

Public Health Once Again Meets Highest National Standards



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has announced that Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County has demonstrated compliance with the highest standards for delivering quality programs and services to our community. Effective March 4, 2025, Public Health has been Re-accredited by the PHAB Board.

“We are proud to learn that our health department has once again, met the standards for national accreditation. National accreditation demonstrates that we are a high-performing health department, and that we are committed to continually improving our services, value and accountability to our community. This designation was only possible due to the phenomenal efforts of our employees, and with support from our Board of Health and community partners”

said Jennifer Wentzel, Health Commissioner, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County.

The goal of the voluntary national accreditation program is to improve the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of all health departments. It is the measurement of a health department’s performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards.

To receive national accreditation through PHAB, a health department must undergo a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures. Those standards cover a broad range of services, including community health assessment and improvement planning, epidemiology, infectious disease control, health inspections, health education and promotion, and emergency preparedness.

Benefits of Accreditation Include:

- Promotes a culture of quality and performance improvement
- Increases capacity to respond to public health emergencies
- Encourages the use of equity as a lens to identify health priorities
- Strengthens health departments to better serve communities
- Assures stakeholders that the health department is delivering Foundational Capabilities

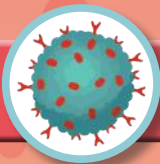
Key Actions Taken by Public Health for Reaccreditation:

- Ensured implementation, monitoring, and quarterly reporting of agency-wide Strategic Work Plan
- Implemented Clear Impact Scorecard as the designated Performance Management software for Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County
- Prioritized Health Equity throughout all areas of Public Health, including Workforce Development, Emergency Preparedness, and Strategic Initiatives

Key Actions Taken by Public Health for Reaccreditation (continued):

- Maintained 3-5 year reviews of all agency Plans, Policies, and Guideline documents
- Conducted Program Reviews and Evaluations to continually advance a Culture of Quality
- Routinely communicated important health information with the Public via website, social media, advertisements, and Program activities
- Incorporated community voices in the development and review of Public Health messaging strategies
- Advocated for evidence-based/best practice policies impacting our community
- Maintained and developed internal committees to advance compliance with PHAB Standards & Measures
- 115 annotated documents submitted

About PHAB: As the sole national accrediting body for public health in the U.S., [PHAB](#) supports health departments to improve quality, accountability, and performance.



Staying Protected from Measles

West Texas is currently experiencing the worst [measles outbreak](#) in the past 30 years. The outbreak has produced at least 159 confirmed cases of the highly contagious infectious disease. The epicenter of the outbreak is Gaines County, which had the highest unvaccinated rate in the state this school year at 18%, according to state health data.

[Measles](#) is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. Measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.



Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children and individuals with weakened immune systems. If you think you may have been exposed or are showing symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and red - watery eyes. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a rash breaks out. It usually begins as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline and spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. When the rash appears, a person's fever may spike to more than 104°

Fahrenheit. Individuals should monitor for symptoms from 4 to 21 days after any potential exposure. If symptoms appear, stay home, and avoid school, work, and large gatherings. Call your healthcare provider right away. Do not enter a healthcare facility without first notifying them about your measles exposure and symptoms so you do not expose other patients.

Protecting yourself and others from measles starts with staying informed and taking the necessary precautions. Everyone should review their vaccination status and seek medical advice if they suspect exposure. Early detection and vaccination are key to preventing the spread of this preventable disease.

Those who have not had measles, or the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine may not be protected and should consult a healthcare provider about getting vaccinated.

Contact the [Public Health Immunization Clinic](#) at (937) 225-4550 to make an appointment to get vaccinated.

Measles IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH

MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children.

Measles Can Be Serious

- About 1 out of 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.
- 1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.
- 1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.

You have the power to protect your child.

Provide your children with **safe and long-lasting protection** against measles by making sure they get the **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine** according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

WWW.CDC.GOV/MEASLES

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

Ozone Season Begins



Ozone season begins March 1, and will run through October 31, 2025. Ozone is a respiratory irritant that can negatively impact people with respiratory issues. Ground level ozone is formed in the atmosphere when nitrogen oxides emissions and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures.

Weather plays an important part in ozone formation and the region usually experiences higher ozone levels on hot sunny days when winds are calm or blowing lightly from a southerly direction.

When conditions are favorable for high levels of ground-level ozone, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) will issue Air Quality Alerts so people can change their activities to protect their health. Ozone levels have been on the decline in recent years due to emissions reductions from a variety of sources, including cleaner vehicles and power plants switching from coal to cleaner-burning natural gas, however the region still experiences a few exceedances each summer.

RAPCA operates six ozone monitors in the Miami Valley region. In 2024, RAPCA measured a total of ten ozone exceedances over four separate days. If you're interested in receiving daily updates or Air Quality Alerts, you can sign up for U.S. EPA's EnviroFlash service (<http://www.enviroflash.info/>) to receive email and/or text notifications.



Animal Bites & Public Health's Rabies Control Program

Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and nervous system. It can infect all mammals and is seen mostly in bats, skunks, raccoons and other wild animals. People can also get the disease by being bitten by a rabid animal or by getting saliva from the animal into an open cut or mucous membrane (nose, mouth, or eyes). Once a person or animal becomes sick with rabies, they will usually die.

Animals with rabies can become aggressive, attacking for no reason, or they may become very quiet. Wild animals can lose their fear of people and act tame. Rabid animals may walk in a circle, drag a leg, or fall over. Some cannot swallow, so they are not able to eat or drink and often drool. Animals usually die within a week after first becoming ill.

If you suspect or know you have been bitten by an animal, call your doctor or go to the emergency room as soon as possible. Your healthcare provider can determine what treatment is needed.

Bitten individuals should contact Public Health's [Rabies Control Program](#) at 937-225-4362. If possible, the animal will be placed under quarantine, usually at the owner's home. If the animal remains healthy during quarantine, the person bitten was not exposed to the rabies virus. Wild animals and stray animals are usually tested. Public Health can advise you and your veterinarian on the proper procedures for testing.

To learn more about animal bites and rabies [click here](#).





Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Safely

Excessive use of alcohol is often associated with St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Public Health reminds you about the effects of [binge drinking](#) on your health, and the dangers of drinking and driving.

Binge drinking is the most common and costly pattern of excessive alcohol use in the United States. Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more drinks on an occasion for men or 4 or more drinks on an occasion for women.

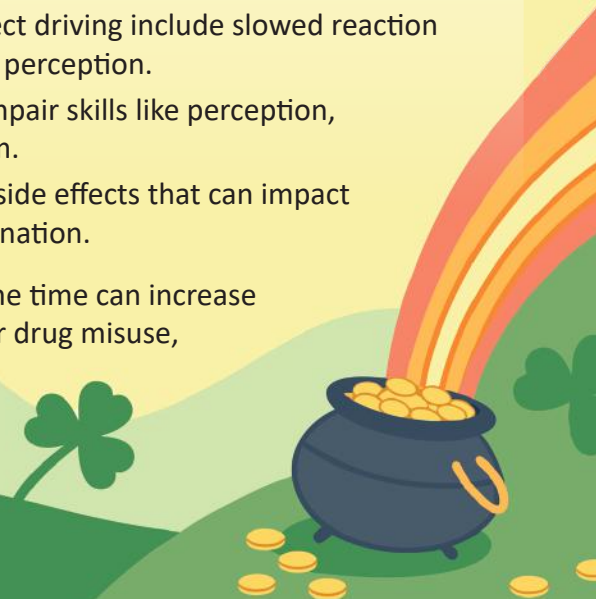
Binge drinking is associated with many health problems, including:

- ✳ Unintentional injuries such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, burns, and alcohol poisoning.
- ✳ Violence including homicide, suicide, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault.
- ✳ Sexually transmitted diseases.
- ✳ Unintended pregnancy and poor pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage and stillbirth.
- ✳ Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.
- ✳ Sudden infant death syndrome.
- ✳ Chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and liver disease.
- ✳ Cancer of the breast (among females), liver, colon, rectum, mouth, pharynx, larynx, and esophagus.
- ✳ Memory and learning problems.

Driving requires focus, coordination, good judgment, and quick reactions to the environment. Any alcohol or other drug use impairs the ability to drive safely. Experts know a lot about alcohol's effects on driving, but more research is needed to fully understand the impact of drugs on driving skills. However, research has shown that both legal and illicit drugs impair the skills needed to drive safely. For example:

- ✳ Some of the effects of being impaired by marijuana that can affect driving include slowed reaction time and decision-making, impaired coordination, and distorted perception.
- ✳ Other drugs (such as cocaine or illicit amphetamines) can also impair skills like perception, memory, and attention, in both the short term and the long term.
- ✳ Prescription and over-the-counter medications can cause many side effects that can impact driving, such as sleepiness, impaired vision, and impaired coordination.

Use of multiple substances (such as marijuana and alcohol) at the same time can increase impairment. If you would like to speak with someone about alcohol or drug misuse, contact [Recovery Services](#) at (937) 461-5223.



Recovery Services Outreach Team

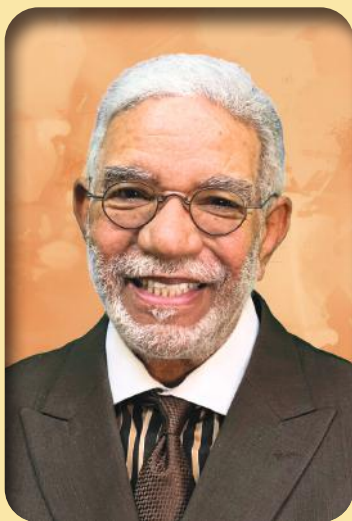


The Recovery Services Outreach Team at Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County has been recognized as the Outstanding Public Safety-Led Quick Response Team for 2024/2025. This recognition highlights the team's impactful work in diverting individuals struggling with substance use disorders into treatment and connecting them with critical resources, ultimately reducing the likelihood of future interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and criminal justice involvement.

By conducting hospital follow-ups and engaging directly with individuals in the community, the Outreach Team addresses real-life challenges with practical solutions, offering education, guidance, and resources to those in need.

In 2024 alone, the Outreach Team connected with over 3,800 individuals seeking assistance.

Pictured: (l to r) Back Row: Bob Bailey, Randy Carmack, John Scannell. Front Row: Cleave Baker, Redina Counce, Kevin Jackson, Lisa Simmons, Jeremy Edmonson, Jermain Hawkins.



Mr. Orr Recieves the John Edward Moore Sr. Lifetime Leadership Award

Emmett C. Orr, MPA, who is serving as President on the Montgomery County Board of Health, was awarded the [John Edward Moore Sr. Lifetime Leadership Award](#). The award is presented annually to a male leader who has provided sustained and exemplary support to Parity Inc. for over 10 years.

Parity Inc. has been at the forefront of the fight for diversity and equity in the Greater Dayton Area for over three decades. Their mission is to serve and advocate for social and economic equity within the African American community. Parity Inc. strives to achieve their mission through community collaborations. They address issues at the policy level and work collectively at the grassroots level with our youth and emerging leaders to help build long-lasting and impactful change in our community.

Congratulations to Mr. Orr, for his great work and on being honored with this distinguished award.





WORLD

TUBERCULOSIS DAY

24 MARCH

World TB Day, falling on March 24th each year, is designed to build public awareness that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world, causing the deaths of nearly one-and-a-half million people each year, mostly in developing countries. It commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. Koch's discovery opened the way towards diagnosing and curing TB.

Public Health's Tuberculosis (TB) Program controls the spread of TB in Montgomery County. We ensure that all persons with active TB are completely treated, and we work with community partners to screen individuals who are at high risk. TB skin tests are provided by

appointment. To schedule an appointment for an evaluation of a positive result, contact the TB Clinic nurse during normal business hours at 937-225-4550.

- Providers who need to report an active case of TB can call the TB Outreach nurse, at (937) 496-6584, or for more information, they may contact the TB Clinic Nurse line at 937-496-6657.
- TB screening efforts are focused on high-risk individuals, including contacts to active TB cases, those with substance use disorders, homeless persons, persons who test positive for HIV, persons in correctional facilities, and persons who come from countries with a high incidence of TB.
- Refugee health screenings are provided through a grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, under the Ohio Refugee Services Program.

For more information, call 937-225-4550 or visit [Public Health's Tuberculosis \(TB\) Program](#)



MARCH
COLORECTAL
CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

Remember to call today to schedule my colonoscopy.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, behind only lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute estimates that 152,810 people in the United States received a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer in 2024, and approximately 53,010 died from it.

Colorectal cancer awareness is important because many cases of cancer of the colon or rectum are preventable. Screening by colonoscopy can help prevent this cancer because precancerous polyps found during the procedure can be removed at the same time. Furthermore, colonoscopy can also detect the cancer at early stages, when treatment is more likely to be successful. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening for individuals at average risk of colorectal cancer at age 45.

Cancer of the colon or rectum is more common in men than women. It is also more common among American Indians/Alaska Natives than people of other races. The median age of diagnosis in the United States is 66 years, while about 78% of newly diagnosed patients are aged 55 and older.

Colorectal cancer is increasingly being diagnosed in people under the age of 50. Factors contributing to an increase in early-onset colorectal cancer, according to the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2024, include an unhealthy diet, obesity, chemicals in the environment, use of antibiotics, consumption of alcoholic beverages, and sedentary behaviors. To learn more, [click here](#).



Improving Media Literacy

In today's world, it's more important than ever to be able to understand and evaluate the information we see online, especially when it comes to our health. With so much information coming at us from all directions, we need to know how to tell the difference between trustworthy health advice and false information. Being media literate helps people make better decisions about things like food, exercise, vaccines, and general health. By learning how media messages are created and spotting misleading or biased information, we can make smarter choices for ourselves and help others do the same. Improving media literacy is an important step toward building a healthier and better-informed community.

Check the Source

- ◆ Even well-known news outlets may be biased. Learn the difference between news and opinion.

Look for the Author

- ◆ A legitimate article should have an author's name and credentials. Anonymous articles or those with no clear author are a red flag.

Analyze the Headline

- ◆ Fake news often uses exaggerated, sensational, or clickbait headlines.

Check the Date

- ◆ Outdated news: sometimes old stories are presented as new to create a sense of urgency.

Look for Evidence and Sources

- ◆ Fake news may not cite any reputable sources or include links to factual information or verifiable evidence.

Cross-check with Other News Outlets

- ◆ Check multiple credible sources to see if the same story is being reported.

Check the URL

- ◆ Fake news sites often use URLs that look similar to legitimate ones but with small differences.

Assess the Tone

- ◆ Fake news often uses strong emotional language to elicit a reaction. Credible sources should strive for an unbiased, balanced tone.

Look for Photos and Videos

- ◆ Fake news articles might use misleading or doctored photos. Use reverse image search to check the origin.

Is it Logical

- ◆ Fake news often relies on anecdotal evidence, opinion, or emotional appeals rather than facts.

Check Fact-checking Websites

- ◆ Websites like Snopes, FactCheck.org, and PolitiFact can help verify the accuracy of a story.

Use Reverse Image Search

- ◆ Use Google Reverse Image Search to see if an image is being used out of context or from another source.

Look for Bias

- ◆ Evaluate the potential bias of the publication. All sources have some bias, but fake news tends to have extreme bias, often distorting facts.

By following these steps, you can become more skilled at distinguishing between real and fake news. It's always good to take your time and verify before sharing information!

To learn more, check out Public Health's video on [Spotting Fake News](#).

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Help Us Make a Difference

Public Heath - Dayton & Montgomery County, is dedicated to public service and committed to quality relationships with one another and the community we serve.

Current Job Openings

Budget Analyst
Air Pollution Control Specialist I
Environmental Health Specialist In Training
PH Communicable Disease Clinic Senior Manager
Senior Programmer/Sys Administrator
Director Administration
Accounting Specialist
Director Health Services



- **APPLY NOW**

 - Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
 - Vacation, Sick, and Personal Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
 - Eligible for Deferred Compensation Program
 - Tuition Assistance, and More!



Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, military status, veteran status, genetic testing, or other unlawful bias.

EVENTS

March 2025 Events

Public Health's many programs and services host a variety of community-wide events throughout the year. To register for an event or learn more, call (937) 225-5700 or [click here](#).

MAR 6
THU

Strengthening Families
PARENTING CLASSES
7 WEEK SERIES



RECOVERY SERVICES
Parenting Classes

- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Elizabeth Place

MAR 7
FRI

SAVE THE DATE
Rocking Our Red Pumps
FRIDAY, MARCH 7
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
RED WOMEN & GIRLS DAY
(It's Powerful, It's Jewish, It's
Rock, and it's Jewish!)



Rocking Our Red Pumps

- 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- 6542 North Union Road

REGISTER HERE

MAR 11
TUE

Nourish Your Newborn Classes



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Nourish Your Newborn Class

- 2:00 PM
- Drew Health Center

MAR 12
WED

Nourish Your Newborn Classes



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Nourish Your Newborn Class

- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Sunrise Center

MAR 13
THU

Strengthening Families
PARENTING CLASSES
7 WEEK SERIES



RECOVERY SERVICES
Parenting Classes

- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Elizabeth Place

MAR 18
TUE

Nourish Your Newborn Classes



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Nourish Your Newborn Class

- 2:00 PM
- Drew Health Center

MAR 19
WED

Person In Charge (PIC) Training



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Person In Charge (PIC) Certification in Food Protection

- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- Reibold Building - Environ...

CALL TO REGISTER (937) 225-4460

MAR 19
WED

Nourish Your Newborn Classes



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Nourish Your Newborn Class

- 2:00 PM
- Sunrise Center

MAR 20
THU

Strengthening Families
PARENTING CLASSES
7 WEEK SERIES



RECOVERY SERVICES
Parenting Classes

- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Elizabeth Place

MAR 20
THU

BECOME A SAFE SLEEP AMBASSADOR



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Safe Sleep Ambassador Training

- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Virtual

REGISTER HERE

MAR 20
THU

Pumping 101 Classes



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Pumping Class 101

- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Sunrise Center

MAR 24
MON

Monthly Fatherhood Club



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
Monthly Fatherhood Club

- 5:30 PM
- Goodwill Eastseals West...

REGISTER HERE

EVENTS

March 2025 Events

Public Health's many programs and services host a variety of community-wide events throughout the year. To register for an event or learn more, call (937) 225-5700 or [click here](#).

MAR 27 THU

Strengthening Families
PARENTING CLASSES
7 WEEK SERIES

RECOVERY SERVICES

Parenting Classes

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Elizabeth Place

MAR 27 THU

THLY MOMMY MEET-UP

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Monthly Mommy Meet-Up - Mommy's Money Matters

2:00 PM

Sunrise Center

REGISTER

MEDIA

Date	News Source	Topic
2/5/25	DDN	Respiratory Illness
2/5/25	WHIO	Pertussis
2/6/25	DDN	Super Bowl Gambling
2/7/25	ABC 22	Flu
2/12/25	ABC 22	Home Lead Testing
2/13/25	ABC 22	Bird Flu
2/20/25	ABC 22	Measles
2/21/25	DDN	Flu
2/28/25	DDN	Flu

Submitted by:

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, *Health Commissioner* and **Becky Thomas**, MD, MPH, CHES, *Medical Director*

