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# MCHD HEALTH BLOG

*The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



## RARE DISEASE DAY

Did you know that more than 400 million people around the world are affected by rare diseases? According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) a rare disease is defined as a condition that affects fewer than 200,000 people. There are more than 7,000 rare diseases that have been identified to date. Some examples of rare diseases include Huntington disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Guillain-Barre syndrome, and fragile X syndrome. The CDC explains that one-way public health is involved in rare diseases is through newborn screenings. Newborns in the United States are screened at birth for over 30 selected metabolic and rare genetic conditions.

Rare Disease Day is observed on the last day of February every year. This year is extra special as it falls on February 29th, the rarest day of them all! The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) encourages everyone to "Show Your Stripes" on February 29th to increase support and awareness for rare diseases. You are not alone in your fight.

Do you have a child with special medical needs or know someone who does? The Morgan County Health Department has a program that can provide extra support to those who qualify. The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH) is a health care program in Ohio. CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. Call 740-962-4572 and ask for the CMH nurse for more information.