

# PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR THE 132nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Local Health Districts (LHDs) protect the health of your communities and families by protecting against emerging infectious diseases, preventing injury, and strengthening your community's public health infrastructure. The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) is committed to providing leadership and advocacy to assist LHDs in fulfilling these responsibilities. The following areas are critical to this mission:**

## 1 INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTECTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Development of Regional Public Health Data Hubs to improve surveillance of emerging threats and support alignment with Statewide Health Improvement Priorities.
- Funding support for Preparedness, Readiness, and Epidemiology capacity at the local level.
- Funding emerging infectious and vector borne disease monitoring at the state level.
- Promotion of all efforts to improve statewide immunization rates.

## 2 FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- Support expanded Medicaid coverage, including continued coverage for pregnant women and women who become pregnant.
- Promote revolving fund for homeowner financial assistance sewage system repairs, replacements and sanitary sewage connection.
- Actively pursue efforts to stem opioid and prescription drug abuse.
- Implement tobacco use cessation and reduction programs in the local communities.
- Advocate for tobacco tax increases/equalization of tax on other tobacco products (OTP) to support LHD programs.

## 3 ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- Implement "consolidated contract" and/or "block grant" concept to maximize efficiency of funds flowing through Ohio Department of Health to local health departments.
- Align the Uniform Cost Methodology for Food Program with other mandated programs
- Establish option for permanent levies similar to Fire Districts.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Strengthen the public health surveillance infrastructure



## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

Increase funding to LHDs chronic disease programs through tobacco tax equalization



Decrease the burden of chronic disease through access to health care



Reduce tobacco use through cessation and tobacco to 21 policies



Implement harm reduction & prevention strategies for drug & alcohol abuse



Reduce infant deaths



## ADEQUATE RESOURCES:

Increase funding to LHDs



Improve the operational efficiency of LHDs

