

Board of Health

President

Patricia Schrull, DNP, RN

Vice President

Dr. William A. Spreng, DVM

Board members

- Timothy Beidleman, PhD
- Grant D. Cornick, DO
- Thomas G. Eschtruth
- William Gardner
- Eric Lockhart, MD
- Edward X. McNamara
- Max T. Schaefer
- Edward von Hofen

LCPH Retirees

Thank you for your service!

- Joyce Davis, 42 years
- Mary Izzo, 25 years
- Tonya Kollen, 37 years
- Linda Matus, 24 years
- John Sabo, 32 years
- Karen Sabo, 24 years
- Jo Ann Simmons, 20 years

Lorain County Public Health

9880 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-6367

LorainCountyHealth.com



Some of the data points in the 2020 Annual Report were provided by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The ODH specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions. Some LCPH data is preliminary.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



the year of the pandemic



**Lorain County
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

A message from your Health Commissioner

2020 was a long year for Lorain County Public Health (LCPH), just as it was for the entire community. For most of the year, we spent time playing defense. We contacted all people with confirmed COVID-19. We helped them identify close contacts, and we discussed isolation and quarantine.



We encouraged folks to wear a mask, stay six feet apart, and wash their hands. We helped business owners and community leaders adjust to the State of Ohio requirements for businesses, schools, and public buildings.

Luckily, in December LCPH began playing offense. We began rolling out vaccinations. At first the COVID-19 vaccine was limited, so we started by prioritizing medical partners and high-risk folks. As 2021 began and vaccine availability increased, we've been vaccinating thousands of people each week. We also had partners, like hospitals and local pharmacies, vaccinating an additional 1,800 people per week.

It's been great to play defense and offense to bring this pandemic to an end. It has also been tiring. The staff at LCPH has gone above and beyond to help the community during very difficult times.

We look forward to a future without the pandemic - a day when we can all get back to normal. Through this pandemic and after it, LCPH will continue to identify ways to improve the health of the community. In 2021, we plan to focus even more intensely on areas most in need of improvement to help us make Lorain County a healthier place to live, work, and play.

– David Covell, MPH, RS
March 11, 2021

2020 Top causes of death in Lorain County

Heart disease:
686 deaths

Cancer:
647 deaths

Accidents:
232 deaths

Chronic lower respiratory disease:
213 deaths

Stroke:
178 deaths

COVID-19: 227 deaths

Since it is a new disease, the CDC has not yet established it as a leading cause description.

Funding sources

- Grants: \$5,604,565
- Levy and other taxes: \$4,507,387
- Fees for services: \$3,337,693
- Miscellaneous: \$787,111

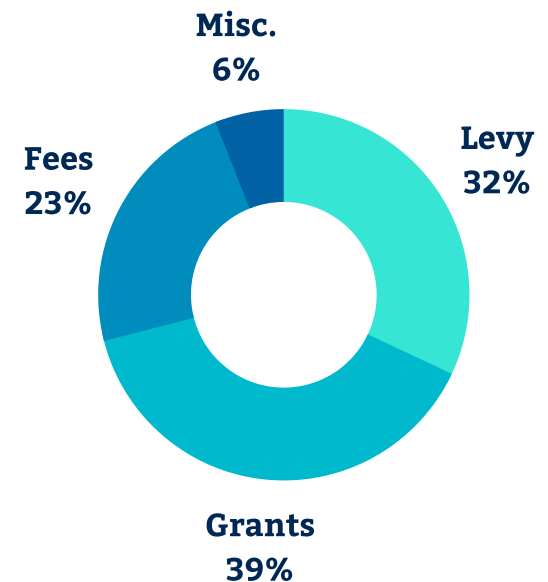
Total: \$14,236,756

Disbursements

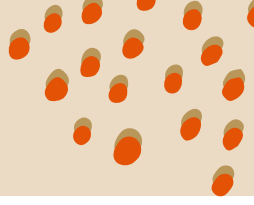
- Salaries/ Benefits: \$10,167,876
- Other: \$2,602,049
- Contracts: \$1,181,159
- Distribution to state: \$486,134
- Medical supplies: \$249,491
- Equipment: \$196,986

Total: \$14,883,695

2020 Finances



COVID-19 activities in 2020



- **January** - LCPH connected with Oberlin College to begin planning in case COVID-19 cases came to campus.
- **February** - LCPH sent regular situational updates to school and community leaders, as well as local businesses that travel internationally.
- **March** - Lorain County confirmed its first COVID-19 case and Ohio issued the Stay At Home order.



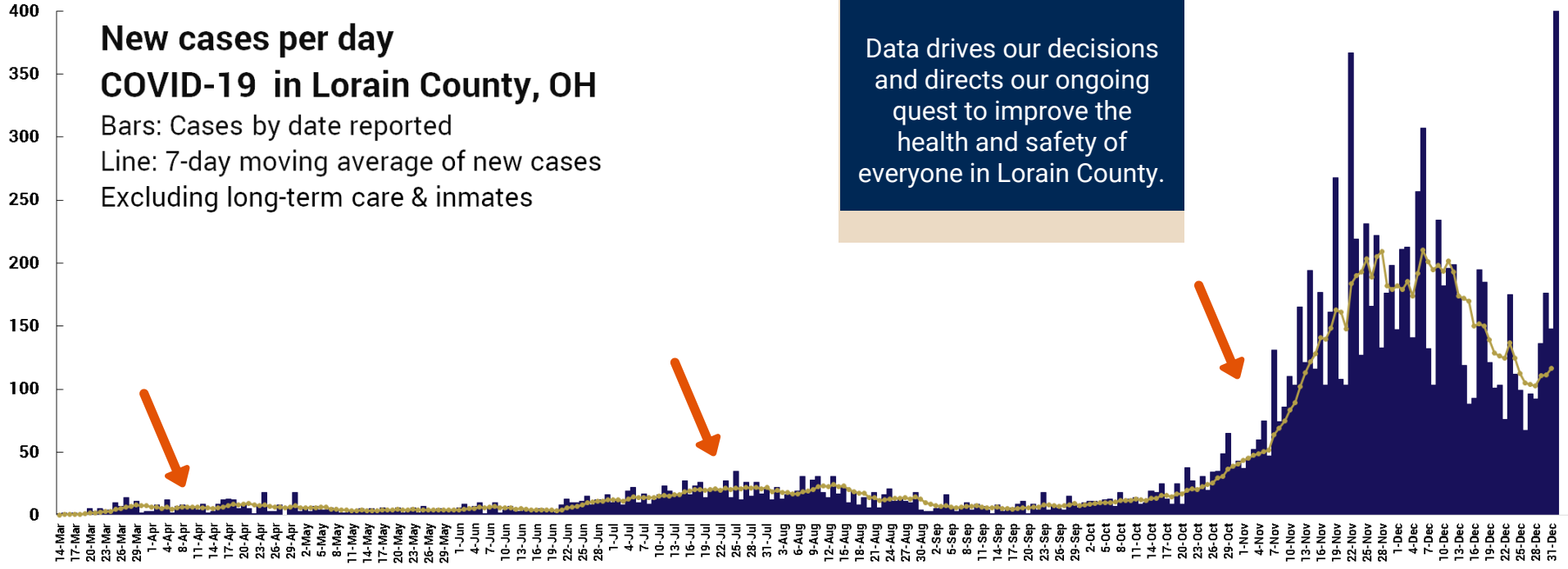
- **July** - COVID-19 case counts were so high that LCPH hired 10 more COVID-19 contact tracers to help make calls to positive cases.
- **August** - LCPH got the county ready to go back to school - we set up sick rooms, ordered PPE, trained school staff, and helped with messaging.
- **September** - LCPH released guidance on how to safely celebrate Halloween as we faced the coming colder weather.



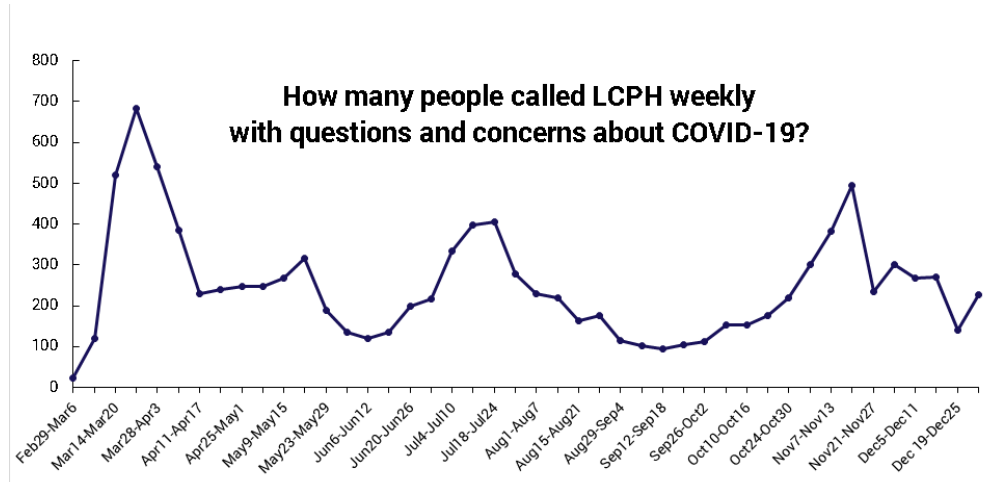
- **April** - LCPH gave essential businesses advice on how to keep employees and customers safe. School nurses pivoted to begin contact tracing instead of working in schools.
- **May** - LCPH coordinated with partners to make sure that businesses and organizations had the masks and other PPE they needed.
- **June** - LCPH hired our first 10 contact tracers as school nurses prepared to return to school-related duties.



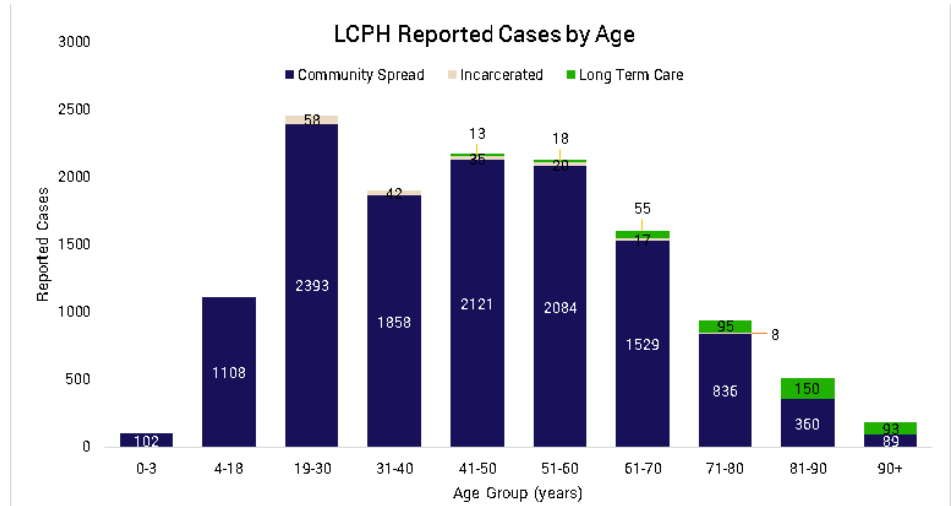
- **October** - COVID-19 cases increased as LCPH planned to share safe holiday guidance.
- **November** - LCPH held flu vaccine clinics at key locations as a test run for the anticipated COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- **December** - LCPH focused on getting ready for the COVID-19 vaccine - we held our first clinic on Dec. 23.



This graph shows all the new confirmed COVID-19 cases of 2020. There's a small curve in April. Then, you see the summer surge in July. Finally, see the significant increase in cases beginning in the fall.



LCPH set up a call team to answer questions from the public. This team gave clarification and helped businesses comply with state orders. The team also followed up on complaints.



LCPH collected a lot of data from cases and contacts to help us learn more about how COVID-19 spreads. This graph shows the age of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to LCPH.

SEE MORE DATA

LorainCountyHealth.com/data

LCPH's roles during the pandemic

Case management and contact tracing



- called every confirmed COVID-19 case - 11,417 in 2020
- kept track of thousands of close contacts
- provided confirmed case and quarantine documentation for employees

Answering questions and communicating best practice



- answered over 10,000 COVID-related calls from the public
- helped businesses and employers learn about and follow new safety guidance
- kept people informed through press interviews, media releases, and social media - over 266,000 people visited our website in 2020

Coordinating and administering vaccine



- coordinated possible points of distribution (PODs) before the pandemic even started
- planned throughout 2020 for a vaccine rollout

Battling misconceptions about LCPH's roles

LCPH could not, and did not have the authority to...

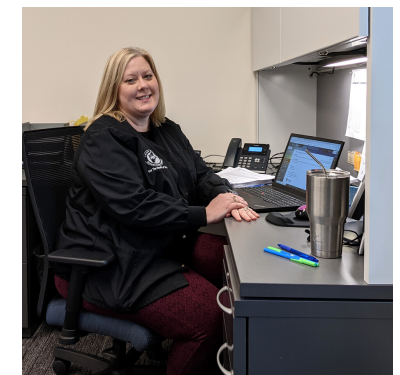
- keep people in their homes
- write tickets or shut down businesses
- decide who gets the vaccine or when; LCPH followed Ohio's vaccine plan

Literally saving lives in 2020...

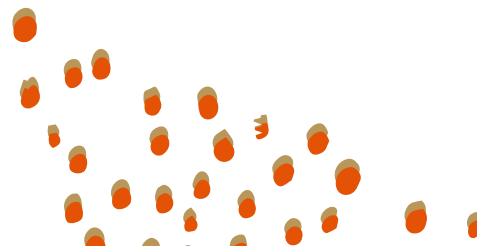
- In August, LCPH contact tracer David Ramos was interviewing a confirmed COVID-19 case on the phone, and the case stopped responding. The contact tracing team called 911. The case woke up in the ICU 3 days later. After recovering, he called back to thank LCPH for saving his life.
- In December, LCPH nurse Michelle Moran interviewed a confirmed case and noticed that he was having a hard time talking and breathing. She recommended that he go to a hospital. Upon follow-up, Michelle learned that the case was so sick he was transported to a critical care unit. He emphasized that Michelle's call and action saved his life.



David Ramos



Michelle Moran





NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- The Vaping Task Force surveyed 71 healthcare providers and found that only 25% were comfortable sharing e-cigarette resources with young patients. The Task Force created a webinar for health professionals; hospital systems will distribute it in 2021.
- Community Health began processing vaccine record requests online. 397 vaccine record requests got filled in 2020.
- Lorain Connected spearheaded work resulting in 3.5 miles of bike lanes in south and central Lorain, connecting important locations and providing safe access to transportation. Lorain also had the lowest number of bike/pedestrian crashes in the last decade.
- WIC moved their infant feeding class to a Zoom platform in April. WIC's rate of active breastfeeding moms was maintained at an average of 35%. All WIC appointments went phone-based to keep families safe.
- The North Ridgeville Heart and Sole collaborative coordinated a produce pick-up that resulted in 10,170 pounds of fresh produce in the hands of residents, and \$10,170 in revenue for local produce stands.
- As part of a Farm Market Nutrition Program, WIC distributed 125 \$20 vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables. The redemption rate was 91.8%, putting \$2,295 into local agriculture.



CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

- Vital Statistics continued to file and issue birth and death certificates with COVID-19 precautions in place. The office issued 9,544 birth certificates and 12,788 death certificates.
- Nurses safely distributed 251 Pack 'n Play cribs to eligible families to make sure babies have a safe place to sleep.
- LCPH distributed 932 Narcan kits to reverse an opioid overdose and offer someone a chance for recovery. 98 people received training online and got their kit by mail.
- Sanitarians conducted 2,330 inspections of places that serve food. They also gave advice on how to safely offer carryout and curbside services.
- The water quality (sewage) program issued 43% more sewage permits than in 2019. Over half of the permits were to replace existing sewage treatment systems, helping ensure that local waterways stay protected from failing systems.
- LCPH hired 11 additional school nurses to cover the health needs of students in Lorain County.
- The CHIP Steering Committee and five CHIP Priority Teams held 23 virtual meetings to work on priorities identified in the 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).