



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



Richmond Fire Response

On Tuesday, April 11, [two warehouses containing bulk recycled plastic caught fire](#) in Richmond, Indiana. Smoke from the fire could be seen in the air throughout the Dayton area. The fire burned for several days and prompted an evacuation order for anyone within a half-mile of the fire in Indiana, and shelter-in-place recommendations for affected downwind residents, including parts of Preble and Darke counties.

Public Health's Incident Management Team began to monitor the fire and offer information and assistance as needed.

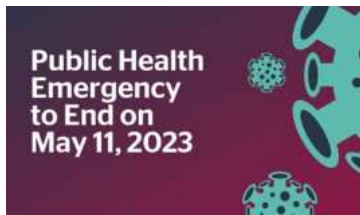
The [Regional Air Pollution Control Agency \(RAPCA\)](#) provided real time air monitoring in the region. However, the monitoring capabilities of RAPCA's fixed air monitors are only designed to detect particulate matter and carbon dioxide, two common pollutants created as a by-product of ordinary manufacturing processes. They are not equipped to detect other chemicals that may be present in the air during a large-scale fire. RAPCA did not observe any increases in the pollution levels in Preble County that could be attributed to the fire.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) conducted air sampling near the fire itself, and at the time did not find elevated levels of harmful chemicals.

Throughout the event, Public Health and RAPCA staff provided support to our partners in West Central Ohio (WCO) in multiple ways. RAPCA staff provided air quality updates on Ohio Department of Health virtual meetings and sent staff to Incident Command in Richmond to assist USEPA with placement of mobile monitors in Darke County to measure for pollution downwind of the fire. Emergency Preparedness participated in multiple virtual meetings with key emergency management staff from Preble and Darke Counties and Public

Information worked with the WCO to keep everyone updated with the latest information.

RAPCA continues to review USEPA air monitoring data as it is released to the public.



COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to End on May 11, 2023

The federal government plans to end the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023, after 1,200 days. While the public health emergency will end, COVID-19 will remain a public health priority. Public Health remains dedicated to preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19, with particular concern for populations who are at higher risk of poor outcomes.

Although COVID-19 reported cases, hospitalizations, and deaths decreased significantly, COVID-19 is still one of the top 10 causes of death in the United States and is causing about 50 deaths per week in the state of Ohio.

COVID-19 vaccines remain an important way to decrease the impact of COVID-19 in our community. Public Health remains committed to maximizing continued access to COVID-19 vaccines, to the extent possible. The current bivalent COVID vaccine provides protection against severe disease, including hospitalizations and death. Vaccination with the current bivalent vaccine is recommended for all individuals ages 6 months and older. See the CDC website for the most [up-to-date vaccine recommendations](#). Please visit the Public Health website for information about [upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics](#) or call (937) 225-5700.

Test for COVID-19 in order to know if you have symptoms, have been exposed, or are about to meet up with others. If infected, it's important to follow [guidance for isolation](#) to prevent infecting other people, some of whom may become very sick. Free COVID-19 tests can be ordered from the federal government at <https://www.covid.gov/tests> or by calling 1-800-232-0233. Public Health will continue to offer free test kits at scheduled vaccine clinics and at our Reibold Building location, 117 South Main Street, for as long as supplies are available from the Ohio Department of Health.

As the Public Health Emergency officially ends, Public Health remains dedicated to ensuring Montgomery County is a healthy, safe, and thriving community for all who live here.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

On April 18, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) simplified the current vaccination schedule for most individuals. Effective immediately, the current bivalent version of the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to be used for all doses of the vaccine for individuals ages 6 months and older.

The bivalent version of the vaccine protects against the original and omicron BA.4/BA.5 strains of COVID-19. An individual is now considered “fully vaccinated” if they have received at least one dose of the bivalent vaccine that was first used starting August 31, 2022.

There are certain situations where additional doses of vaccine may be recommended, for example for individuals 65 years of age or older, and people with a weakened immune system.

Individuals ages 65 and older may get an additional dose of the bivalent vaccine at least four months following their first booster dose of the bivalent vaccine. Most individuals who are immunocompromised may get an additional dose 2 months after their first dose. Public Health recommends that those individuals should speak with their healthcare or vaccine provider for further recommendations.

In addition, unvaccinated children ages 6 months to 5 years should still receive two or three doses of the bivalent vaccine, depending on whether they receive Pfizer or Moderna.

Both Pfizer and Moderna are providing versions of the bivalent vaccine and you may receive either version regardless of any previous vaccinations.



Mosquitoes

As warmer weather begins to take hold in Montgomery County, Public Health reminds you the most effective way to avoid getting sick from viruses spread by mosquitoes when at home and during travel is to prevent mosquito bites.

Mosquito bites can be more than just annoying and itchy. They can spread viruses that make you sick or, in rare cases, cause death. Although most kinds of mosquitoes are just nuisance mosquitoes, some kinds of mosquitoes in the United States and around the world spread viruses that can cause disease. Some of the diseases that mosquitos carry include West Nile, Zika, Yellow Fever, and Dengue.

Mosquitoes bite during the day and night, live indoors and outdoors, and search for warm places as temperatures begin to drop. Some will hibernate in enclosed spaces, like garages, sheds, and under (or inside) homes to survive cold temperatures. Except for the southernmost states in North America, mosquito season starts in the summer and continues into fall.

When used as directed, insect repellents are the BEST way to protect yourself and family members from getting sick from mosquito bites.

Use an Environmental Protection Agency [\(EPA\)-registered insect repellent](#) with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. When

used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants for adults, children, and babies. Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting.

Also, stop mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near water, drain or dump any standing water indoors and outdoors, such as in tires, bird baths, plant trays and rain barrels.

For more information on preventing mosquito bites [click here](#).



Healthy Swimming Week Starts May 22

The month of May brings the start to the pool season. Swimming and other water-based activities are fun and healthy ways to be physically active. However, like any physical activity, there are potential risks involved. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Healthy Swimming website](#) provides information on how to have healthy and safe swimming experiences that maximize the benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of illness and injury.

Germs in the water can make people sick if they swallow just a mouthful of contaminated water. Although most germs are killed within minutes by chlorine or bromine at the recommended levels, the germ *Cryptosporidium* (or Crypto) can survive in properly treated water for more than 7 days.

Public Health's Environmental Health team inspects over 330 pools and splash pads in Montgomery County multiple times throughout the pool season to help keep them safe and germ free. Public Health recommends you take these steps every time you enjoy the water to keep yourself and others safe from germs:

DOs

- DO stay out of the water if you are sick with diarrhea.
- DO shower before getting in the water.
 - When chlorine mixes with dirt, sweat, pee, and poop, there is less chlorine available to kill germs.
- DO take kids on bathroom breaks or check diapers every hour.
 - Change diapers away from the water to keep germs from getting in.
- DO dry ears thoroughly with a towel when you get out of the water.

DON'Ts

- DON'T swallow the water.
- DON'T poop or pee in the water.
- DON'T sit or stand on the jets at splash pads. Sitting or standing on jets can cause injuries or rinse poop off butts.



May is High Blood Pressure Awareness Month

Many Americans have [high blood pressure](#), also known as hypertension, and many don't even know they have it. High blood pressure develops when blood flows through your arteries at higher-than-normal pressures. Your blood pressure is made up of two numbers: systolic and diastolic. Systolic pressure is the pressure when the ventricles pump blood out of the heart. Diastolic pressure is the pressure between heartbeats when the heart is filling with blood.

Measure your blood pressure regularly to help your health care team diagnose any health problems early. You and your health care team can take steps to control your blood pressure if it is too high. High blood pressure usually has no warning signs or symptoms, and many people do not know they have it.

Public Health has partnered with the [Dayton Metro Library](#) to provide free blood pressure testing kits that may be checked out. Visit www.daytonmetrolibrary.org to find a location near you.



May is Nurses Month

The [American Nurses Association](#), has declared May as Nurses Month with the theme "You Make a Difference," with appreciation for nurses' unparalleled impact during the pandemic, and their contributions to the health of all people.

Public Health's workforce is made up of 42 nurses, which represents 16% of Public Health's workforce. Nurses work in a variety of programs including School Health Services, Communicable Disease, TB Clinic, Immunization Clinic, Home Care, Health Outreach, Children with Special Healthcare Needs, Recovery Services, STD Clinic and the Refugee Clinic.

Public Health thanks all of our nurses for the difference they make in helping to keep Montgomery County a Healthy, Safe and Thriving Community.



Safe Sleep is as easy as ABC

Public Health's [Safe Sleep Ambassador Training](#) teaches caregivers how to prevent sleep-related deaths. These deaths are preventable by following a few key recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The primary message for parents and others who care for infants is to Remember the ABCs of Safe Sleep.

A is for Alone

Make sure your baby never sleeps with you, another adult, child, or pet.

B is for Back

Your baby should always be placed on his or her back to sleep. When your baby is laid down to rest on his or her side or tummy, the risk of suffocation due to rebreathing carbon dioxide increases.

C is for Crib

Your baby should always be laid down to sleep in a crib, bassinet or play yard that is safety approved by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSD).

Make a Difference, Be a Safe Sleep Ambassador.

The Safe Sleep Ambassador Training is free, and participants will learn why babies are dying in our area, the ABCs of safe sleep, and other recommendations by pediatric experts. Trainers will share firsthand knowledge of unsafe sleep deaths, dispel myths, and discuss practical strategies to promote the safe sleep message.

For more information [click here](#) or call (937) 496-6831.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY



The Dayton Q+ Youth Center Project Launch

May 10 - 5:30pm - 8:00pm

The Brightside Music & Event Venue, 905 East 3rd St., Dayton, OH 45402

Public Health and the LGBTQ+ Health Alliance are working diligently to create a place where LGBTQ+ youth can gather and thrive.

The Q+ Center will be an affirming space providing community and connection, and resources that focus on positive youth development. Currently, LGBTQ+ youth can suffer from a variety of conditions, including

bullying in school, which can lead to poor health outcomes. The [Montgomery County Community Health Assessment](#) indicates that 46% of LGBTQ+ youth in Ohio seriously considered suicide and 77% reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety.

Although still searching for a location, the founding organizations; Rainbow Elder Care, Closet Transformation, PFLAG, and Visible and Resilient in Community and Self, are holding an information sharing fundraising event May 10 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, at Brightside, 905 East 3rd St. in Dayton. The public is invited to attend and enjoy an interactive program, excellent food provided by two local organizations, a silent auction, and a great community building opportunity. You may [RSVP here](#).



Monthly Mommy Meet-Up – Hypertension Disorders in Pregnancy
May 25 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Gem City Market, 324 Salem Avenue, Dayton, 45406

Monthly Mommy Meet-Up is an ongoing program aimed at educating and supporting mothers in their efforts to provide a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families. Each month, the program offers an opportunity for mothers to come together to learn about diverse topics related to moms and babies, such as nutrition, exercise, stress management, and parenting.

The meetups provide a space for mothers to connect with one another, share their experiences, and receive guidance and support from health professionals. The program is a valuable resource for mothers looking to make positive changes in their family's health and well-being. Meet-Up takes place at the Gem City Market on the 4th Thursday of the month.

For more information or to register for upcoming meetings [click here](#).



Media Opportunities:

4/7/2023 - DDN - Transgender HIV Testing Day

4/7/2023 - DDN - Measles and Mumps

4/7/2023 - WHIO - Measles and Mumps

4/11/2023 - DDN - Black Maternal Health Month

4/12/2023 - WYSO - Richmond Fire

4/12/2023 - WHIO - Richmond Fire

4/12/2023 - DDN - Richmond Fire

4/13/2023 - WYSO - Maternal Health

4/12/2023 - WYSO - Richmond Fire

4/17/2023 - WDTN - Minority Health Month

4/18/2023 - WDTN - Minority Health Month

4/18/2023 - ABC 22 - Minority Health Month

4/19/2023 - DDN - Drug Overdoses
 4/19/2023 - WDTN - Black Health Expo
 4/19/2023 - DDN - Air Quality
 4/21/23 - DDN - COVID Vaccine
 4/29/23 - ABC 22 - Ticks



Submitted by:

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

