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## Greene County Public Health

*Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, RS, Health Commissioner*

*Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director*

# Press Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 25, 2019**

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### **Greene County Public Health Recognized for Outstanding Service to Community During Tornado Response**

**XENIA, OH** – Greene County Public Health was recently awarded a plaque that recognized the agency “*For Disaster Relief Efforts and Outstanding Service to its Community in the Aftermath of Tornadoes and Severe Storms during the Summer of 2019.*” Health Commissioner, Melissa Howell, accepted the award from the Ohio Department of Health at the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners’ Fall Conference.

Health district leadership maintains a high level of readiness to respond to any potential threats to the community. Our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Kim Caudill said, “The community partnerships we form during trainings and exercises are crucial to our success in a real-world response. The agency cooperation that occurred proves that anything can be achieved with teamwork and collaboration”.

#### **To follow is a brief summary of Greene County Public Health’s role in the relief efforts:**

- We requested water through the Emergency Operations Center and received 15,000 gallons of water for distribution.
- We activated 16 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, coordinated by Don Brannen, Ph.D., for the Red Cross shelters located in Montgomery and Greene Counties, and Family Assistance Center in Montgomery County.
- Our Public Information Officer, Laurie Fox, monitored social media; provided messages that included safety for debris removal, open burning, power outage, carbon monoxide, water, mold, asbestos, mosquitoes, and food safety.
- We requested behavioral and emotional support services and supported their operations with our nurses and NOVA Crisis Response Team Training™ Companioning 101.
- We served as advisors to BeHope Church in Beavercreek, which ran the Volunteer Reception Center, and managed the donations and volunteers.
- Environmental Health Director, Jeff Webb, activated our team of sanitarians to inspect over 200 businesses licensed by the health district that were damaged, heavily damaged, or destroyed. All but 4 were re-opened within a week.
- We tested our capabilities to provide birth certificates, immunizations, and infant cribs in the field and we were able to do it remotely.
- We are involved in long term behavioral and social/emotional recovery.

*-cont’d-*

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### **In addition, here is a brief data summary:**

- Twenty-seven employees from environmental health, nursing, leadership, the Emergency Response Coordinator, Public Information Officer, Epidemiologist, and Vital Statistics (birth/death certificates) worked on the tornado response. We logged 857 hours, spent \$32,343 in staff time and an additional \$11,500 in equipment for communications during the response. We have cooperated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit their required disaster documentation.
- We conducted 121 food service inspections.
- There were approximately 16,902 Facebook impressions, 18,300 Twitter Impressions, and 4,319 views on the GCPH website.
- We deployed 1 mobile services unit to the Beaver creek library.

The plaque is displayed at the Greene County Public Health office located at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia. We wish to thank all of the community members, partner agencies, and volunteers that continue to make Greene County a great place to live, work and play!

Should you have questions, please contact Greene County Public Health at 937-374-5600 or visit our website at [www.gcph.info](http://www.gcph.info).

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