



ALLEGAN COUNTY  
**HEALTH**  
Department

## Quarter 4 Board of Commissioners' Update

### Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

#### ACHD Activities During the Most Recently Concluded Quarter (2025 Q4)

**Active Tuberculosis Cases Response:** In Q4, the ACHD wrapped up its active tuberculosis case investigation and response following the last testing clinics in December. After the final testing event, staff participated in an after-action meeting to discuss successes and areas for improvement. The ACHD would like to thank the Fennville Fire Department, Fennville Public Schools, and the Fennville community for their assistance and support throughout the investigation.

**Materials Management Plan (MMP) Accepted:** The MMP was released with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the public to secure a consultant to assist developing the plan itself. The ACHD received three (3) acceptable bids. The Materials Management Plan Committee (MMPC) met and chose a bid and recommended it to the BOC for approval. This proposal was recently accepted and signed. The MMPC will work with the consultant on a new MMP to present to the BOC.

**Environmental Health (EH) Field Program:** The EH Field Program ended the 2025 calendar year with an overall increase of 9.1% more applications than 2024. Septic system permits applications increased 7.8%, well applications increased 12.4%, and Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) applications increased 21.2%. The team worked very hard throughout the year to maintain the 14 business turn-around benchmark and to stay current with the required inspections.

**2026 Strategic Planning:** In November, the ACHD leadership set priorities and goals for 2026. All goals fall under the four strategies on the Allegan Strategy Map:

- Provide valuable and necessary quality services to our customers
- Support a united and engaged workforce
- Continuously improve processes
- Maintain our financial stability

Thus, the ACHD's goals aim to strengthen relationships in the community, improve processes and workflows, continue to be fiscally responsible, and foster an educated, positive team to provide quality services for all residents of Allegan County. Updates on the ACHD's progress on its goals will be forthcoming on the quarterly reports.

#### ACHD Activities Forecast for Quarter Ahead (2026 Q1)

**Respiratory Virus Season:** 2025/2026's respiratory virus season has been severe. A strain of influenza mutated during the summer, causing more severe illness than normal over the season. Respiratory virus season lasts from October until mid-May, and different viruses come in waves. Some of the best prevention methods to



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combat respiratory illnesses are to practice good hand-hygiene and cough etiquette, staying home when sick, and getting seasonal vaccinations.

**Community Outreach:** The ACHD health education team is preparing for the upcoming “outreach season.” The health education team is scheduled to present at the Fennville Pullman & the Lakeshore Rotary club meeting in February. Health Education staff are also scheduled to present at the Glenn Public School in Q1 2026, covering healthy habits for children, aligning with the 5210 Campaign, which includes health eating habits, reducing screentime, and encouraging physical activity.

**Monitoring Wells:** The ACHD has received the link, from the Michigan Geological Survey (MGS), to the website which has the cumulative of the groundwater levels in the monitoring wells. The ACHD continues to work with the IS Department to bring the data, regarding the monitoring wells groundwater level, to the public. In addition, a final monitoring well was installed in Overisel Township. MGS is working to install the data monitoring equipment in this well.

## Anticipated Public Health Situations in Year Ahead

**Blood Lead Level Testing:** To comply with State blood lead level testing laws, the ACHD is working to train and prepare to receive patients for point of care testing. Children must be tested at 12 months and 24 months of age or by 72 months of age (age 6) if there is no record of a previous test exists. If elevated blood lead levels are confirmed, an interdisciplinary team at the ACHD will work with the family on a lead investigation.

**Updated Allegan County Water and Sewage Regulations:** The process has been initiated to revise the Allegan County Water and Sewage Regulations. The ACHD will host a stakeholder work group to review and provide feedback on suggested changes. ACHD is currently working with the stakeholder work group to determine meeting details.