INTRODUCTION

The *Annual Summary of Infectious Diseases, Ohio, 2008* provides an overview of the incidence of selected notifiable infectious diseases. The report includes tables of disease by year of onset, age group, sex, month of onset, county of residence, *Salmonella* serotypes and meningococcal disease serogroups. In addition, there are profiles of selected diseases, outbreaks and selected health events detected in EpiCenter that feature recent epidemiologic trends.

The sources of these data are individual case and laboratory reports submitted to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) by infection preventionists, health care providers, laboratories and city, county and combined health districts throughout the state and entered into the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Data reflect disease incidence for Ohio residents only, but include diseases (malaria, for example) acquired by Ohio residents while traveling out of state or overseas.

This summary includes confirmed, probable and suspected cases. For all diseases, the case criteria used are those provided in:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. 1997; 46 (No. RR-10) available online at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4610.pdf,
- The ODH Infectious Disease Control Manual (IDCM) available online at http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/IDCM/sect3TOC.pdf and
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Integrated Surveillance Systems and Services' nationally notifiable infectious disease case definitions available online at http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/disss/nndss/phs/infdis2008.htm.

HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis surveillance data are not included in this report. Please refer to the ODH Web site for summary reports of these diseases as well as previous annual summaries at http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthStats/disease/id1.aspx.

Thanks to all Ohio infection preventionists, health care providers, laboratories and local health departments for their hard work and dedication to reporting infectious diseases in the most accurate, complete and timely manner. These efforts are essential in protecting and improving the health of all Ohioans.

Questions or comments regarding this annual summary may be directed to the Bureau of Disease Investigation and Surveillance at (614) 995-5599.