



**Erie County Health Department**  
*An Accredited Public Health Department*

**Erie County Community Health Center**  
*A Federally Qualified Health Center*

**Peter T. Schade, MPH, RS**  
*Health Commissioner*



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the new school year! I am one of the Epidemiologists at Erie County Health Department. I look forward to working with all of you this year. We have updated our school absentee surveillance survey. The information provided to us is used to detect possible adverse public health events in our community, specifically those affecting our youth. Erie County Health Department will provide syndromic surveillance reports to those schools that participate.

We would like to say thank you to all the schools that are already participating in our school absentee surveillance. We are hoping to increase participation this year to monitor for COVID-19 and other illnesses affecting the staff and student population. If you were unable to participate last year, you can always start tracking this year.

Attached is a copy of the surveillance form along with instructions for its use and frequently asked questions. The survey link can be found on the Erie County Health Department:

<https://www.coviderieohio.com/school-child-care>. Click on the *School Data Entry* button. You should be directed to a SurveyMonkey survey. If you are a new school participating in surveillance, not familiar with the new form, or if you have staff members that need training, a 15 minute, over the phone training can be done with one of our epidemiologists.

For any questions or to schedule a training please call one of our Epidemiologists, Sydney Cmar, at 419-515-5784 or Ashley Franks, at 419-626-5623 ext. 200 or email [epi@echdohio.org](mailto:epi@echdohio.org).

Thank you again for your participation!

*Sydney Cmar*

Sydney Cmar, MPH

Epidemiologist

Erie County Health Department

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