

2026 Multistate Cyclosporiasis Outbreak

The United States is currently experiencing its largest ever recorded domestic outbreak of [cyclosporiasis](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and public health officials in several states are investigating a multistate outbreak of Cyclospora infections linked to iceberg lettuce in 9 states. As of July 30, there have been 39 confirmed cases in Montgomery County.



Current Outbreak Status

The CDC Outbreak Alert has formally linked 1,947 lab-confirmed cases across nine states to a single supply chain. Newly added states - Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania have joined Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

The contamination source from the FDA Cyclospora investigation includes shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell restaurants. The lettuce was supplied by Taylor Farms de Mexico, which initiated a voluntary recall of all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico on July 17.

The FDA recently launched a separate traceback investigation into a new cluster of 72 cyclosporiasis cases. The source of this second outbreak has not yet been identified.



What is Cyclosporiasis?

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. It spreads when food or water is contaminated with human feces containing the parasite. It is not transmitted directly from person to person because the parasite requires days to weeks outside the body to become infectious.

The primary symptom is watery, often "explosive" diarrhea that can last from days to several weeks if left untreated. Other symptoms include severe fatigue, loss of appetite, bloating, stomach cramps, and nausea.

Routine stool tests do not always check for Cyclospora; doctors must request a specialized parasite test. Confirmed cases are highly treatable using a standard course of antibiotics.

Safety Tips for Consumers

Consumers should heed all recalls and immediately throw away or return any recalled Taylor Farms iceberg lettuce products.

Vigorously wash fresh herbs (like cilantro and basil), leafy greens, and berries under running water while rubbing them to physically dislodge the parasite.

Cook produce to an internal temperature of 158°F is the only guaranteed way to destroy the parasite. Consider purchasing whole heads of lettuce rather than pre-washed bags or opting for frozen and local farmer's market produce, which carry a much lower risk of contamination.



Public Health Receives National Award for Source Water Protection

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County and its partners received a 2026 [NACCHO](#) Promising Practice Award for their Multi-Jurisdictional Source Water Protection Program. Accepted on July 16, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky, the award recognizes innovative local health programs with the potential to become national models.



The Source Water Protection Program

Established in 1988, the initiative is a collaboration between the City of Dayton, Public Health, Harrison Township, and the cities of Vandalia, Riverside, and Huber Heights. For nearly 40 years, it has used land-use controls, business partnerships, and emergency planning to prevent groundwater contamination before it occurs.

Key Impacts



Secures Drinking Water: Safeguards the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer, the sole water source for over 400,000 residents and businesses.



Regional Collaboration: Unites six government jurisdictions to manage shared environmental risks.



Early Warning Network: Maintains 570 monitoring wells to track groundwater conditions and detect spills early.



Business Support: Provides risk assessments and financial incentives to help local companies reduce pollutant threats.

"This recognition highlights nearly four decades of collaboration to protect safe drinking water," said Jennifer Wentzel, Health Commissioner for PHDMC. "The program's success demonstrates how local governments, professionals, and businesses can work together to protect a critical natural resource."

The NACCHO award further validates the effectiveness of the program's regional approach to protecting public health, supporting economic development, and preserving a sustainable drinking water supply for more than 400,000 people.



Pictured: Jennifer Wentzel - Health Commissioner, Matthew Tyler - Director of Environmental Health, Eric Borth - City of Dayton, Dr. Becky Thomas - Medical Director, Wendy Owen - Nurse Supervisor, Josh Lucas - Director of the Office of the Health Commissioner.



COMMUNITY

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County has released the final report for the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), highlighting three years of collaborative work to address Montgomery County's most pressing health priorities: **Maternal & Infant Vitality, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Behavioral Health**. The report reflects the efforts of community organizations, healthcare providers, local governments, and residents working together to improve health outcomes across the county.

Significant Progress Across Key Health Priorities

Highlights include: a 58% decrease in sleep-related infant mortality rates, healthy food purchases through Produce Perks increased by 91%, and overdose deaths decreased by more than 50% since the beginning of the current CHIP plan.

Challenges Remain

While the report highlights many successes, it also identifies areas requiring continued attention. Low birthweight rates increased during the planning period, food insecurity and child food insecurity rose significantly, and suicide rates remained above baseline levels despite some recent improvement. These findings underscore the importance of maintaining momentum and continuing to invest in evidence-based community health strategies.



Looking Ahead: 2026-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan

The release of the final report marks the completion of the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan cycle. Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County will now use findings from the Community Health Assessment and the regional planning process to develop the 2026-2028 CHIP.

Visit Public Health's website for the [full report](#).



State of Black Dayton

Public Health is proud to announce that Dr. Kimberley Freeman, Director of the Office of Health Promotion, has been selected to serve as Chair of the Health & Wellness Work Group for the ***State of Black Dayton*** initiative.

In this important leadership role, Dr. Freeman will help guide community-wide efforts to address health disparities, improve wellness outcomes, and advance health equity for Black residents throughout the Dayton region.

As Work Group Chair, she will serve as a facilitator, connector, and champion for the Health & Wellness focus area, helping translate the findings and recommendations from the ***State of Black Dayton*** report into meaningful action and measurable progress.

In addition to leading the Health & Wellness Work Group, Dr. Freeman will serve as a member of the ***State of Black Dayton*** Steering Committee. Chaired by the Miami Valley Urban League, the Steering Committee provides strategic oversight for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the report. Committee members work collaboratively to ensure the report remains a living resource by guiding the annual State of Black Dayton Scorecard, establishing priorities, monitoring community progress, and strengthening partnerships across the region.

The ***State of Black Dayton*** initiative brings together leaders, organizations, and community stakeholders committed to improving outcomes for Black residents across several key areas. As Chair, Dr. Freeman will collaborate with partners to foster engagement, facilitate discussions, identify priorities, and advance strategies that support healthier communities. Her extensive experience in public health promotion and community engagement makes her well-positioned to lead these efforts.

The Miami Valley Urban League serves as the backbone organization for the initiative, providing strategic leadership, project management, communications, data management, administrative support, and overall stewardship of the ***State of Black Dayton***. With support from Urban League staff, Dr. Freeman will provide volunteer leadership to help align community partners and drive progress toward shared health and wellness goals.

“Dr. Freeman’s selection reflects her commitment to improving community health and advancing health equity throughout Montgomery County,” said Jennifer Wentzel, Health Commissioner, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. “Her leadership will help bring together organizations and stakeholders to create meaningful and lasting change.”



Dr. Kimberley Freeman
Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County



Strengthening Local Immunization Capacity: Building Partnerships to Protect Communities



Public health leaders from local health departments across the country gathered in Louisville, Kentucky, for NACCHO's **Strengthening Local Immunization Capacity Convening**, a collaborative effort designed to strengthen immunization programs, share innovative practices, and address emerging vaccination challenges. The convening brought together local health department representatives, NACCHO staff, and experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to exchange ideas and develop strategies for improving vaccine access, confidence, and outbreak preparedness.

[Public Health's Immunization Clinic](#) Nurse Supervisor, Wendy Owen, attended the event, which focused on helping local health departments navigate a rapidly changing immunization landscape marked by declining vaccination rates, increasing vaccine hesitancy, resource constraints, and growing concerns about vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Participants engaged in peer learning activities, coaching sessions, and discussions on communication strategies, data-driven decision-making, and community engagement.

A key highlight was a CDC presentation outlining national immunization priorities and introducing the **Community Outbreak Mitigation, Preparedness, and Shared Solutions (COMPASS) initiative**. COMPASS aims to identify communities at increased risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and develop culturally tailored, community-based interventions to improve vaccine confidence and vaccination coverage. The initiative emphasizes partnerships with trusted local leaders and organizations to address barriers to immunization and strengthen outbreak resilience.

The convening also showcased findings from NACCHO's Sentinel Network, which gathers insights from local health departments on immunization challenges and opportunities. Results highlighted concerns including federal policy uncertainty, misinformation, funding limitations, and data infrastructure challenges. At the same time, participating departments shared successful approaches such as school-based vaccination efforts, community outreach events, and partnerships with trusted community organizations.

Through collaboration, shared learning, and practical skill-building, the project seeks to strengthen local immunization programs, enhance community trust in public health, and improve preparedness for future vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Ultimately, the initiative supports local health departments in protecting the health of their communities through increased vaccination access, confidence, and coverage.





Make Sure Your Child's Vaccinations Are Up to Date!

Parents Encouraged to Schedule Back-to-School Vaccinations



As families prepare for the start of a new school year, Public Health is reminding parents and guardians to make sure their children are up to date on required vaccinations before returning to the classroom.

Vaccines play a vital role in protecting children from serious diseases and help create healthier school environments for students, teachers, and staff. Completing immunizations before the school year begins can help families avoid last-minute appointments and ensure students meet school vaccination deadlines.

"Back-to-school season is the perfect time for parents to review their child's immunization records," said Dr. Becky Thomas, Medical Director, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. "Vaccinations are one of the safest and most effective ways to protect children from preventable diseases and reduce the spread of illness in our schools and communities."

Parents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider, pediatrician, local health department, or school nurse to verify whether their children need any routine immunizations before classes begin. Further information about the benefits of vaccination, and answers to frequently asked questions may be found at www.vaccinesprotectkids.org.

Public Health's clinic provides vaccinations on sliding fee scale. No one is turned away due to the inability to pay. Families are encouraged to schedule appointments as soon as possible to avoid delays. For information about school vaccination requirements or to schedule an appointment, contact the Public Health Clinic at (937) 225-4550. Public Health also recommends that families use back-to-school visits to discuss other preventive health needs, including annual wellness exams.



NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Immunizations are Still the Best Defense Against Vaccine-preventable Diseases

August marks National Immunization Awareness Month. This annual observance highlights the critical importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Keeping up with routine immunizations is one of the safest, most effective ways to shield yourself, your family, and your community from preventable diseases like flu, whooping cough, measles, and shingles.

Staying on schedule with vaccinations matters for every stage of life. For infants and toddlers, early childhood vaccines build crucial immunity against serious diseases before children are exposed to them. School-aged kids need to be up to date on vaccines to satisfy school entry requirements and protect students in crowded classrooms. Since immunity from childhood vaccines can wear off, adults require regular boosters (like Tdap) and age-specific protections.

Vaccines do more than protect you; they safeguard vulnerable neighbors—such as newborns and individuals with weakened immune systems—who cannot receive certain shots themselves.

Public Health encourages the community to take action this month. Check your family's immunization records and schedule an appointment with your primary care provider, local pharmacy, or local health department to make an appointment to get up to date on any needed vaccines.

To make an appointment with [Public Health's Immunization Clinic](#) call (937) 225-4550.



Sensory-Friendly Immunization Clinic Available for Families and Individuals



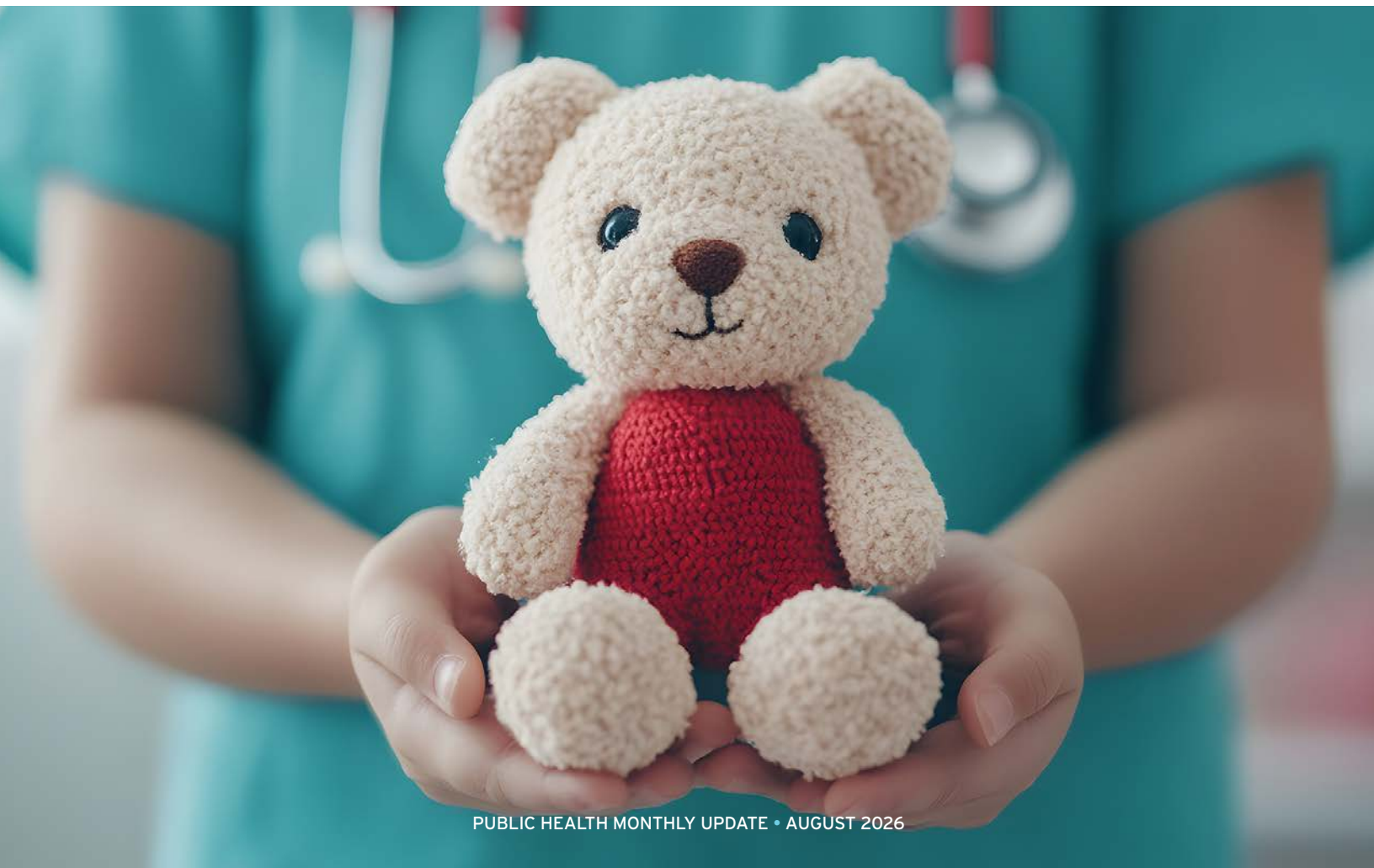
Getting a vaccine can be stressful, especially for people with sensory sensitivities. Public Health is offering a sensory-friendly vaccination experience to make immunizations more comfortable and accessible for children, teens, and adults.

[Public Health's Immunization Clinic](#) provides accommodations such as quieter waiting areas, reduced noise, dimmed lighting when possible, and shorter wait times. Staff work with families and caregivers to understand individual needs and help create a positive experience.

"We recognize that traditional healthcare settings can be challenging for some individuals," said Dr. Becky Thomas, Medical Director, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. "Our goal is to remove barriers to vaccination and provide a welcoming environment where everyone feels supported."

This service may be especially helpful for individuals with autism, sensory processing differences, developmental disabilities, anxiety, or anyone who finds traditional healthcare settings overwhelming. Families are encouraged to request accommodations such as extra time, comfort items, or step-by-step explanations of the vaccination process.

To schedule an appointment or request accommodations, call (937) 225-4550.





Public Health Earns Designation as LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (Public Health) has received an evaluation of 100 and the designation of "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader" in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2026 edition of the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), the nation's foremost benchmarking survey of healthcare facilities on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and employees.

[Public Health's LGBTQ+ Health Initiatives](#) program works to support and connect LGBTQ+ individuals with helpful community resources and leads the LGBTQ+ Health Alliance.

Public Health focuses on providing the best healthcare services possible, delivered in a culturally competent way that meets every individual's needs.

Our efforts will initially involve several key activities:

- Develop policies and strategies to support healthcare efforts for the LGBTQ+ community.
- Develop and conduct cultural competency training for Public Health staff and community partners.
- Lead a local LGBTQ+ community coalition addressing gaps in care.
- Collaborate with Public Health programs to improve LGBTQ+ health equity.
- Conduct public speaking appearances to address issues of health inequity within gender and sexually diverse communities.
- Achieve certification for LGBTQ+ culturally competent care through the Healthcare Equality Index.





National Breastfeeding Awareness Month

August is National Breastfeeding Month, a time to celebrate human milk as a foundation for lifelong health. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, continuing alongside solid foods for two years or more. This campaign highlights the incredible benefits of nursing for both babies and mothers.

Essential Protection for Baby

Breast milk is a living fluid that adapts daily to a baby's precise needs.

- **Immune Defense:** Packed with antibodies that act as a baby's first natural shield.
- **Fewer Infections:** Lowers the risk of ear infections, stomach bugs, and respiratory illnesses.
- **Disease Prevention:** Linked to a 60% lower risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
- **Long-Term Health:** Lowers future risks of childhood obesity, asthma, and diabetes.
- **Easy Digestion:** Gentle on developing tummies, leading to less gas and reflux.

Vital Health Benefits for Mom

Nursing provides critical health perks that help mothers heal today and stay healthy tomorrow.

- **Faster Recovery:** Releases oxytocin, helping the uterus shrink faster and reducing postpartum bleeding.
- **Disease Protection:** Lowers the lifelong risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and Type 2 diabetes.
- **Heart Health:** Helps reduce the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.
- **Mental Health:** Calming hormones lower stress and reduce the risk of postpartum depression.

Practical Gains for Families

Beyond health, breastfeeding offers highly sustainable advantages for modern daily life.

- **Cost Savings:** Saves families an estimated \$1,500+ a year by eliminating formula costs.
- **Total Convenience:** Food is always sterile, perfectly warm, and ready with zero prep work.
- **Eco-Friendly:** Creates zero trash, requiring no plastic bottles, tin cans, or factory shipping.

Breastfeeding is a journey that thrives on support. Families need encouragement from partners, workplaces, and communities to help them reach their feeding goals. [Public Health's WIC program](#) encourages breastfeeding and provides breastfeeding support.





Dayton &
Montgomery
County



BLACK
BREASTFEEDING
WEEK

BLACK BREASTFEEDING WEEK BRUNCH



Saturday, August 29

11 AM - 2 PM

THE SALVATION ARMY DAYTON KROC CENTER

1000 N Keowee St, Dayton, OH 45404



**Featuring
Speaker
Ngozi Tibbs,
IBCLC, MPH**



**Door prizes
+ Brunch**



**Gift Cards for
the first 50 eligible
attendees**

**For pregnant individuals or parents with
babies under 1 (Montgomery County residents)**

REGISTER NOW

www.phdmc.org/events

**Need a bus pass?
Please call (937) 972-4098**



SCAN HERE



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY MONDAY, AUGUST 31



LEVITT PAVILION · DOWNTOWN DAYTON

134 S. MAIN STREET, DAYTON OH 45402 | 5 - 8 PM

Join us to honor lives lost, raise awareness,
and connect with prevention and recovery resources.

Together, we can support our community
and save lives.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Live DJ
- Harm reduction resources
- Prevention & recovery support
- Raffles & giveaways
- Free meal & event bags



**SCAN FOR DETAILS
& RESOURCES**
www.mccoat.org





**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

Air Pollution Control Specialist I/II
Community Outreach Supervisor
Accounting Services Supervisor
Substance Use Mental Health Counselor
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.



August 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](#).

AUG 10
MON

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

NORTHWEST RECREATION C...

AUG 12
WED

Nourish Your Newborn Classes

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Nourish Your Newborn Class

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sunrise Center

AUG 17
MON

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

NORTHWEST RECREATION C...

AUG 17
MON

Dementia Basics with Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Dayton Metro Library – Sou...

AUG 18
TUE

Nourish Your Newborn Classes

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Nourish Your Newborn Class

2:00 PM

Drew Health Center

AUG 19
WED

Nourish Your Newborn Classes

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Nourish Your Newborn Class

2:00 PM

Sunrise Center

AUG 20
THU

Pumping 101 Classes

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Pumping Class 101

4:00 PM

Sunrise Center

AUG 20
THU

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

LOHREY RECREATION CENTER

AUG 22
SAT

Queen's Village – Mommy & Me Reading Club – Stacey's Extraordinary Words

Saturday, August 22, 2026

11 am

Dayton Metro Library – Northwest Branch, Conference Room B

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dayton Metro Library – Nor...

[Register Here](#)

AUG 24
MON

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

NORTHWEST RECREATION C...

AUG 25
TUE

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

YEARS AHEAD DAYTON

AUG 27
THU

Queen's Healing Circle Creativity & Expression

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Dayton Metro Library – Main

[Register Here](#)

AUG 27
THU

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

LOHREY RECREATION CENTER

AUG 29
SAT

FEEDING WEEK BRUNCH

Saturday, August 29

11 AM - 2 PM

THE KROC CENTER, DAYTON, OH

Black Breastfeeding Brunch 2026

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Salvation Army Dayton...

AUG 31
MON

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

Tai Chi for Injury Prevention

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

NORTHWEST RECREATION C...

AUG 31
MON

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

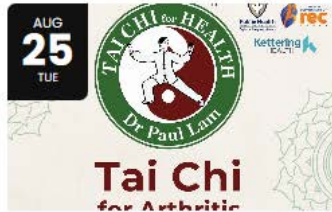
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Levitt Pavilion



August 2026 Events (Cont.)

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](#).



Tai Chi For Arthritis

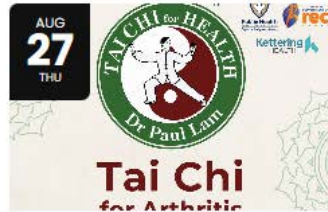
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- YEARS AHEAD DAYTON



Creativity & Expression

- 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- Dayton Metro Library - Nor...

[Register Here](#)



Tai Chi For Arthritis

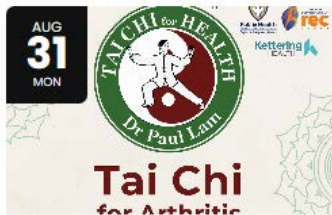
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- LOHREY RECREATION CENTER



Black Breastfeeding Week Brunch 2026

- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- The Salvation Army Dayton...

[Register Here](#)



Tai Chi For Arthritis

- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- NORTHWEST RECREATION C...



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH Monthly Fatherhood Monthly Connect

- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- Goodwill Easterseals West ...

[Register Here](#)

ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER



Media

Date	News Source	Topic
7/2/26	ABC 22	Air Quality
7/8/26	DDN	Cyclosporiasis
7/8/26	WHIO	Cyclosporiasis
7/14/26	ABC 22	Cyclosporiasis
7/15/26	WDTN	Cyclosporiasis
7/16/26	WHIO	Air Quality - Wildfires
7/17/26	WDTN	Air Quality - Wildfires
7/17/26	WHIO	Air Quality - Wildfires
7/17/26	DDN	Cyclosporiasis
7/17/26	DDN	Mold in School
7/17/26	WDTN	Air Quality - Wildfires
7/22/26	WHIO	Back-to-School Vaccinations
7/23/26	WHIO	Cyclosporiasis
7/29/26	DDN	School Vaccinations



Looking for local data?
The Community Health Assessment (CHA) can help.

The CHA helps aid community partners, stakeholders, and residents in identifying priority health issues, developing goals, and selecting strategies to improve residents' health.



The number of overdose deaths in Montgomery County **declined from 566 in 2017 to 155 in 2025**. When given quickly, Narcan can help reverse an opioid overdose. **Montgomery County agencies distributed an all-time high of 7,601 Narcan kits in 2025.**

To get a free supply of Narcan visit www.mccoat.org

data points **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

cha.phdmc.org

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

For more local health data visit cha.phdmc.org

Submitted by:

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

