

Date: June 26, 2008

To: All Local Media

From: Licking County Health Department
R. Joseph Ebel, Health Commissioner

Subject: Children's Vision Screening Grant Award

Licking County Health Department has been awarded funds to provide vision screenings for children ages 3-9 by the National Eye Institute, a subsidiary of National Institutes of Health, for 2008. Eye health and promotion programs are often not promoted in young children. By detecting eye problems early, visual disabilities may be prevented or reduced in severity.

Health Department Registered Nurses were trained by Prevent Blindness Ohio to screen children ages 3 to 5. A separate training for nurses was done for school aged children by the Ohio Department of Health.

Age appropriate children in the Health Department's Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program will be offered this screening. Various day cares and pre-schools are eligible to set-up a screening program with a Health Department trained nurse at their facility. Private schools that don't have medical services normally available may also wish participate.

Any parent of a child age 3-9 may request this screening by calling the Licking County Health Department at (740) 349-6535 for an appointment. Once screened, if a child is determined to need a complete eye exam, referral information will be provided by the nurse.