



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

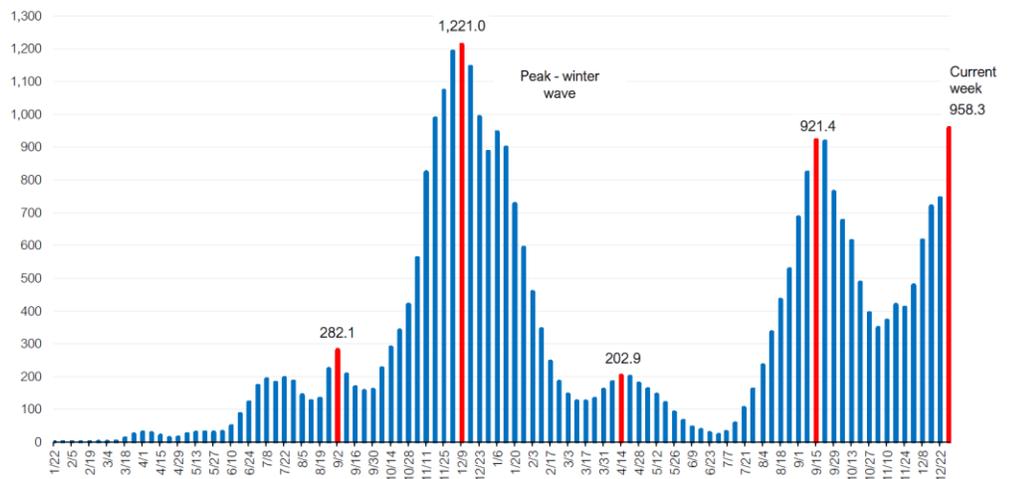


COVID-19 Cases on the Rise

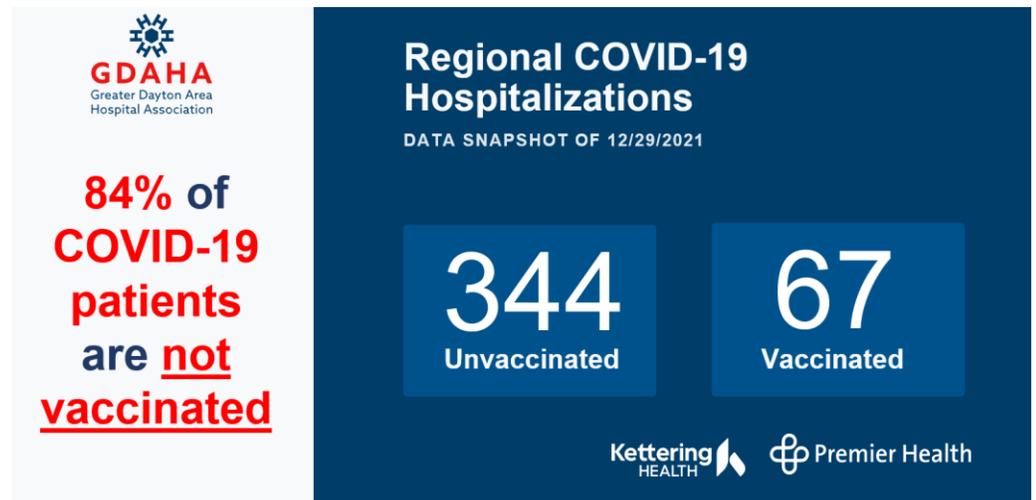
Public Health continues its efforts to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible citizens. As of 1/3/22, 59% of Ohioans have completed or started their vaccination and 57% of Montgomery County residents have also vaccinated.

In Montgomery County, the two-week incident case rate **increased** (by 29%) from 744.6 per 100,000 on December 24 to 958.3 on December 31. The two-week incident case rate has nearly **tripled** since the beginning of November – from 348.5 per 100,000 to 958.3 – and is now **higher** than the previous surge peak (921.4 on September 15).

Figure 2. Two-Week COVID-19 Case Rate per 100,000 Residents, Montgomery, As of 12/31/2021



According to the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, as of December 29, 84% of the patients in area hospitals are unvaccinated.



Travel and social gatherings can play a leading role in COVID-19 transmission if proper precautions are not taken. One of the best things you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get vaccinated. Vaccination helps protect you from infection and reduces the severity of symptoms for those who become ill.

Individuals should also pay close attention to any signs of COVID-19 and get tested if any symptoms develop.

Updated COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

On December 27, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shortened the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

The change was motivated by science demonstrating that most SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

Additionally, CDC updated the recommended quarantine period for those [exposed to COVID-19](#). For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person [wear a well-fitting mask](#) at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure.

Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure but must wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Data from South Africa and the United Kingdom demonstrate that vaccine effectiveness against infection for two doses of an mRNA vaccine is approximately 35%. A COVID-19 vaccine booster dose restores vaccine effectiveness against infection to 75%. COVID-19 vaccination decreases the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. CDC strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 5 and older and boosters for everyone 16 and older. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities.



What the CDC is Doing to Slow the Spread of Omicron in the U.S.

A new variant of COVID-19, called Omicron, was first reported on November 24, 2021, and has been designated a variant of concern. [This report by the CDC](#) summarizes U.S. surveillance for variants and public health measures implemented to slow the spread of Omicron in the United States.

Implementation of prevention strategies, including vaccination, masking, increasing ventilation, testing, quarantine, and isolation, are recommended to slow transmission of COVID-19, including variants such as Omicron, and to protect against severe illness and death from COVID-19.



Federal COVID-Related Funeral Reimbursements Available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds Americans about the [American Rescue Plan](#) that makes money available for funeral and burial costs to families who lost a loved one due to COVID-19. The assistance is a \$9,000 benefit that every single American family is entitled to, regardless of income, if their family member died of anything attributed to COVID-19.

To access the funds, families should call FEMA at 844-684-6333 and have their loved one's death certificate and receipts for the funeral costs.



COVID-19 Health Disparities

In an effort to address observed COVID-19 health disparities and low COVID-19 vaccination rates among some of Montgomery County's most vulnerable demographic groups, the Local Office on Minority Health program has secured video recordings providing multilingual COVID-19 vaccine education. To combat these issues related to health inequities, this resource will aid in the elimination of language barriers in accessing the education needed to increase health literacy and to inform COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among non-English speakers and racial/ethnic minorities. Covered languages include English, French, Kinyarwanda, Spanish, Swahili, and Turkish. Please feel free to distribute the corresponding links to any local groups that you believe the educational opportunities would benefit:

- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/109402692438363/621950528850840>
- YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSZVA_UJK3jh8CyJontSiMyTgE9KvLDCy



WIC Expands Services

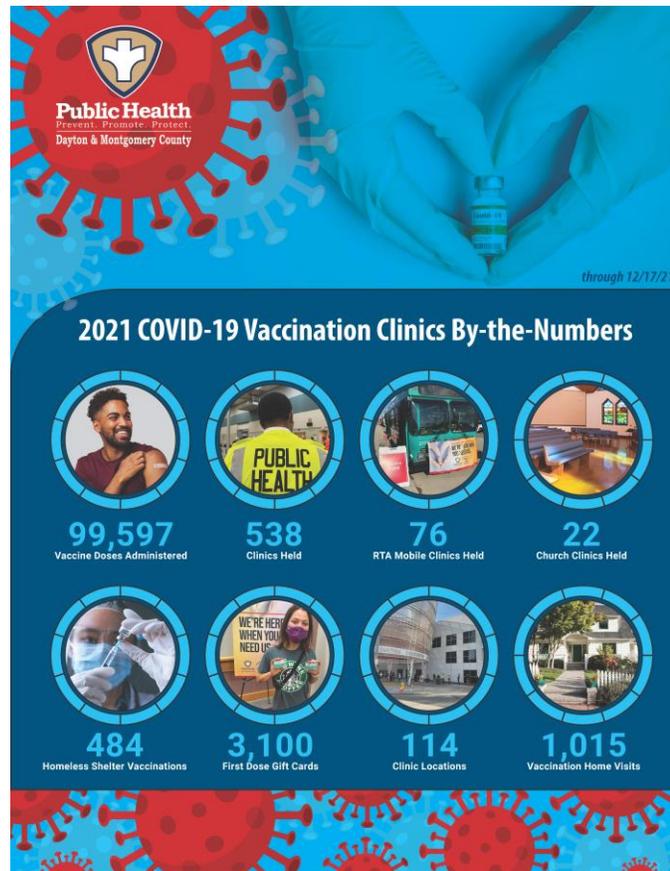
Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County is partnering with the Miami Valley Child Development Centers to provide Women, Infants & Children (WIC) services at their Marilyn E Thomas (MET) Head Start facility, located at 2900 Shiloh Springs Rd, on the third Wednesday of every month from 1-5 pm starting December 15th. WIC is a nutrition program that provides healthy foods to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5. WIC also encourages breastfeeding and provides breastfeeding support. All WIC services including new enrollments, redeterminations, and benefit card updates for children and families will be provided. To learn how WIC can help you and your family visit www.phdmc.org



Media Opportunities:

- 12/1/2021 - WDTN - World AIDS Day
- 12/1/2021 - WDTN - New Health Commissioner
- 12/1/2021 - WDTN - Omicron
- 12/2/2021 - DDN - Tai Chi for Arthritis
- 12/2/2021 - DDN - Overdose Deaths
- 12/3/2021 - DDN - Addiction Services
- 12/6/2021 - DDN - COVID-19 Holiday Tips
- 12/7/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Home Testing
- 12/9/2021 - DDN - COVID-19 Testing

12/13/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccination
 12/14/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Vaccine Anniversary
 12/20/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 - Masks in Schools
 12/21/2021 - Fox 45 - COVID-19 At Home Tests
 12/21/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Testing
 12/21/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Children's Vaccination Clinic
 12/22/2021 - WKEF - COVID-19 Testing
 12/23/2021 - WKEF - COVID-19 Holidays
 12/23/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Food Safety
 12/23/2021 - WKEF - COVID-19 Boosters
 12/27/2021 - WDTN - COVID-19 Quarantine
 12/27/2021 - DDN - Flu
 12/28/2021 - ABC22 - COVID-19 Quarantine
 12/29/2021 - WHIO - COVID-19 Case Rates



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:

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