Our Mission: To improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion and protection.

COVID-19 Update

Public Health continues its effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community. As of February 25, cases continue to fall across the state and in Montgomery County. The 7-day new case average was 45, and the new case rate was 144 per 100,000. Montgomery County continues to be red Level 3 in the State of Ohio’s Public Health Advisory System.

As of February 28, Public Health has administered 22,985 doses of the vaccine and have held 26 general vaccination clinics, 8 minority outreach clinics and 15 mobile clinics.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccine Availability

Governor DeWine announced that Ohio is expected to receive more than 448,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week. Of that total, more than 96,000 doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be delivered to approximately 200 new independent pharmacy providers as well as chain pharmacies, hospitals, and health departments.

Ohio now offers more than 1,200 provider locations. Ohioans can find vaccine provider locations at vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Those who do not have access to the internet or are having trouble managing the online scheduling systems should call their local health department, the 211 HelpLine center, or the Area Agencies on Aging at 1-866-243-5678.

Phase 1C and Phase 2 Vaccine Eligibility

In response to this significant increase in the amount of vaccine coming into Ohio, Governor DeWine today outlined the individuals who are included in
Phase 1C and Phase 2 of Ohio's vaccination plan which will go into effect on March 4.

Phase 1C includes approximately 246,000 eligible Ohioans with certain occupations and with certain medical conditions not addressed in previous phases.

**Phase 1C: Medical Groups**

- Type 1 diabetes
- Pregnant women
- Bone marrow transplant recipients
- ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease)

**Phase 1C: Occupations**

**Childcare Services - Approximately 40,400 Ohioans:**

- Administrators, lead and assistant teachers, and substitutes who are enrolled in Ohio’s Professional Registry who are currently working in open childcare and pre-kindergarten programs.
- Licensing specialists employed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or county job and family services agencies.

This phase does not include parent volunteers, board members, or owners/administrators that do not provide in-classroom supports.

**Funeral Services - Approximately 3,600 Ohioans:**

- Embalmers/morticians, funeral home directors, crematory operators, and apprentices.

**Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers - Approximately 76,000 Ohioans:**

Examples of law enforcement occupations included in Phase 1C are police officers; sheriff’s deputies; Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers; other state or
federal enforcement officers such as Ohio Department of Natural Resource enforcement staff, pharmacy board investigators, BCI agents, state fire marshal investigators, federal transportation security officers, and other federal law enforcement officers who do not have access to vaccination from federal sources.

**Phase 2**
Because the risk of more severe reactions and outcomes of COVID-19 increase with age, Phase 2 will open vaccinations based on age, beginning with Ohioans ages 60 and older. This group includes approximately 695,000 eligible Ohioans.

**Spring Activities and Venues**
Governor DeWine announced a loosening of restrictions for sporting and entertainment venues when safety protocols are followed.

"The vaccines have given us great hope, but until we have enough Ohioans vaccinated, we must continue masking and social distancing," said Governor DeWine. "Easing up on some prevention measures is intended to serve as a starting point. If the trajectory of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continues downward, we hope to be able to relax more of these measures. If it gets worse, we may have to tighten up."

**Sporting and entertainment events will be able to reopen with 25 percent maximum indoor capacity and 30 percent maximum outdoor capacity**
provided they follow established precautions such as mandatory mask wearing for employees and customers, spectator pathways that allow for social distancing, and seating in groups in six-foot intervals of no more than six people.

General admission (lawns, standing room, infields) will be permitted if masks are worn and if six-foot distancing can be marked and maintained.

New guidance for proms, banquets, wedding receptions, fairs, festivals, and parades is forthcoming.

**Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Approved**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has authorized a third vaccine for emergency use. A vaccine from Johnson & Johnson joins Pfizer and Moderna as vaccines approved for use in the United States.

With 3 vaccines approved, Public Health anticipates the overall supply of vaccine to increase in the coming months.

Visit [www.phdmc.org](http://www.phdmc.org) for updates on vaccination clinics.
Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

In support of the Colorectal Cancer Alliance’s mission to bring awareness and to end colorectal cancer, Public Health urges you to wear blue on Friday, March 5 for National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

In the United States, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths and the third most common cancer diagnosis. In Montgomery County 514 residents were diagnosed with colorectal cancer (new cases) in 2016-17, resulting in a County incidence rate of 38.3 per 100,000 people. When assessed by race, colorectal cancer disproportionately affects the Black community. The rates are the highest of any racial/ethnic group in the United States. African Americans are approximately 20% more likely to get colorectal cancer and about 40% more probable to die from it than most other groups.

Signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer include changes in bowel habits, persistent abdominal discomfort, rectal bleeding, feeling weak or fatigued, and unexplained weight loss.

Colorectal cancer is treatable when discovered early. Screening is the No. 1 way to prevent this form of cancer and should begin at age 45. Screening tests can take place in the form of a stool test, flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy and CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy). It is important to follow up with your healthcare provider to determine which screening test method is best for you. How often you need to be screened for colorectal cancer depends on your health and family history, as well as the screening method you and your healthcare provider select.

March is National Nutrition Month - Personalize Your Plate

Each March, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics encourages Americans to focus on healthy eating habits. Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County’s WIC Program has chosen to expand the theme to “Personalize Your Plate with Color.” This theme embraces individuality and inclusivity showcasing there is no one-size-fits-all approach to nutrition and health. Our community is shaped by unique people with different bodies, goals, backgrounds and tastes. The WIC clinics will be focusing education efforts on assisting participants to purchase, prepare, eat and increase the use of fruits and vegetables. The “with Color” portion of the WIC food package includes selections of fresh, canned, and frozen fruits and vegetables to increase consumption of fiber, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, and other nutrients.
The nutrition staff at each WIC clinic:
- Assess and evaluate WIC participants’ medical and nutritional conditions and habits.
- Provide counseling and education to participants to address specific conditions.
- Answer nutrition-related questions.
- Provide anticipatory guidance on healthy habits including safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, immunizations, and child development.
- Present nutrition education on multiple subjects through several mediums.
- Refer participants to food banks, health care and social service agencies, physicians, and other local agencies.

For more information about WIC or to enroll over the phone, please call 937-225-4491.

Media Opportunities:
1/4/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccinations
2/2/2021 - JAMA Network - COVID-19 Minority Outreach
2/3/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 Number of Cases
2/3/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Minority Outreach
2/4/2021 - DDN - Infant Mortality
2/4/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Double Masks
2/4/2021 - DDN - COVID-19 Super Bowl
2/5/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution
2/5/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 65+
2/5/2021 - DDN - Cold Weather
2/5/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 65+
2/8/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 Reservations
2/10/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 African American Outreach
2/10/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccinations
2/10/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Out of State
2/12/2021 - DDN – COVID-19 Curfew lifted
2/16/2021 - DDN - COVID-19 Venues
2/17/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 2nd Dose
2/18/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Medical Conditions
2/19/2021 - DDN - COVID-19 Vaccinations
2/19/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Reservations
2/19/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 Schools
For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call Public Health at 1-937-225-6217 or the Ohio Department of Health at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Submitted by:
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