



A Day in the Life of a Public Health employee

Each April communities around the country join together to celebrate the many contributions of our local public health departments. Public health is a part of our everyday lives, from the water we drink and the air we breathe to the vaccines that help us stay healthy. Here is a glimpse of a Day in the Life of one dedicated Mid-Michigan District Health Department employee who proudly serves the residents of Clinton County each and every day.

Meet Matt

Name: Matt Remus, Registered Sanitarian

Occupation: Environmental Health Specialist

Employer: Mid-Michigan District Health Department, St. Johns Office



I arrived at the office and reviewed my daily schedule. I then returned phone calls and emails, organized work from the day before, synchronized my food inspection laptop with the network, and worked on program paperwork (vacant land evaluations, nuisance complaints, septic permits, well permits, daycare/adult foster care inspections, body art and food establishment plan review). During this time I also assisted clients in the office and answered any environmental health related phone calls that came in.

I left the office mid-morning to begin field work, starting with an inspection of an adult foster care home.

I then met a well driller on location for a preliminary review of a drinking water well that was being drilled in close proximity to an area with known ground water contamination. After checking isolation distances and discussing special requirements for construction I headed back to the office to issue the well permit.

After lunch I headed back out to do a restaurant inspection.

From there I went to investigate a nuisance complaint alleging an illegal connection between a residential sewage system and a county drain. I placed florescent tracing dye down the toilet of the suspect home in order to confirm if the sewage system is discharging to the drain.

Moving on from the nuisance complaint, I visited a body art (tattoo) establishment where I discussed the new law that requires them to have a State license and local health department inspections and provided information about setting up a Bloodborne Infectious Diseases Exposure Control Plan.

After leaving the body art facility, I returned to the nuisance complaint and observed florescent dye discharging into the county drain, confirming that the homeowner's sewage system was directly connected to the county drain. I informed the homeowner of my findings and initiated the process of making corrections.

My day ended by returning to the office to tie up a few loose ends before going home.