

# Monthly Update

JANUARY 2026

## Public Health Advocates for Childhood Health



***“Lead exposure, housing disparities, and poor air quality can all affect a child's health.”***

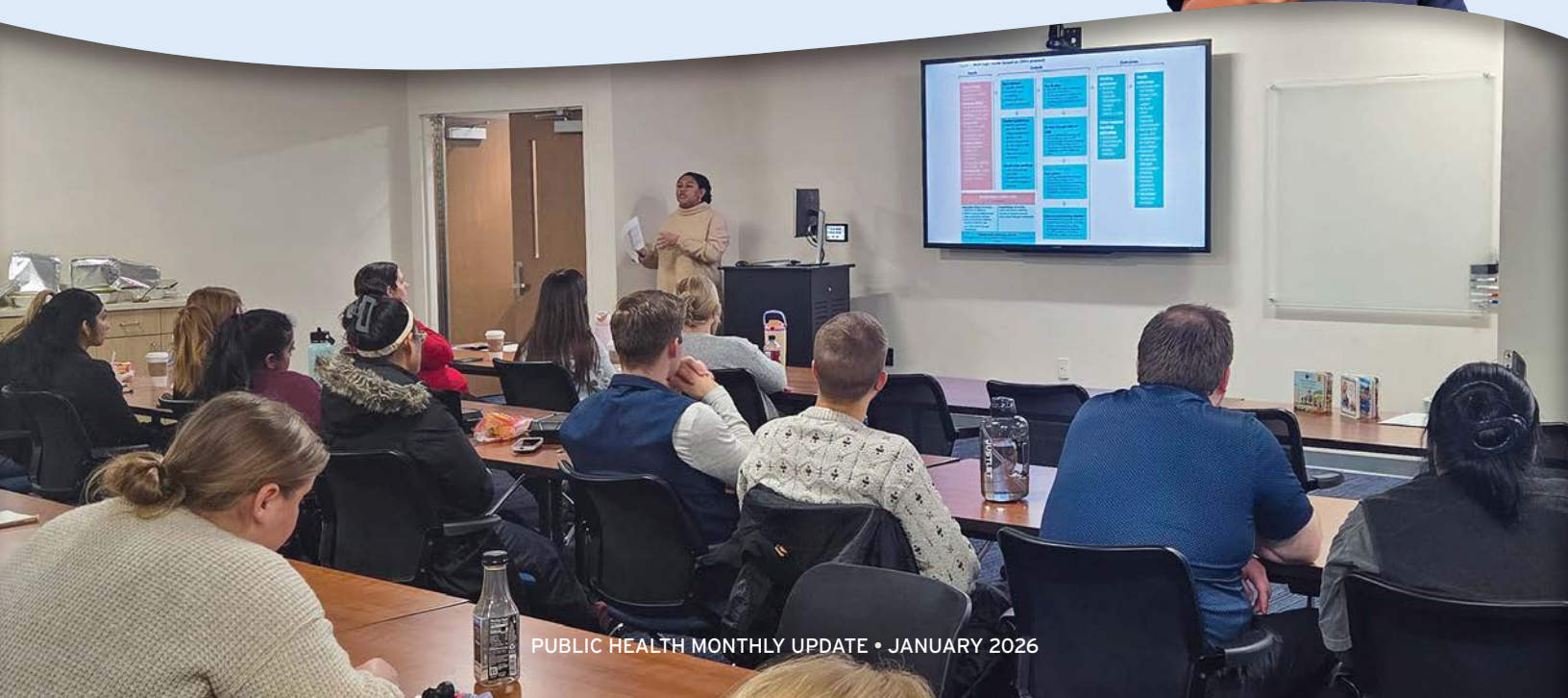
On December 10, Public Health staff, Johnjé Jasper, Jeff Ringiesn and Matthew Tyler spoke to Dayton Children's pediatric chief residents on three environmental health advocacy issues.

Jeff Ringiesn presented on Public Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention program and stressed the importance of getting children tested for lead poisoning while also encouraging medical professionals to educate patients about lead hazard exposure, as well as community resources and programs to fight childhood lead poisoning.

Johnjé Jasper presented on the Maternal and Infant Vitality Initiative and the housing advocacy done by the former Social Determinants of Health workgroup to eliminate housing disparities by making Source of Income a protected class in the City of Dayton.

Matthew Tyler presented on the [Regional Air Pollution Control Agency's \(RAPCA\)](#) monitoring and permitting program, explaining how RAPCA protects our air quality and provides air quality alerts so the public can take action when health effects are a concern.

The presentations spoke to how Public Health programs protect childhood health and how pediatric residents can use this information to aid their patients. Public Health looks forward to collaborating more with Dayton Children's pediatric residents in the future.



# Don't Let the Flu Sneak Up on You

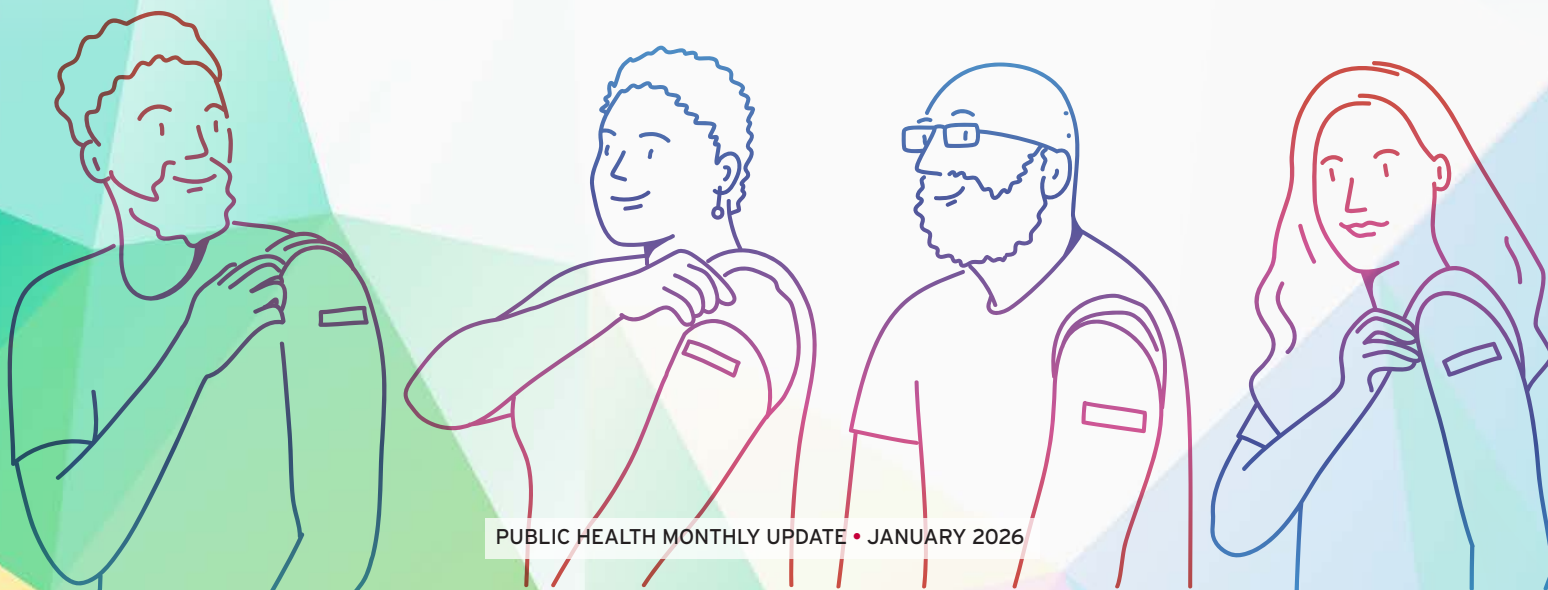
*The flu vaccine helps reduce severe symptoms and lowers the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death.*

While the severity of [influenza \(flu\)](#) season varies, each year across the US, millions of people get sick from flu, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and tens of thousands die from flu and related complications. The best way to protect against serious flu-related illness is to get a flu vaccine every year.



## Reasons to Get a Flu Shot

- Flu vaccines prevent millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor visits annually.
- Reduces the risk of severe outcomes, including hospitalization, intensive care unit (ICU) admission, and death. The flu can lead to serious complications like pneumonia, bronchitis, and heart problems.
- Protects vulnerable populations: The flu is highly contagious, and you can spread it to others before you even show symptoms. By getting vaccinated, you help create "herd immunity," which protects those at high risk of severe illness, such as infants, older adults, pregnant women, and people with chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes, heart disease).
- Avoids disruptions to daily life: Getting vaccinated means fewer missed days of work or school, allowing daily life and responsibilities to continue more smoothly.
- Flu shots are safe, convenient, and widely available. To schedule an appointment with Public Health's Immunization Clinic call (937) 225-4550. [Preparing for Your Vaccination Clinic Visit](#) is a helpful podcast that can answer any questions about your visit.



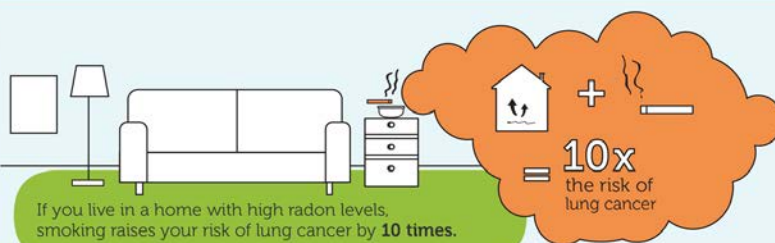


# Radon Action Month



January is National Radon Action Month. Radon is an invisible and odorless gas. It comes from the soil, rock and water under homes and other buildings. Radon moves up through the ground and into a home or building through cracks and other holes. Breathing radon gas for a long time can cause lung cancer. It is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is responsible for 15% of all lung cancer cases globally, according to the WHO. According to U.S. EPA, more than half of the state of Ohio is predicted to have high levels of radon. This is because Ohio sits on glacial bedrock that is rich in uranium and a constant source of radon. Testing your home for radon is simple and inexpensive. Do-it-yourself radon test kits are available for free through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) at <https://ohio.radon.com/>. They can also be found in many hardware stores. There are short-term tests and long-term tests. The short-term may take as little as 2 days, the long-term test may take as many as 90 days. If the Radon levels in your home are high, U.S. EPA recommends installing a radon-mitigation system to bring the levels down. For more information on radon please visit [rapca.org](http://rapca.org).

## Radon and Smoking: A Dangerous Combination



Learn more by calling the National Radon Hotline:

**1-800-SOS-RADON** (1-800-767-7236)

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Smoking Increases Your Risk

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., after cigarette smoking. If you live in a home with high radon levels, smoking raises your risk of lung cancer even more.

# Radon Testing in Schools



*Students and staff spend extended time in school buildings, increasing the potential risk from radon exposure.*

During Radon Action Month, Public Health reminds schools that the Ohio Department of Health recommends [radon testing in schools](#).

School buildings should be tested for radon if the building has never been tested, or past test results are unavailable. The building should be re-tested after any renovations to the building or HVAC system. In addition, re-testing should be done periodically, at least every 5 years. Retesting should be done in all buildings and in all ground contact rooms, regardless of prior results.

## Radon Facts

- ➔ Radon is a naturally occurring gas that seeps into buildings from the surrounding soil.
- ➔ Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- ➔ Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates.
- ➔ Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

## Why Testing in Schools Matters

Since you can't see or smell radon, **testing is the only way** to know your level of exposure. School students and staff spend extended time in schools increasing the potential threats from radon exposure.



## Radon in Schools: A Hidden Concern

- ➔ Nationwide, [almost 1 in 5 schools](#) has at least one room with radon above the EPA action level of **4 pCi/L**, affecting over **70,000 classrooms**.
- ➔ As children breathe faster and have developing lungs, their **radiation dose per exposure is higher**, increasing long-term risk.





# OneOhio Recovery Foundation Request for Proposal



***Regional Grant Cycle #2 is aimed at funding organizations in Ohio that address substance use disorder and related issues.***



The OneOhio Recovery Foundation's Region 8 Board, which covers Montgomery County, has been working hard with leaders from across our area in preparation for the Foundation's next regional grant cycle, which launched on Wednesday, December 10 with the release of the [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).

The RFP for the OneOhio Recovery Foundation's Regional Grant Cycle #2, is aimed at funding organizations in Ohio that address substance use disorder and related issues, with a focus on evidence-based strategies..

A careful, thorough effort has been made to create a new grantmaking process to help support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts in every corner of Ohio. The grants are intended to help the community both recover from the opioid epidemic and become more resilient going forward.

## Key Dates

- December 10, 2025: Regional Grant Cycle 2 RFP posted
- January 14, 2026: Regional Grant Cycle 2 Funding Inquiry window opens
- February 11, 2026: Regional Grant Cycle 2 Funding Inquiry window closes

*Additional timeline updates will be announced in 2026.*

## Grant Webinars

As part of the Foundation's efforts to support potential applicants throughout this process, the following webinars are being offered:

- Wednesday, January 7 | 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Regional Grant Cycle 2 Webinar [\[Register Here\]](#)
- Wednesday, January 21 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Funding Inquiry & Grant Portal Webinar [\[Register Here\]](#)
- Tuesday, January 27 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Impact Academy: Evidence Guide for Applicants [\[Register Here\]](#)

Visit [OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants](https://OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants) for more information and to sign up for updates from the Foundation to ensure you get all the latest information.





January 2026



THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
**INSIDER**



PUBLIC HEALTH CELEBRATES  
**THE HISTORY OF  
HEALTH IN AMERICA**

Public Health celebrates America's 250th anniversary throughout 2026 with a special series that explores the story of public health in our nation. From early efforts to fight infectious diseases to innovations that shape modern healthcare, this series highlights the milestones that helped to keep communities healthy, safe, and thriving.



**Learn more** >>







# Queens Healing Circle

A SAFE SPACE FOR BLACK WOMEN

Oftentimes, the road to healing seems long and hard, but walking that road with others supporting and cheering you on can make a world of difference. **The Queens Healing Circle** is a safe space created and tailored to promote growth, healing, strength, support, and community. The circle will meet monthly.

*Registration required.*

REGISTER HERE

[phdmc.org/events](https://phdmc.org/events)





**We Are  
Hiring**  
JOIN OUR TEAM

## Help Us Make a Difference

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

### Current Job Openings

Health Education Specialist I  
Public Health Nutrition Associate  
Public Health Nutrition Associate  
Accounting Services Supervisor  
Disease Prevention Specialist  
Substance Use Mental Health Counselor  
Accounting Specialist  
Director Administration  
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.





## January 2026 Events

Public Health's 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](#).

**JAN 14 WED**

**Nourish Your Newborn Classes**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
**Nourish Your Newborn Class**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sunrise Center

**JAN 15 THU**

**Pumping 101 Classes**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
**Pumping Class 101**

4:00 PM

Sunrise Center

**JAN 20 TUE**

**Nourish Your Newborn Classes**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
**Nourish Your Newborn Class**

2:00 PM

Drew Health Center

**JAN 21 WED**

**Nourish Your Newborn Classes**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
**Nourish Your Newborn Class**

2:00 PM

Sunrise Center

**PUBLIC HEALTH CARES**

A PODCAST FROM  
Dayton & Montgomery County  
Public Health

Episode 22  
**Maternal and Infant Vitality Initiative**

**Johnjé Jasper**  
Maternal and Child Health  
Navigation Supervisor

Hosted by **Dan Suffoletto**  
Public Information Manager

LISTEN AND SUBSCRIBE TODAY ON

[amazon music](#)

[PUBLICHEALTHCARES.ORG](#)

## Maternal and Infant Vitality Initiative

Listen as Johnjé Jasper, Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Navigation Supervisor explains the benefits of the Maternal and Infant Vitality Initiative. The program is funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, that allows Public Health to develop strategies to help decrease infant mortality, especially among African American/Black infants.

This is done in two ways: Neighborhood Navigation and community coalition work. Public Health's Neighborhood Navigators help pregnant and postpartum people (baby under the age of 1) access resources such as baby supplies, utility assistance, prenatal care, home visiting services, housing and many more. To get connected to a Neighborhood Navigator, [click here](#).

## Media

| Date     | News Source | Topic               |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|
| 12/01/25 | WDTN        | World AIDS Day      |
| 12/01/25 | WDTN        | World AIDS Day      |
| 12/03/25 | WDTN        | Jail Operations     |
| 12/10/25 | WHIO        | Respiratory Illness |
| 12/26/25 | WHIO        | Respiratory Illness |
| 12/30/25 | ThinkTV     | Lead and Mold       |

Submitted by:

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

