



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

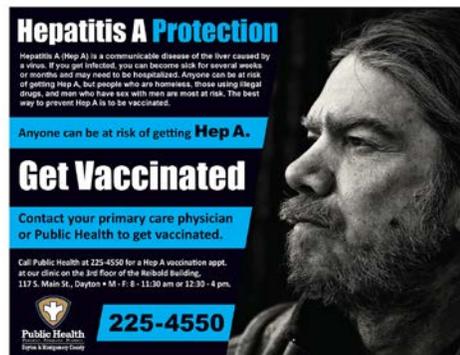


Montgomery County Hepatitis A Response

[Hepatitis A](#) outbreaks have been occurring in multiple states across the U.S., including several bordering Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health declared a statewide community outbreak for Hepatitis A on June 22. As of November 26, Ohio had 971 confirmed cases. While anyone is at risk of getting Hepatitis A, priority groups for prevention include:

- Men who have sex with men
- People who use street drugs whether they are injected or not
- People who are incarcerated
- People experiencing homelessness
- People who have traveled to other areas of the U.S. currently experiencing outbreaks
- People having contact with individuals in the priority groups

Montgomery County saw its first case in April of this year. As of November 26, there were a total of 179 cases. Public Health’s Incident Management Team (IMT) continues to meet routinely to mitigate Hepatitis A within Montgomery County. Public Health continues to provide educational materials, inform medical response partners, update the media, and hold Hepatitis A vaccination clinics for high risk populations.



Public Health has conducted a total of 87 external vaccination clinics for Hepatitis A with 2075 individuals being vaccinated. These clinics targeted the Montgomery County jail, homeless populations, men who have sex with men and individuals abusing drugs. In addition, 532 vaccinations have been provided at the Public Health Clinic. There is also continued outreach and

sharing of educational information to multiple partners across the county. Call (937) 225-4550 to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated.



World AIDS Day

[World AIDS Day](#) (WAD) is a time for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with the virus, and remember those who have died. This year's WAD 2018 theme is "**Know Your Status**". There is much to do in reaching people living with HIV who do not know their status and ensuring they are linked to quality care and prevention services. Stigma and discrimination continue to be barriers, and many people still do not have access to confidential HIV testing. What is even more alarming, there are some who only get tested after becoming ill and symptomatic.

In the United States 39,782 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2016. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **more than 1.1 million people are living with HIV and about 1 in 7 do not know it.**

Currently there are approximately 1,500 people living with HIV in Montgomery County. The good news is community-based testing and self-testing have opened doors to helping people know their HIV status, and attention has been placed on the need for continued community support.

Do you know your status? The CDC recommends the following:

- All adults and adolescents from ages 13 to 64 should be tested at least once for HIV.
- All pregnant women should be tested for HIV along with other STI's.
- Sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from more frequent HIV testing (every 3 to 6 months).
- Anyone who has unsafe sex or shares injection drug equipment should get tested for HIV at least once a year.

Public Health offers [free, confidential, HIV testing](#). Call (937) 496-7133.



National Influenza Vaccination Week

It's that time of year again — flu season. As family and friends are gathering for the holidays, flu activity is increasing. Get a flu vaccine now if you have not been vaccinated yet this season.

There are many reasons to get a flu vaccine. Flu vaccination can reduce your risk of flu illness, missing work and school, and visits to the doctor. Even if you are vaccinated and still get sick, flu vaccine can reduce the severity of your illness. Flu vaccination also can help protect women during and after pregnancy and protect the baby born to a vaccinated mom for several months after birth. Vaccination also has been shown to save children's lives, prevent serious events associated with chronic lung disease, diabetes and heart disease, and prevent flu-related hospitalization among working age adults and older adults.

Getting vaccinated isn't just about keeping you healthy; it's also about helping to protect others around you who may be vulnerable to becoming very sick, such as babies, older adults, and pregnant women.

It's not too late to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones this flu season! Call the [Public Health clinic](#) at 225-5700 to make an appointment or find a place near you to get a flu vaccine with the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#).



FluView Reports Low, but Increasing, Flu Activity

Influenza activity in the U.S. and Montgomery County remains low, although small increases in activity were reported, according to the [most recent FluView report](#) for the week ending November 17. Influenza A(H1N1), influenza A(H3N2), and influenza B viruses continue to co-circulate, with influenza A(H1N1) viruses reported most commonly by public health laboratories since September 30. Three states (Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma) experienced moderate flu activity. Regarding geographic coverage, no state reported "widespread" activity, but one state (Kentucky) reported "regional" activity. So far, there have been three pediatric deaths nationally.



FDA Moves Against Flavored E-cigs, but Stops Short of Ban

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has announced a series of restrictions aimed at combating a growing public health menace: flavored e-cigarettes and tobacco products that have lured young people into vaping and smoking. In a bold regulatory move, the FDA said it would move to outlaw two traditional tobacco products that disproportionately harm African-Americans: menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. However, the effort to cut off access to flavored e-cigarettes stopped short of a ban that the FDA had threatened in recent months. The agency said it would allow stores to continue selling such flavored products, but only from closed off-areas that would be inaccessible to teenagers. [Click here for](#) FDA's announcement and [here](#) for a news report.



Montgomery County Food Summit

The [8th Annual Montgomery County Food Summit](#) took place on November 14 at the Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center. The theme for this year's Summit was, *From Farm to Fork: Growing a Stronger Food System*. The vision for this year's conference was to view food through an equity lens and review how food security is largely impacted by the social determinants of health. Opening remarks were given by leaders within the community, including Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper. Mr. Cooper talked about the importance of building an equitable food system to reduce health disparities and improve the conditions in which we live, learn, work, and play. He also encouraged the audience to participate in the [Community Health Improvement Plan's](#) initiatives to improve food access within Montgomery County.

The remainder of the Summit provided workshops and conversations to help participants understand how health, economics, and policy impact our local food system. The morning health panel, moderated by Public Health's Maleka James, was comprised of health professionals from Ohio that discussed what they are doing to address food insecurity and improve social determinants of health for their patients. The afternoon included a panel on economic growth through urban agriculture and a motivating presentation from Nancy Williams, co-founder of *No More Empty Pots*. The Summit also offered a *Racial Wealth Gap Simulation*, in which participants reviewed federal policies that created gaps in wealth, income, and hunger between White and Black Americans.



Community of Hope - Save Our Babies Luncheon

On Saturday, November 10, the Miami Valley Organizing Collaborative, First Ladies Health Initiative, and Public Health hosted the *Save Our Babies Luncheon* at Corinthian Baptist Church. The purpose of this event was to engage the faith-based community on [the infant mortality crisis](#). There were 77 people in attendance with representation from 10 churches in the community: Zion Baptist Church, Wayman Chapel AME, Believers Christian Fellowship Church, Corinthian Baptist Church, Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church, New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Omega Baptist Church, Phillips Temple, College Hill Community Church, and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

The program began with an introduction of the *EveryOne Reach One Task Force* and proceeded with a keynote address from Mrs. Kortni Alston. Mrs. Alston shared her story as a parent who experienced an infant loss. She described the support that is needed to overcome such a life altering event, and the need for additional support locally. Public Health's Director of Health Promotion, Terra Williams concluded the luncheon with a call to action for the churches to continue to support infant mortality initiatives by sharing information within the community. Every baby deserves to reach their first birthday and it is our community's responsibility to do all we can to make sure our babies live and continue to thrive.



Not a Single Pound Challenge

Maintaining your weight during the holiday season can be a challenge for just about everyone. Holiday parties and tempting treats seem to be around every corner. In order to promote a healthy lifestyle Public Health runs a [Not a Single Pound Challenge \(NASP\)](#) during the holiday season. The goal is for each employee to either maintain or lose weight. Pre and post event weigh-ins are held to help employees measure their progress. And participants are eligible for Optum Wellness Incentives for participation in the program. Learn how you can stay healthy during the holidays with these [5 Health Eating Tips](#).



Diversity & Inclusion & Workforce Development

Assuring a competent, diverse workforce and inclusive culture is one of Public Health's strategic priorities. This year, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Diversity Champions, and Workforce Development Committee collaborated to offer two training options for employees to complete their annual, 3-hour diversity & inclusion training requirement.

Training options:

- *Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)* is an event that offers participants a glimpse into the lives of low-income individuals and families living in our community. The training was hosted by Think Tank, Inc., located in Springfield, Ohio.
- *M.E.E.T. on Common Ground* focuses on explaining the importance of personal responsibility in promoting respect in the workplace. The training was facilitated by Montgomery County Human Resources.

In 2019 Public Health plans to offer even more options for diversity and inclusion training for all employees.



**Community Overdose
Action Team**

COAT Wins Champions of Public Health - Organization Award

The [Community Overdose Action Team \(COAT\)](#) has been selected as the winner of the "Organization Award" for the 2018 Champions of Public Health Awards presented by The Ohio State University College of Public Health. The award was given for the COAT's innovative collaborative structure that allows partners to work together in a unified and coordinated way to respond to the opioid crisis.

Public Health and Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) are co-lead agencies of the COAT. The award was presented on Tuesday, December 4 at 4:30 pm at The Ohio State University's Longaberger Alumni House.



Barbara Marsh Presented with Lifetime Achievement Award

Barbara Marsh, Assistant to the Health Commissioner, was presented the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the [National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter Region VII](#). Barbara is a Licensed Independent Social Worker Supervisor and Licensed Independent Clinical Chemical Dependency Counselor.

Barbara has spent over 25 years employed in the areas of, behavioral health, domestic violence, child welfare and public health and she is dedicated to the widespread growth of the social work and public health professions, and exemplifies a level of commitment to serve as a model for others. Barbara has spent her career working collaboratively with many local, state and federal

agencies to provide a strength-based team approach to meet the needs of the citizens of Montgomery County and bring about positive results in the community.

Some of her recent work has been in the areas of juvenile justice reform, mental health, and the opioid crisis. Barbara exemplifies dedication, serving as a leader on several task forces and collaboratives. She is a strong voice for change and her efforts are making a real difference. Barbara graduated with a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Cincinnati. Her article, "Examining the Longitudinal Impact of the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative on Adult Recidivism" was recently published in the *Children and Youth Services Review Journal*.



Media Opportunities:

- DDN on **Hep C** (11/1/18)
- True Q Media on **LGBTQ Health Alliance** (11/1/18)
- ABC 22 on **Flu** (11/8/18)
- Fox 45 on **Infant Mortality** (11/13/18)
- ABC 22 on **Food Access** (11/14/18)
- WDTN on **LGBTQ Aging Survey**
- DDN on **Flu** (11/15/18)
- Fox 45 on **Food Safety** (11/21/18)
- DDN on **Fentanyl Test Strips** (11/26/18)
- DDN on **Landfills** (11/27/18)
- WDTN on **World AIDS Day** (11/27/18)
- DDN on **SRI Landfill** (11/28/18)
- DDN on **SRI Landfill** (11/29/18)



Outreach Opportunities:

- Dayton Early College Health Fair** at DECA High School (11/1/2018)
- Men's Health Turkey Give-away** at Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church (11/17/2018)

Stat of the Month...

17.5%

Percentage of the Montgomery County population that is considered food insecure, compared to the national average of 12.7 percent.

[Source: mcoho.org](http://mcoho.org)

Submitted by:

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