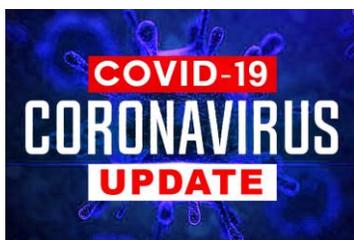




*Our Mission: To improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion and protection.*



### COVID-19 Update

Public Health continues its effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Montgomery County continues to be Risk Level 3 - Red in the State of Ohio's Public Health Advisory System. As of 4/2/21, the new incidence rate was 120 per 100,000.

As of 4/6/21, Public Health has administered 59,747 doses of the vaccine and has held 43 general vaccination clinics, 18 minority outreach clinics and 16 mobile clinics.

Governor Mike DeWine made the following announcements when he visited Public Health's Regional Mass Vaccination Clinic at the Dayton Convention Center on Thursday, April 1.



### HIGHER EDUCATION VACCINATIONS

- Governor DeWine announced that the state will begin working with local colleges and universities to offer vaccination clinics on campuses across the state.
  - These higher-education vaccination clinics will start on various campuses next week and will offer the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- The goal is to offer on-campus clinics to all of Ohio's college students before the school year ends in May.

### INCREASE IN CASES, VARIANT SPREAD

- For the past two Thursdays, Ohio's statewide average was just under 150 cases per 100,000 population. The two-week incidence rate has now risen to 167.1 cases per 100,000.

- New cases had been relatively flat through the month of March, but cases are beginning to increase once again, which demonstrates the necessity that Ohioans choose to be vaccinated.
- To date, nearly 30 percent of Ohioans have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- According to Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, chief medical officer at the Ohio Department of Health, variant activity continues to rise, closely mirroring what is occurring in the rest of the nation.
  - Michigan is currently experiencing an increase in cases that is more than 3.5 times what Ohio is seeing, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this increase appears to be driven substantially by variants.
  - Most of Ohio's rising cases numbers and variant cases are happening in the area of the state bordering Michigan.

### **SIMPLIFIED HEALTH ORDERS**

Governor DeWine announced on April 5 that the Ohio Department of Health issued a simplified health order that streamlines previous orders into a single order that underscores the most important tenets of infection prevention.

"Our understanding of this virus and how it spreads is much more advanced than it was when we first learned about coronavirus in early 2020," said Governor DeWine. "As we move to begin a new chapter in our fight against the pandemic, where more and more Ohioans are being vaccinated, this new order will focus on our best defense measures against COVID-19, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, limiting large gatherings, being outside, and practicing good hand hygiene."

- [Director's Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings, and Non-Congregating](#)
- [Director's Order Rescinding Various Orders](#)

### **CASE DATA & VACCINE INFORMATION**

- In-depth COVID-19 data for Ohio: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).
- Ohio's central scheduling system: [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov)
- Ohio mass vaccination information: [coronavirus.ohio.gov/massvaccinationclinics](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/massvaccinationclinics)
- All vaccine providers: [vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

More vaccine information: [coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine)

Visit [www.phdmc.org](https://www.phdmc.org) for updates on vaccination clinics.



## Spanish Community Forum

Public Health's Minority Outreach Team is hosting a COVID-19 Community Forum on Zoom entirely in Spanish on Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 pm. The event is being produced in coordination with El Puente Educational Center. The event features a panel that includes local Hispanic leaders that will provide their insight and expertise. Promotional video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wj-QiOpeC9M&t=1s>



## Ohio Senate Bill 22 Would Take Health Decisions Away from Local Communities

Public Health is disappointed that the Ohio General Assembly has decided to pass [Senate Bill 22](#) that strips away essential authority from local boards of health. The bill leaves the authority and final decision making in the hands of elected officials with no public health, medical or emergency preparedness training.

As passed, the bill:

- Specifies that a local board of health may only issue quarantine and isolation orders in cases in which an individual has been medically diagnosed or come into direct contact with someone medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order. This provision would prevent a local board of health from limiting the movement of a traveler returning from a foreign country that is experiencing a significant outbreak of infectious disease, e.g. Ebola, to assure that traveler is not carrying the disease before resuming normal activities back home in Ohio.
- Eliminates the authority of a local board of health to generally close schools or prohibit public gatherings. This provision would prevent a local board of health from preventing a public gathering in the instance of malicious release of a bioterrorism agent, such as anthrax.
- Specifies that local boards of health cannot issue regulations or orders that apply to a class of individuals or businesses. This provision would prevent a local board of health from issuing regulations that advise citizens in a certain area to not consume the drinking water because of contamination by a cancer-causing chemical.

All these authorities are essential to the prevention of illness and disease, as well as the prevention of the spread of existing infectious disease. Local boards of health do not need to use this authority very often: this authority is

not abused, but it is critical to maintain for those situations that risk the health of many individuals, due to the risk of rapid spread of serious disease.

Public Health understands that during an emergency, unpopular actions may sometimes be required, however, it believes those decisions are best left up to trained individuals. As such, Public Health is concerned that the health and safety of Ohioans is in a worse place than before the passage of the bill.



## National Transgender HIV Testing Day

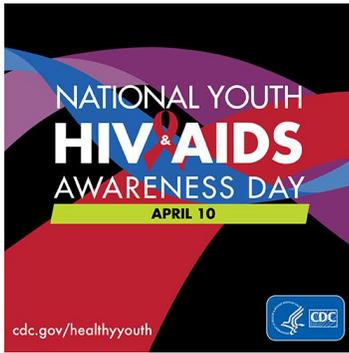
[National Transgender HIV Testing Day](#) (NTHTD) is observed each year on April 18. Public Health emphasizes this is a time to recognize the importance of routine HIV testing and status awareness, as well as HIV prevention and patient-centered care for transgender and gender non-binary people.

Transgender refers to people whose gender identity or expression is different from their assigned sex at birth. It is estimated that around 1.4 million adults identify as transgender in the United States. There were 24,558 persons living with diagnosed HIV in Ohio at the end of 2019. Among these, 225 were transgender persons. Transgender women of color, especially African American and Hispanic/Latina women, experience high rates of HIV.

Possible reasons could be linked to having multiple sex partners, anal or vaginal sex without protection, and sharing needles or syringes to inject hormones or drugs. Other factors include commercial sex work, mental health issues, incarceration, homelessness, unemployment, and high levels of substance misuse compared to the general population. Multi-layered transgender stigma and discrimination that discourage transgender and gender non-binary people from seeking HIV testing and treatment remains a serious problem.

Montgomery County Health Commissioner, Jeff Cooper states, “We know that trans communities experience a disproportionate degree of cultural, socioeconomic, and related factors that often result in barriers. There is a need for inclusive approaches to HIV testing and medical models that affirm trans-specific care.”

The Ohio HIV / AIDS Prevention Committee of Region 9 (Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble counties) is committed to providing culturally responsive HIV services including HIV testing, counseling, PrEP medication, HIV specialty care, trans-health, women’s health and more. In observance of National Transgender HIV Testing Day, the committee is asking everyone to get educated, get tested and get treated. Call 937.496.7133 for more information and to find local testing sites.



## National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

[National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#) (NYHAAD) is observed each year on April 10. NYHAAD increases awareness, gets people talking, and highlights the work being done to reduce HIV among young people. Today's youth are the first to have never known a world without HIV and AIDS, however they are the least likely to be aware of their HIV infection compared to any other age group. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports that in 2018, youth and young adults ages 13 to 24 made up 21% of the 37,832 new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. and Dependent areas. Most of these diagnoses were among young gay and bisexual men.

In Montgomery County, of the 95 new HIV infections in 2019, 29 (31%) were among youth. Young people living with HIV are also the least likely of any age group to stay in care and have a lower viral load. Strategies to address the impact of HIV on young people require that they have access to affirming, culturally specific, medical resources and tools.

Montgomery County Health Commissioner, Jeff Cooper states, "As a society, we have a special duty to keep our young people safe and provide them with the resources they need to live healthy lives. This includes ensuring equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care in our communities."

The HIV AIDS Prevention Committee of Region 9 (Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble counties) is working hard to help prevent the spread of HIV. The committee offers case management, linkage to care, HIV testing, PrEP, syringe exchange, counseling and referral services. Preventing HIV among youth requires educating this vulnerable population before they start to have sex and then continuing to respond to their changing needs. To learn more about evidence-based education and testing available for youth and young adults call 937.496.7133.



### Media Opportunities:

Fox 45 - COVID-19 Vaccination – 3/1/21

DDN - COVID-19 Vaccination – 3/1/21

WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccination – 3/3/21

DDN - Lead Exposure – 3/4/21

WHIO - COVID-19 Testing – 3/4/21

WDTN - COVID-19 Minority Outreach – 3/4/21

WHIO - COVID-19 Extra Doses – 3/5/21

WDTN - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination– 3/5/21

DDN - Air Quality – 3/5/21

WHIO - COVID-19 Minority Outreach – 3/8/21

Fox 45 - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/8/21

WDTN - COVID-19 CDC Recommendations - 3/9/21

WDTN - COVID-19 Anniversary - 3/9/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Herd Immunity 3/10/21  
WHIO - COVID-19 Advisory System - 3/10/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 50 and Up - 3/10/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 High School Vaccination - 3/10/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Side Effects - 3/10/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccine – 3/11/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Minority Vaccine – 3/11/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Infant Mortality – 3/11/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Fraze - 3/12/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Number of Doses - 3/12/21  
DDN - The Flu - 3/12/21  
WHIO - COVID-19 Minority Outreach - 3/12/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccine Supply - 3/15/21  
DDN - COVID-19 St. Patrick's Day - 3/15/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccines - 3/15/21  
Fox 45 - COVID- 19 St. Patrick's & Spring Sports - 3/16/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/16/21  
WHIO - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/16/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/16/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/16/21  
ABC 22 - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/17/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/17/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Vaccination – 3/18/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Vaccination - 3/18/21  
WHIO - Legionella - 3/18/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Youth Vaccination - 3/18/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Cases Dropping - 3/19/21  
WHIO - COVID-19 Mayor Whaley - 3/19/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Mayor Whaley - 3/22/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 16 and Older - 3/22/21  
WHIO - COVID-19 UD Party - 3/22/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 UD Party - 3/22/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 16 and Older - 3/22/21  
DDN - COVID-19 16 and Older - 3/22/21  
DDN - COVID-19 16 Spring Break - 3/23/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Herd Immunity - 3/24/21  
Ohio Statehouse Radio - COVID-19 SB 22 - 3/25/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/25/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/26/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Elderly Vaccination - 3/29/21

WDTN - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/30/21  
Fox 45 - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/30/21  
DDN - COVID-19 MIS-C - 3/30/21  
DDN - COVID-19 Survey - 3/31/21  
WDTN - COVID-19 Mass Vaccination - 3/31/21



For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call Public Health at 1-937-225-6217 or the Ohio Department of Health at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Submitted by:  
**Jeff Cooper, MS**, Health Commissioner and **Michael Dohn, MD MSc**, Medical Director

