

# This Week in Public Health

in Seneca County  
June 2, 2021, Edition



## **Celebrating... Susan Burks, RN!**

Today is Sue's last day of employment here at Seneca County General Health District. Talk about milestones- she's been a registered nurse for 43 years. WOW!

Sue joined the health department in August 2015, and she's worked in many different aspects of public health nursing - but she really likes doing communicable disease investigation and control! As the pandemic has clearly shown, this is a foundational public health service that all local health departments must be capable of providing.

Sue doesn't have firm plans for what she wants to do during her retirement, but she and her husband do like to travel, so I'm sure they'll be "On the Road Again". Congratulations, Sue, on a job well done and a retirement well earned!

## **Getting to Know Your Co-Workers... Amber Stuard and Amber Terry**



Name: Amber Stuard

Position: Nursing Clerk

Yrs of Service: 6 months (Started as contact tracer in Nov 2020; Moved to nursing clerk position in March 2021)

Degree(s): Graduate of Findlay High School

Family: I have a wonderful fiancé (Dave); I'm getting married in early Nov! I also have 3 nieces, 1 nephew, and a Yorkie named Bulleit.

Why I Do What I Do: I love working with the public and really enjoy my co-workers.

Accomplishment I'm Most Proud Of: The multiple businesses Dave and I have opened together.

I'd really like to learn how to: Bartend.

If I could receive 1 superpower, I'd like it to be: The ability to make everyone happy!



Name: Amber Terry

Position: O&M Clerk (O&M stands for "Operation & Maintenance" of home sewage treatment systems. I handle permits for septic systems and water wells.

Yrs of Service: Just over 2 months

Other Employment Experience: I've worked in all areas of Patient Registration at ProMedica Fostoria Community Hospital, and I currently work part-time as a nail technician at Au Soleil Day Spa in Fostoria.

Degree(s): Graduate of Fostoria High School; Manicuring & Advanced Program course at Toledo Beauty Academy

Family: Lives in Fremont with her two daughters (ages 5 and 13).

Why I Do What I Do: I like to work with the public.

Accomplishment I'm Most Proud Of: Raising my daughters- they're both caring girls!

I'd really like to learn how to: Paint with acrylics. (Doing nails is like painting on small canvases.)

If I could receive 1 superpower, I'd like it to be: The ability to time-travel in both the past and the future.



## **Hello, Carsyn Jane Spridgeon!**

Congratulations to Brandi and her husband on the birth of their 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, Carsyn Jane, on Thursday, April 29. Carsyn weighed 7#, 5 oz, and was 20" long. She looks like she's just chillin'!

## **The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

The American Rescue Plan Act (also called ARPA, American Rescue Plan, or the COVID-19 Stimulus Package) is a

\$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in March 2021 to speed up America's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession. It builds upon many of the measures in the CARES Act (March 2020) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Dec 2020). ARPA provides for the following:

- Economic Impact Payments for eligible individuals, married couples, and their dependents
- Expanded Child Tax Credit being made through advance payment during 2021
- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - \$350 billion in emergency funding to enable state, local, and Tribal governments to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery. This money can help address revenue losses local governments experienced as a result of the crisis, cover costs incurred due to responding to the public health emergency, and provide support for a recovery- including through assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, aid to impacted industries, and support for essential workers.
- Capital Projects Fund to cover the costs of capital projects like broadband infrastructure so that all communities, especially in rural America and low- and moderate-income communities, have access to the high-quality, modern infrastructure
- Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide relief for the most vulnerable homeowners (for things like delinquent mortgage payments)
- Emergency Rental Assistance to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 crisis
- State Small Business Credit Initiative to fund small business credit expansion initiatives
- Employee Retention Credit and Paid Leave Credit Programs for small and medium-sized businesses
- Unemployment Compensation (waiving federal income taxes on the first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received in 2020 by middle- and lower-income businesses)

### **The Current Status of COVID-19 in Seneca County**

- ☹️ We had just 15 new cases in Seneca County from 5/20 to 6/2/2021 (for a rate of 27.2 new cases per 100,000). We ranked #80 out of 88 counties for the rate of new cases in the previous 2 weeks; we ranked #84 last week with a rate of 39.9 new cases per 100,000.
- 😞 38% of residents have begun and 34% have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series (as of 6/2/2021). While the overall percentages haven't changed since last week, 167 residents started and 207 completed their COVID-19 vaccinations during the past week.
- 😊 A total of 773 residents ages 19 and younger have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, compared to 749 last week.
- 😊 Numerous state health orders ended or were lifted on June 2.
- 😊 We have free COVID-19 antigen home test kits. We hope people will use them when they have COVID-like symptoms to quickly find out if they have COVID-19 and then take appropriate action (i.e., isolation) to protect family members and close contacts. These are stored in the room directly across the hall from the Health Commissioner's office. You don't need permission to take these- just leave a note in Anne's mailbox re: number of boxes taken and who/what they were given to (e.g., resident, county or city employee, sports team, name of workplace).

- Q. Is the COVID-19 antigen test worthwhile if a person has had COVID-19 and/or has gotten the vaccine?
- A. **Yes.** The BinaxNOW home test is worthwhile if a person has symptoms that can be caused by COVID-19 infection. The test measures the presence of antigens that develop during a COVID-19 infection, so it shows if the person has an active infection. The test doesn't measure antibodies, which are formed after someone has had COVID-19 or been vaccinated against it.