



Dearborn Co. Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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October 6, 2025

To: Registered Onsite Sewage Disposal System Installers &
Other Interested Parties

From: Douglas J. Baer, Sr. Environmental Health Specialist

Subject: **Dearborn County Installer's Training, December 11, 2025**

Ivy Tech Lakefront Campus, 500 Industrial Drive, Second Floor, Rms2350/2380
Times: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Here it is October already, and we have to adjust our annual meeting to be at the Ivy Tech Lakefront Campus as events have already been scheduled for the Riverfront Campus where we normally would meet. I have not toured the room but have been told that the room we are reserving will hold 60 people, so we should be fine. The best directions I can give for this would be to turn off US 50 at Wendy's/Fifth Third Bank and go to the stop sign. Take a right onto Doughty Road, and then a left onto Bielby Drive. Continue straight onto Industrial Drive (right by the UPS Store) and follow the road to the end and you cannot miss the campus. Main driveway is off Charles Liddle Drive.

Again, this is a school campus and they have asked that we not track in dirt, mud, or anything else that could be problematic for the custodians. I believe we all made sure of that the last time, but if we get notice that there were issues it could jeopardize on ability to use their facilities, Lakefront or Riverfront Campuses, and I don't want to see that happen.

This has been a very busy and hectic year with only two of us tackling Environmental Health concerns. Onsite sewage disposal and site visits do take up a lot of our time, but we are involved in a variety of different of programs, such as unfit housing, animal bites, animals being sent off for rabies testing, swimming pools, tattoo shops, and assisting other county offices with their inspections of problem sites just to name a few. I bring this up solely to indicate that there are times we are spread thin. This is why it is important to schedule and provide proper notice as I have previously indicated in my email. Copy included with the meeting notice.

More recently, after my email went out, we, being Michelle and I, encountered a few instances that we believe were clear cut onsite system violations. Please see notice from Dr. Eliason, Dearborn County Health Officer. Again, please let us know of potential projects before you take any initiative to alter, construct, inspect, or abandon any onsite system. Applications and permits are required for any of the following: new construction; onsite system replacements; onsite system repairs; or system abandonments. If there are any questions as to whether an application or permit is required, please double check with us prior to proceeding.

Mound systems have been more prevalent this year, and some were considered Type II mounds which required IDOH assistance and approval. We also have two sites that are proposing drip mound systems with secondary treatment. These too require IDOH assistance and approval. Existing system reviews have once again presented ongoing issues as older onsite systems most likely will not meet current code.

Enforcement letters have been sent to various violators, alerting them of the need to abate the health hazard associated with their failing onsite system. Please be cautious if you are contacted by a property owner wishing to provide the department an installer statement that the system meets code. By law, we can, and will, invoke the requirement for our department to meet onsite to evaluate the findings before considering accepting the report as valid.

I know that this is a lot, and I am sure we will discuss a lot of this at the meeting. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to let either Michelle or I know. Hope to see everyone there. Lastly,