



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Dayton & Montgomery County



# Monthly Update

January 2019

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



## Healthcare Equality Index Certification

Public Health’s LGBTQ Health Initiatives program’s goal is to promote culturally competent healthcare services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community.

As part of this effort Public Health is beginning the process to achieve certification through the [Healthcare Equality Index \(HEI\)](#), which is a benchmarking tool to evaluate our policies and procedures aimed at the equity and inclusion of our LGBTQ clients, visitors and employees.

An estimated 27,000 LGBTQ individuals live in Montgomery County. Various segments of the LGBTQ community experience health disparities as a result of historically being a marginalized population. These disparities include higher rates of smoking, substance abuse, violence/bullying, some types of cancer, and mental health issues, among others.

To become accredited, Public Health must show competency in several broad categories: Non-discrimination and Staff Training; Patient Services & Support; Employee Benefits & Policies; and Patient & Community Engagement. To achieve our goal, Public Health has established an internal committee with representation from employees at all levels to guide our efforts.

## Martin Luther King Teen Day Celebration

Once again this year Public Health is commemorating the Martin Luther King Day Holiday by hosting a Teen Celebration on [Monday, January 21 at 11:00 am at the Neon Movies in downtown Dayton.](#)



The event will feature a screening of the movie “Marshall” which is based on the early trial career of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The movie depicts the defense of a black chauffeur falsely accused of sexual assault and attempted murder. The legal work in this case served as a model for Marshall’s creation of the NAACP legal defense fund.

The movie is free to the first 225 people in attendance and will be followed by a discussion of race and the legal system.



## Montgomery County Hepatitis A Response

[Hepatitis A](#) outbreaks have been occurring in multiple states across the U.S., including several bordering Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health declared a statewide community outbreak for Hepatitis A on June 22. As of December 17, Ohio had 1200 confirmed cases. While anyone is at risk of getting Hepatitis A, priority groups for prevention include:

- People who use street drugs whether they are injected or not
- People who are incarcerated
- People experiencing homelessness
- Men who have sex with men
- People who have traveled to other areas of the U.S. currently experiencing outbreaks
- People having contact with individuals in the priority groups

Montgomery County saw its first case in April of this year. As of December 17, there were a total of 210 cases. Public Health's incident management team (IMT) continues to meet routinely to mitigate Hepatitis A within Montgomery County. IMT staff continue to provide educational materials, informed medical response partners, update the media, and hold Hepatitis A vaccination clinics for high risk populations.

Public Health has conducted a total of 97 external vaccination clinics for Hepatitis A. These clinics targeted the Montgomery County jail, homeless populations, men who have sex with men and individuals abusing drugs. Vaccinations are also being provided at the Public Health Clinic.

There is also continued outreach and sharing of educational information to multiple partners across the county. Call (937) 225-4550 to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated.

## Ohio Infant Mortality Summit

On December 11 and 12 staff from Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Program participated in the Infant Mortality Summit 2018 whose theme was ["Saving Babies Together, Meeting the Equity Challenge."](#)

The event was presented by the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality and the Ohio Department of Health. Sessions included; the State of Infant Mortality in Ohio, Advancing Health Equity through Social Justice and The Role Data Analytics Can Play in Reducing Infant Mortality.

Staff will use the information shared at the summit to help guide their work throughout the year and increase the use of new and innovative strategies to help combat infant mortality in Montgomery County.





## Dangers of E-Cigarettes

The use of e-cigarettes in schools is on the rise as [popular products such as the Juul device make vaping easier and more attractive to youth](#). The device, shaped like a USB drive, makes it difficult to detect by school officials and parents.

E-cigarettes typically deliver nicotine, flavorings, and other additives to users through an inhaled aerosol, are a rapidly emerging trend, and are especially popular among youth and young adults. These devices are referred to by a variety of names, including “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” and “tank systems.” E-cigarettes can also be used to deliver other drugs besides nicotine, such as marijuana. Adding to the concern is the flavors and menthol that are added to increase their appeal to youth.

E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth in the U.S. And dual use, or using both e-cigarettes and conventional cigarettes, is common among youth and young adults 18-25 years of age. Reasons reported by young people for using e-cigarettes include curiosity, taste, and the belief that e-cigarettes are less harmful than other tobacco products.

It is important to prevent harm to youth and young adults from e-cigarettes. Everyone has a role, including parents, health care providers, teachers, and others who work with and care about young people.

### [Talk with your teen or other young people about the dangers of e-cigarettes.](#)

You can start by talking to your kids or to other young people you know about the dangers of e-cigarettes. Tell them about the harm that nicotine (in any form) can do to their growing brain. Let them know that you stand strong against them using any tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, now or in the future. Even if you have used tobacco yourself, they will listen if you discuss your struggles with nicotine addiction. The following are specific actions that parents and other adults can take to reduce young people’s exposure to e-cigarettes:

- **Restrict E-cigarette Use Around Young People.** Don’t let anyone use e-cigarettes or other tobacco products around young people. Not only are youth watching the behaviors of others as an example, but they’re also at risk of exposure to nicotine and other chemicals that can be harmful to their health.
- **Visit Tobacco-Free Locations.** Avoid restaurants and other locations that allow use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.
- **Ensure School is Tobacco-Free.** Check with your school administration to ensure your child’s school, college, or university is completely tobacco-free, including being free of e-cigarettes.
- **Make Your Home Tobacco-Free.** Make your home and vehicles tobacco-free by not allowing use of any tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, by family members, friends, and guests. This is an important step to fully protect your children from exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke and secondhand aerosol from e-cigarettes.

- **Be an Example.** Be an example to youth by living tobacco-free. Even if you're quitting tobacco, share the reasons why you want to be tobacco-free and ask for support in your journey.



## Ethics Committee Update

The Ethics Committee began in 2016 to encourage and support an institutional culture of ethical awareness and high ethical standards and provides yearly required ethics training to all employees.

The Committee meets quarterly and responds primarily to ethical concerns involving current programs and policies. Additional meetings are held as needed.

The Ethics Committee activities include:

- Providing a safe and confidential mechanisms for reporting ethical concerns.
- Providing an objective, decision-making process, and formal documentation of concerns reported and recommendations made.
- Providing education and updates on new developments in public health ethics.
- Providing non-binding guidance and recommendations to staff, management, and community partners on specific ethical issues.
- Reviewing new programs and policies under development for ethical concerns or ramifications.

In 2018, the Ethics Committee received 8 referrals and accepted 3 of the cases for deliberation. Once cases are deliberated, recommendations are sent to the Office Directors and the Health Commissioner for consideration. Referrals that are not accepted by the Ethics Committee are referred to either the respected Office Director or Human Resources for resolution.



## Media Opportunities:

- DDN on **Hep A** (12/12/18)
- WDTN on **Infant Mortality** (12/10/18)
- WKEF on **Infant Mortality** (12/7/18)
- Fox 45 on **Fentanyl Test Strips** (12/12/18)
- WYSO on **Hep A** (12/19/18)
- DDN on **the Flu** (12/20/18)
- WDTN on **the Flu** (12/24/18)



## Outreach Opportunities:

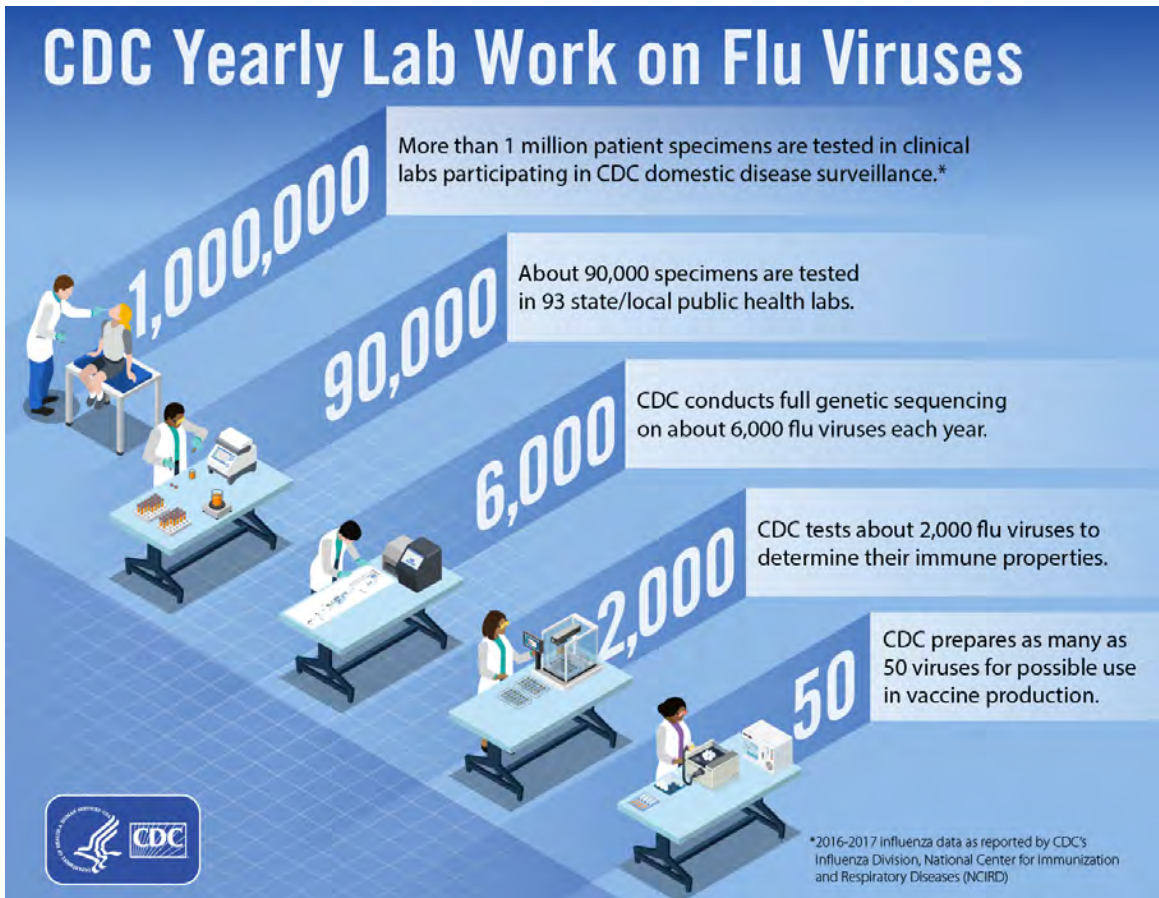
- Southview Medical Center Baby Fair** at Southview Medical Center (12/9/18)
- RTA Get Healthy for the Holidays** at Wright Stop Plaza (12/13/2018)



**Stat of the Month...**

**50**

*CDC prepares as many as 50 flu viruses for possible use in vaccine production.*



Submitted by:  
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