



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contact: Ali Rogalski, Water Quality Supervisor (330)926-5639  
Julie Reis, Water Quality Supervisor (330) 812-3961

**Summit County, Ohio** - Summit County Public Health (SCPH) continues to implement the statewide sewage rules that went into effect on January 1, 2015. These rules will impact most of the approximately 31,000 homes in Summit County with septic systems often referred to as household sewage treatment systems (STS).

The 2015 rules require every home with a STS to have an operation permit. One requirement of the operation permit is that every STS has routine maintenance to help ensure the best system function. SCPH began phasing in the operation permit requirement in 2015, intending to issue a permit to every home in Summit County with a STS. Operation permit notices will be mailed in mid-October for the STS scheduled to phase into the program for the 2020 permitting term.

Although this is a change for homeowners with a STS, the implementation of these new rules will have a significant and lasting impact on the environmental health and the safety of our community and beyond. The practice and verification of routine maintenance for septic systems will improve surface water quality which has a direct impact on the quality of our rivers, lakes and streams. In addition, these changes will provide added protection of our ground water; the source of drinking water for many residents. As always, public health and safety are the guiding principles for the implementation of this program.

To learn more about our water quality programs or for information about how to maintain your home sewage treatment system, please visit <https://www.scph.org/water-quality/operation-permit> or call (330) 926-5600.

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