For the Health of It

Clark County Health Department

April 1, 2026

VOLUME 9
ISSUE 2

NOTABLE NEWS

NEW LEGISLATION

Beginning January 1, 2027, Indiana will implement a new statewide licensing system for mobile retail food establishments under HB 1577. This law replaces local permits with a single, annual state-issued license, allowing operators to work across the state with one fee and standardized inspections, reducing regulatory burdens. An owner or operator of a mobile retail food establishment issued a statewide mobile retail food establishment license is not:

(1) required to obtain a county or local license or permit; or

(2) required to pay a county or local:

(A) inspection fee; or

(B) license or permit fee.

Key Aspects of the New Law

Unified Licensing: A single, portable license will be created, eliminating the need to apply for separate permits in every county or city.

Implementation Date: The new system goes into effect on January 1, 2027.

Fees: A standardized, annual combined license and inspection fee will be $450.

Your local health department will be providing more information regarding permitting, new mobile truck requirements, and guidance as the implementation date approaches.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thunder over Louisville	April 18th
Pop Up Market, Charlestown	May 2nd
Charlestown Farmers Market	May 6th
Star Valley Strawberry Fest	May 23rd
Southern IN Pride	June 6th
Big 4 Farmers Market	June 6th

CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO A

Community Baby Shower

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

MAY 9TH, 2026 12PM TO 3PM

Clarksville Community Center
2311 Sam Gwin Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129

CONTACT CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION
812-282-7521 Ext: 222 or 232

CAR SEAT CHECKS, GIVEAWAYS, COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND MORE!

Aphasia is a language disorder caused by brain damage, typically from a stroke or head injury, that impairs a person's ability to communicate. It affects speaking, understanding, reading, and writing, but does not affect intelligence. It is a symptom of damage to language centers.

This damage can be from events like trauma, a stroke, infections, or cognitive decline, among other reasons. Primary treatments can include speech and language therapy, while some conditions may improve with medications or brain stimulation, depending on the initial cause.

Local chapters of organizations such as the National Aphasia Association, the American Stroke Association, the American Heart Association and some medical centers may offer support groups for people with aphasia and others affected by the disorder (MayoCinic.org).

April is National Minority Health Month. Although no longer recognized by the federal government, its origin began in 1915. We should use this month as a time to raise awareness about the importance of improving the health of racial and ethnic minority communities and reducing health inequalities. Health equity should be a common goal for all of humanity.

In 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution, and passed H. Con. Res. 388, that "a National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month should be established to promote educational efforts on the health problems currently facing minorities and other populations experiencing health disparities." The resolution encouraged "all health organizations and Americans to conduct appropriate programs and activities to promote healthfulness in minority and other communities experiencing health disparities."

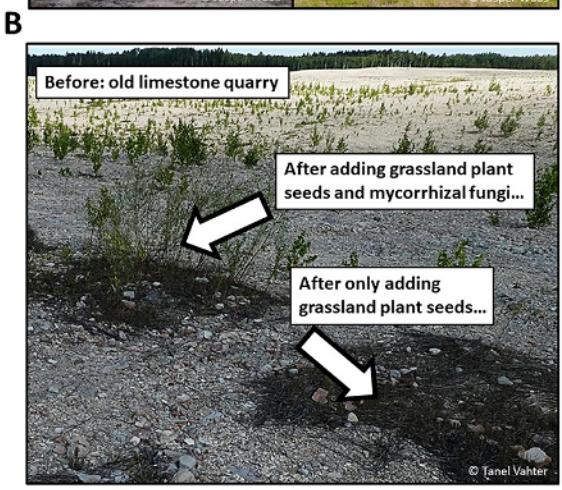
This April, take action during National Minority Health Month by promoting health equity through education, scheduling preventive screenings, and advocating for policies that eliminate disparities in your community. Health should be a fundamental right for all, not some.

ONE HEALTH AND EMERGING FUNGAL THREATS: UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMANS, ANIMALS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The One Health approach isn't just another buzzword—It recognizes that people, animals, and the environment are all fundamentally connected. Fungal diseases are the ultimate proof, since many of the fungi causing us trouble started out innocently in soil, plants, or wildlife before affecting humans. Fungi play important roles in the world then, and now.

Why Fungi Matter (and not Just for pizza toppings, although those are pretty great)

- Fungal pathogens infect humans, wildlife, livestock, and crops—no one is safe, not even your houseplants.
- Over 300 million people worldwide deal with serious fungal infections each year.
- Soil and environmental fungi can act as reservoirs for human pathogens.



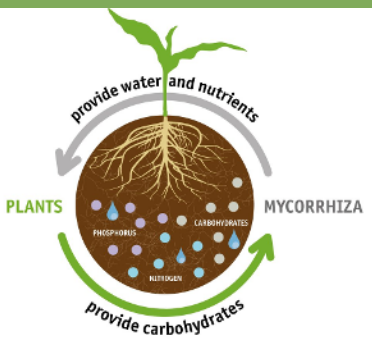
Environmental Drivers

- Climate change: Expanding the geographic range of fungal diseases
- Extreme weather: Serving up more opportunities for humans to meet new, possibly unfriendly, fungi. Floods, wildfires, and dust storms can spread or aerosolize soil-borne species.
- Global trade: Our world is all connected! Something on one side of the world can reach the other in the same day.
- Agricultural fungicide use: Antifungal resistance, anyone?
- Fungi are nature's decomposers, breaking down organic matter and recycling nutrients.
- In the Arctic, after glaciers retreat, fungi are among the very first to show up and start the rebuilding process. Without them, nutrient cycling and soil formation would be extremely limited and much slower.

Emerging Fungal Threats

- *Candida auris*: A multidrug-resistant yeast causing outbreaks in healthcare settings
- *Aspergillus*: Environmental mold linked to severe lung infections and growing antifungal resistance. There are approximately 180 species of *Aspergillus*, but fewer than 40 of them are known to cause infections in humans.
- *Histoplasma* and *Cryptococcus*: Soil dwelling fungi that can cause respiratory disease after inhalation, both of which can be linked to birds.
- *Fusarium incarnatum*: Didn't you all read my last Newsletter??

NEW RESEARCH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FUNGI: A ONE HEALTH PERSPECTIVE



Fungi and Climate Regulation

- Mycorrhizal fungi form partnerships with about 95% of terrestrial plants, helping them snag nutrients while also moving plant-captured carbon into soils.
- Recent research estimates these fungal networks move more than 13 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent underground each year—roughly one-third of annual fossil fuel emissions. These networks play a critical role in soil carbon storage and global climate regulation.

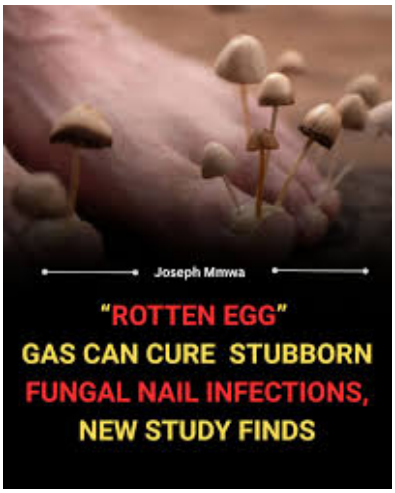
Vast Unknown Diversity

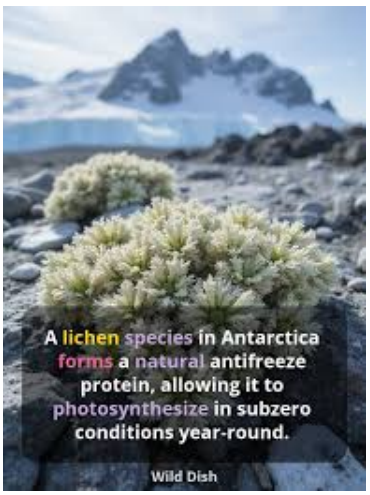
- Scientists estimate that Earth may contain 2–3 million fungal species, but only a small fraction have been formally described.
- A recent global analysis found that 83% of climate-critical mycorrhizal fungi are known only through DNA sequencing and remain unnamed species.
- This knowledge gap limits our ability to monitor biodiversity and predict emerging diseases.

One Health Solutions

- Integrated surveillance across human, animal, and environmental health. This is the fundamental idea of the one health approach.
- Improved technology and diagnostics to identify fungal infections before they spread.
- More collaboration between public health agencies, researchers, and veterinarians.
- Environmental monitoring of soil and wildlife.
- Addressing emerging fungal diseases calls for the full One Health team—environmental, animal, and human health experts, all working together.

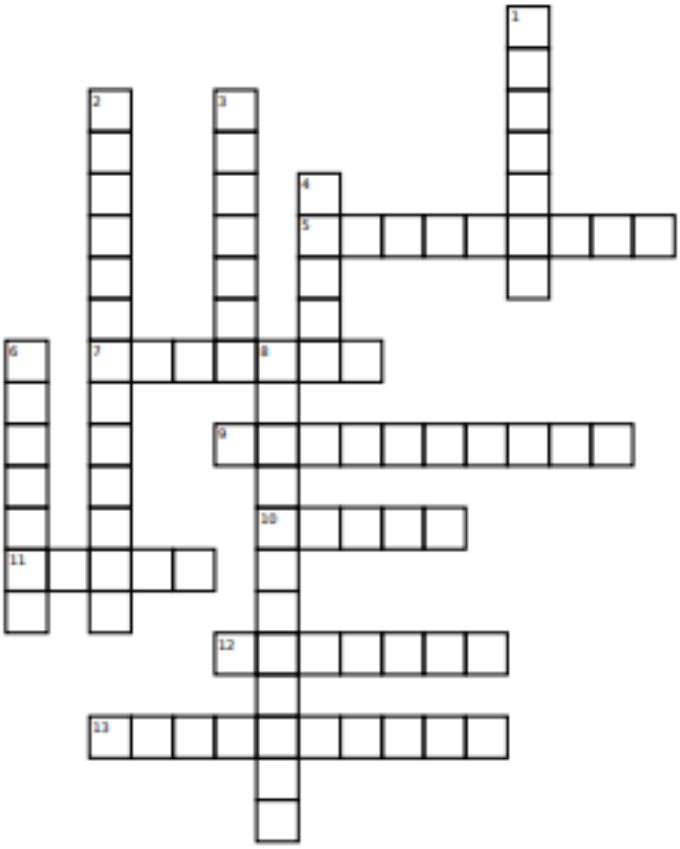
Recent scientific research shows that fungi are critical regulators of ecosystems, climate, agriculture, and emerging infectious diseases. Despite their importance, fungal biodiversity remains poorly understood, highlighting the need for expanded One Health research integrating environmental science, veterinary medicine, and human health surveillance.





MENTAL HEALTH: BRAIN GAMES

CROSSWORD



Down:

1. long-term weather patterns in an area
2. products that are easily broken down in the environment
3. the scientific study of the relationships between living organisms and their physical, non-living environment
4. the month that earth day is celebrated
6. to break down food scraps into rich soil
8. protection of natural resources and wildlife

Across:

5. harmful substances in the air, land, or water
7. reduce, reuse, _____
9. when an animal is on the verge of becoming extinct
10. the planet on which we live
11. energy that is obtained from the sun
12. the place where an animal lives
13. an insect or other animal that moves pollen to a plant which allows fertilization

Environmental and public health risks of antibiotic resistance gene pollution in poultry systems: Sustainability impact, transmission pathways, and mitigation strategies

M.H.Aminudina, FarahAmalinac, .R.Ab Hamidd, S.Sulaimana, NorAzfae, Abdul Syukor AbdRazakab

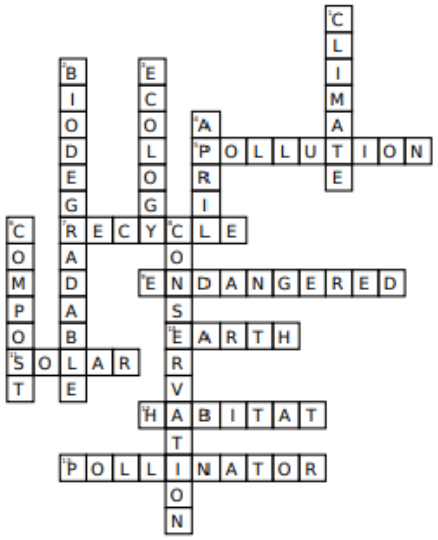
Abstract

The overuse of antibiotics in poultry farming for disease prevention, growth promotion, and therapeutic purposes has resulted in widespread contamination of poultry systems with antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs). This review identifies critical sources of ARGs, including poultry manure, wastewater runoff, soil contamination, airborne dissemination, and genetic transfer mechanisms. ARGs persist across agricultural systems, fueling the spread of multidrug-resistant bacteria and posing significant risks to ecosystems, animal health, and human populations. Our analysis highlights the effectiveness of various mitigation strategies, such as composting, anaerobic digestion, and advanced wastewater treatment, in reducing ARG loads. However, we find that current waste management approaches are insufficient to fully prevent the spread of resistance. We emphasize the importance of reducing antibiotic usage through stewardship programs, alternative treatments, and robust legal frameworks. Additionally, the review underscores the need for integrated policy actions, rigorous monitoring, and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to curb ARG pollution. Looking forward, we call for research advancements in probiotics, vaccines, and innovative treatment technologies to enhance the reduction of ARG contamination. Ultimately, controlling ARG pollution requires a multifaceted approach that combines scientific innovation, effective policy enforcement, and increased public awareness to address the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Aminudin, M. H., et al. "Environmental and public health risks of antibiotic resistance gene pollution in poultry systems: Sustainability impact, transmission pathways, and mitigation strategies."The Microbe(2026): 100658.

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S295019462600004X

Crossword Answers:



Administration/Vital Records/Environmental

1201 Wall Street Jeffersonville IN 47130

Phone 812-282-7521

Public Health Nurse

1201 Wall Street Jeffersonville IN 47130

Phone 812-283-2459

HIV/STD Program Office

Phone 812-288-2706

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday - CLOSED

Sunday - CLOSED

Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Clark County Health Department