



Monthly Update

October 2022

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



Montgomery County COVID-19 Level is Medium

As of 9/30/22, Montgomery County continues at a **Medium Level** in the [CDC Community COVID-19 Levels Framework](#).

The two-week incident case rate **decreased** from 264.8 per 100,000 last week to 202.8 per 100,000 this week.

COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area.

When a county is designated at a medium level in the CDC's framework, the following actions are recommended:

- If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines including boosters
- Get [tested](#) if you have symptoms
- Follow CDC recommendations if you test positive or are exposed to someone who has COVID-19

If you are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#) with additional CDC recommendations for each COVID-19 Community Level. Public Health, along with our State and Federal partners, will continue to monitor the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and make revised recommendations.



New COVID-19 Booster Doses

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccines.

Updated COVID-19 Booster Doses

New boosters are now available to provide increased protection against Omicron variants.

When to get the updated booster

At least **2** months after your last COVID-19 dose — either a booster dose or your primary series.

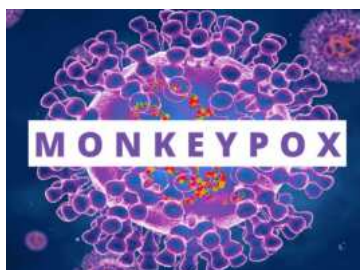
Who should get the updated booster

Individuals age **12** and up are eligible for the updated Pfizer booster, and adults age **18** and up are eligible for the updated Moderna booster.

CDC recommendations as of September 1, 2022

Updated COVID-19 boosters can both help restore protection that has decreased since previous vaccination and provide broader protection against newer variants. The updated, or bivalent boosters, target the most recent Omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, that are more contagious and more resistant than earlier strains of Omicron.

[Schedule your COVID-19 Booster Dose here.](#)



Monkeypox Update

Public Health continues to work to stop the spread of Monkeypox in our community through education, case management and vaccination of close contacts of Monkeypox cases, as well as others at high risk of infection.

As of 9/30/22, according to the CDC there were 68,017 global cases, 26,613 U.S. cases, 279 Ohio cases and 5 Montgomery County cases. There have been no U.S. deaths to date.

Monkeypox spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact with the infection rash, scabs, or body fluids. It can also be spread through respiratory droplets during prolonged, face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact. At this time, [data](#) suggest that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men make up the majority of cases in the current monkeypox outbreak. However, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who has been in [close, personal contact](#) with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

Take steps to [prevent getting monkeypox](#). If you have any [symptoms of monkeypox](#), talk to a healthcare provider.

Public Health to Offer Monkeypox Vaccine to At-Risk Groups

Public Health is currently focusing on vaccinating those Ohio residents 18 years of age or older, at highest risk of getting Monkeypox, including those who fall into the following categories:

- 1). Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender, or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had:
 - A new diagnosis of one or more nationally reportable sexually transmitted diseases (for example chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis) OR
 - More than one sex partner OR
 - Are HIV positive or receive medicines to prevent HIV infection (PrEP)
- 2). People who have had any of the following in the past 6 months:
 - Sex at a commercial sex venue
 - Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where monkeypox transmission is occurring
- 3). Anyone who exchanges sex for money, goods, or services
- 4). Sexual partners of people with the above risks
- 5). People who anticipate experiencing the above risks

Individuals in these categories should register at the link below. Once registered, Public Health staff will contact you to schedule an appointment as vaccine becomes available.

[Get the Monkeypox Vaccine](#)



Flu Vaccine

Public Health reminds you that everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season with rare exceptions. Vaccination is particularly important for people who are at higher risk of serious [complications from influenza](#). A full listing of [people at Higher Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications](#) is available.

Flu vaccination has [important benefits](#). It can reduce flu illnesses, visits to doctor's offices, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as make symptoms less severe and reduce flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

To schedule your flu vaccination at Public Health's Clinic call (937) 225 – 4550, Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 11:15 am or 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

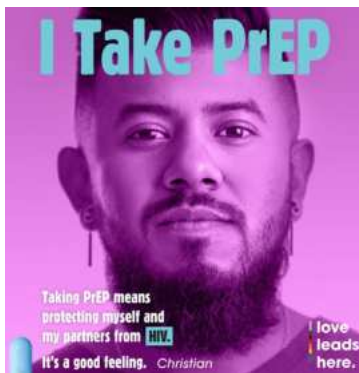


Mosquito Control Update

As the Autumn ushers in falling leaves and temperatures, it also signals the end of the mosquito season in Montgomery County. Public Health's Mosquito Control program protects Montgomery County residents from mosquito-borne diseases through regular trapping, species identification and monitoring.

The State of Ohio will be wrapping up its mosquito surveillance program. The last day they will accept samples will be Tuesday October 4th.

During this past mosquito season, four human cases of [West Nile](#) were reported in the State of Ohio, one of those cases was in Montgomery County and 5 West Nile positive groups of mosquitos were identified.



HIV Prevention

Public Health's [HIV Prevention Program](#) has started a local campaign to educate those at risk of contracting HIV about the benefits of using PrEP to prevent the transmission of HIV. PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a pill that provides up to 99% protection from HIV.

PrEP is for any HIV negative person who thinks they may be exposed to HIV through sex or intravenous drug use. Talk with your health care provider to determine if PrEP is right for you, call our Public Health Clinic at (937) 225 – 4550, Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 11:15 am or 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm, or visit www.itakeprep.org for more information.



RAPCA Funding

On December 13, 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of \$20 million in American Rescue Plan funding to enhance ambient air quality monitoring in and near underserved communities across the United States.

In August of 2022, Public Health's Regional Air Pollution Control Agency ([RAPCA](#)) was awarded \$20,000 for the purpose of upgrading an existing ambient air monitoring site in Clark County used to monitor ozone for the last 37 years.

The site is upwind of Montgomery County and the ozone measured here is used to make determinations regarding the attainment status of the area and whether additional industrial control measures are required. RAPCA plans to use the funding to replace an aging structure that houses the monitoring equipment.

The investment will ensure that high quality ozone data will continue to be measured. As one of the longest continuously monitoring sites in RAPCA's jurisdiction, it is also one of the most important.



North Sanitary Landfill Update

The final remediation is underway at the North Sanitary Landfill Superfund site along Valley Pike in Old North Dayton, also known as the [Valleycrest Landfill](#). The site is approximately 102 acres that originally operated as a sand and gravel quarry prior to use as a landfill. The former landfill stopped operation in the 1970s and was designated as a Superfund site in 1994.

New activities include clearing of vegetation, waste re-location in preparation for the cap that will be placed, and the start of the installation of a new gas and leachate collection system. Land use options for the site after completion are still being discussed. Work is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2023. All work is being overseen by USEPA and Ohio EPA.



Monthly Mommy Meet-up

Public Health's Neighborhood Navigators and Cribs for Kids program are partnering to host the [October Mommy Meet-up](#), *"Falling to Sleep Safely"* on October 27 from 3-4 pm in the Gem City Market's Community Room, located at 324 Salem Ave. in Dayton. Community Health Workers will discuss safe sleep practices and strategies to reduce the chances of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

October is [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\)](#) Awareness Month. SIDS encompasses both unexplained deaths and sleep-related deaths. While the cause of unexplained SIDS has not been identified, sleep-related deaths are 100% preventable.

Pre-registration is requested. All eligible Montgomery County residents who attend the event, and complete a post event survey, will be entered to win a \$25 Gem City Market Gift Card.

To register click [here](#).



Community Overdose Action Team

Working Together to Combat Overdoses and Drug Abuse

Overdose Surge Alerts

In addition to the people who are using drugs, the alert system can be utilized by support systems, including family, friends, treatment providers and other community agencies that may be able to communicate with the individuals at risk of overdose.



[Register for Overdose Surge Alerts.](#) The system is to notify people who use drugs and their support systems via text message when conditions are occurring that make using drugs even more risky than usual. This includes when there are a higher number of overdoses than expected during a certain period of time, in a given location within Montgomery County.



Halloween Safety Tips

Jack-o'-lanterns glow on the front porch. Children wait anxiously in their costumes, ready to go house-to-house collecting buckets of treats. For kids (and, yes, adults too), Halloween can be a time of excitement and imagination. But as a parent, you need to protect your little ones from some very real dangers. What if they get separated from you? Are they prepared to safely cross the street? Did you remind them to not eat the candy before you check it? These [Halloween Safety Tips](#) can help you have a happy and healthy trick-or-treat experience.





Commissioner Wentzel Honored

Montgomery County's Health Commissioner Jennifer Wentzel was recently named *Individual of the Year* by the [Partners for the Environment](#).

The *Partner of the Year Awards* celebrate those who work to protect, preserve, and restore the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River watersheds.

The Awards recognize organizations and individuals who provided outstanding leadership and inspiration throughout the year. Commissioner Wentzel was recognized for her work, and willingness to engage with others in the community, as a US EPA Environmental Justice Fellow and for her collaboration with community partners in resolving environmental issues.

The *Partners for the Environment* is an alliance of environmental organizations, government and civic organizations, and public and private educational institutions. These organizations share the common goal of protecting, restoring, preserving, and promoting the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River Watersheds in an 18-county region in southwest Ohio.

[See the Award Nomination video here.](#)



Jasmine Young Completes Leadership Development Program

Congratulations to Public Health's Health Education Specialist Jasmine Young for successfully completing [Parity Inc.'s Black Leadership Development Program](#).

The Leadership Development Program was designed to develop African American leaders and emerging leaders. Its purpose is to develop a pool of African American men and women from various backgrounds with interest in, and leadership capacity for, effectively addressing ongoing and emerging community issues.

During this 11-month program, participants meet monthly to learn through lectures, discussion, and direct experience of every major aspect of community life. Issues, from economics and education to criminal justice and intra-cultural diversity, are explored.

Jasmine has been a Health Education Specialist at Public Health for over a year and has demonstrated excellence in developing programs focusing on helping communities and individuals live healthy lives. In addition, she has served on various Public Health programs and committees, including the Community Health Improvement Plan Initiative and Premier Health's African American Wellness Walk, and has co-led the Food System Project and Local Office of Minority Health.

Jasmine's involvement and willingness to learn has developed her confidence to become a great leader and embrace her gifts and talents to pursue her purpose of creating awareness, engagement, and equity among the community. With rising potential, Jasmine continues to grow and look forward to the future.



Work for Public Health

Public Health invites you to think about serving your community by joining our team. There are several openings including Chronic Disease Prevention Senior Manager, Certified Peer Recovery Supporter, Public Health Nurse, and Accounting Supervisor. Public Health is a culturally diverse organization committed to providing an inclusive and equitable place of employment. We are dedicated to public service and committed to quality relationships with one another and the community we serve.

For a complete list of job openings visit our website
<https://www.phdmc.org/about/employment-postings>.



Media Opportunities:

9/1/2022 - WDTN and WHIO - Monkeypox
9/2/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Case Update
9/2/2022 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 Boosters
9/7/2022 - DDN - Flu
9/7/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Boosters
9/8/2022 - DDN - Childhood Vaccinations
9/9/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Level Drop to Medium
9/14/2022 - WDAO - Prostate Cancer Luncheon
9/15/2022 - DDN - COVID-19
9/16/2022 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 Boosters
9/20/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Is Pandemic Over
9/22/2022 - WHIO and DDN - Mosquito Spraying
9/29/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 New Booster
9/30/2022 - DDN - COVID-19

Get the
FLU  **SHOT**
not the flu!

Submitted by:

Jennifer Wentzel, M.P.H., Health Commissioner and **Becky Thomas, MD, MPH, CHES, Medical Director**

