov).



2008 Columbus Board of Health (left to right): John H. Boxill, MA; Martin S. Seltzer, JD, PhD; Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH; Karen Jefferson Morrison, JD, MS; Augustus G. Parker III, MD.

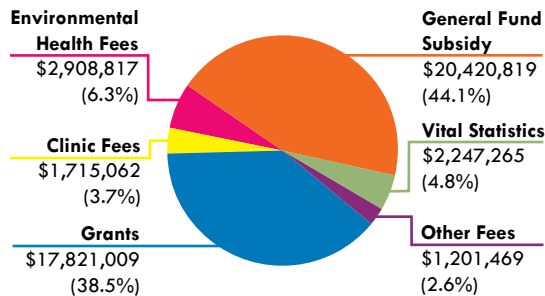
## 2008 BUDGET

In fiscal year 2008, the City of Columbus General Fund continued to be the major provider for public health activities. However as in previous years, we have become more reliant on grants and service fees. The good news is that because of

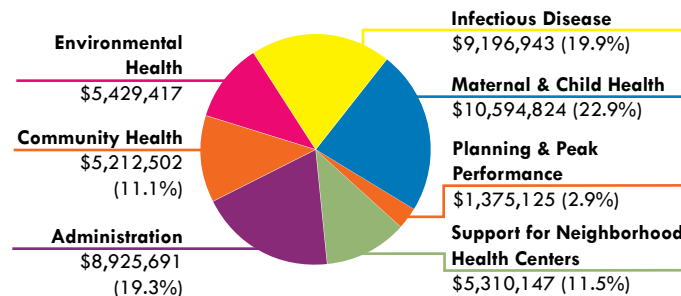
the growth in receipts, we were able to increase the level of services to the community:

- Total Expenditures - \$46,236,314

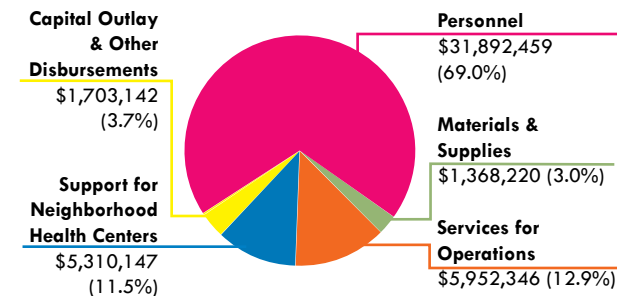
### TOTAL RECEIPTS BY SOURCE



### TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION



### TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### FOOD SAFETY

Food protection is one of the many ways that a local public health agency protects a community from foodborne illnesses and potential outbreaks. Columbus Public Health issued more than 6,500 licenses to food facilities, including restaurants, mobile food carts, vending machines, event vendors, and other types of businesses serving food in Columbus and Worthington. The food protection team works with these businesses to help ensure that they follow state law and operate in ways that minimize the risk of foodborne illnesses.

Food protection also means dealing with outbreaks spread through food products. In 2008, a series of foodborne outbreaks impacted central Ohio. An outbreak of E. coli O157: H7 caused the recall of more than 5 million pounds of beef over the summer. Two more outbreaks involved Salmonella. Investigating a foodborne illness outbreak takes resources from many areas, including communicable disease, communications, food protection, epidemiology, and nursing. Foodborne

illnesses can be deadly, especially for those with weakened immune systems or other medical conditions, young children, or the elderly. For this reason, time is critical and the earlier a source is identified, the fewer people will be effected.

### ACTIVE LIVING

In February 2008, Mayor Coleman announced the creation of the Institute for Active Living. Its mission is to build a more active, healthier community and to fight childhood obesity and diabetes in Columbus. Coordinated by Columbus Public Health, the Institute is implementing strategies such as designing neighborhoods that support active residents; holding farmers markets and other ways to increase access to healthy food; and, creating safe places for walking, biking and playing. "Active Living works to give Columbus residents the opportunity to make healthier and more active choices every day," said Barb Seckler, Director of the Institute. "That's because health is more than just health care, it's the choices we make every day that are shaped by the options we have."

"Health is about more than health care. The choices we make are shaped by the options we have, so we are working to give residents healthier and more active choices in their every day lives."

Barb Seckler,  
Director of the Institute for Active Living

## 2009 PRIORITIES

### WEB SITE'S NEW LOOK

As part of a city-wide project, our web site will have a new look that is cleaner, more modern, and based on recent user experience research. The redesigned site should offer better navigation and tools for visitors and create access to usable, current, local public health information, resources and services. As part of an e-government initiative, more services will be available online in the future. An expanded E-health alerts tool also will allow visitors to subscribe to receive specific updates, such as health advisories, news, and restaurant closings.



Learn more at: [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov)

### SHIGELLA TASK FORCE

There were more than 500 cases of Shigellosis reported in Columbus last year, compared with 10 cases in 2007. As of April 2009, 107 more cases were already reported.

Outbreaks like this one have a serious affect on children, families and childcare centers since kids miss an average of 10 days of school or childcare. They also affect the ability to respond to and control other disease outbreaks.

To combat this outbreak, Columbus Public Health has a team to help curb the number of new infections and prevent further spread by tracking the outbreak, following cases, coordinating lab tests and promoting control and prevention measures.

### PATHOGEN: *Syphilis*



'08 CASES  
IN FRANKLIN  
COUNTY: 209  
(compared to 109 in '07)

TIMEFRAME: 2006-Present

**OUTBREAK PROFILE:** By the end of June 2008, there were already 89 cases of primary, secondary and early latent syphilis cases reported in Franklin County, nearing the 2007 total of 109. By the end of 2008, the count had reached 209. CPH continues to work with local healthcare providers regarding screening and treatment, as well as holding a public campaign to promote getting tested and reducing the risks. This outbreak is expected to span throughout 2009, because sexual health testing, treatment and prevention are difficult behaviors to change.



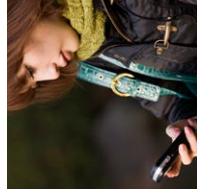
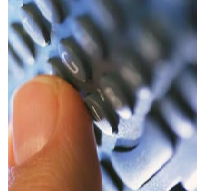
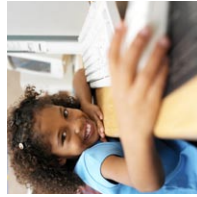
In an effort to conserve resources, a minimal quantity of hard-copy annual reports was printed this year. For an electronic copy of this report, visit our website at [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov)

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Select only the information you want, such as air quality alerts, disease outbreaks, public health emergencies or newly released health data.



Go online to sign up...

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**PATHOGEN:**  
*Salmonella Saintpaul*

**'08 CASES:** 1,442 in U.S. (compared to 18 in '07); 4 in Columbus

**TIMEFRAME:** April-August 2008

**OUTBREAK PROFILE:** The final count of cases in Columbus (4) that were related to this national outbreak involving raw produce may have been relatively small, but the time and resources spent on the investigation and education were quite large. Food safety staff needed time to ensure food facilities were not serving recalled items; nurses and epidemiologists conducted extensive follow-up interviews with cases and with illness complaints; and, staff educated the public and fielded media questions.

*Continue reading for more information on the nasty outbreaks Columbus faced in 2008.*