



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



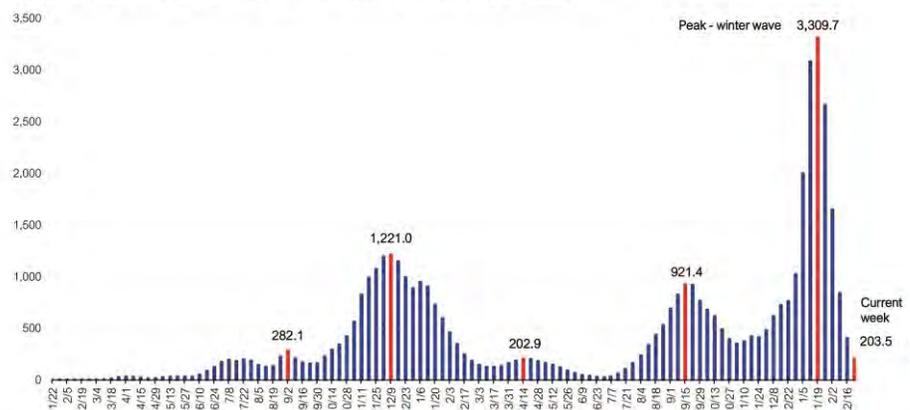
### COVID-19 Cases Continue Rapid Downward Trend

Public Health continues its efforts to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible citizens. As of 2/25/22, 62% of Ohioans have completed or started their vaccination and 59% of Montgomery County residents have also been vaccinated.

In Montgomery County the two-week incident case rate decreased (by 49%) from 402.7 per 100,000 last week to 203.5 this week. Since the first week of January, the case rate has decreased by 90% (from 1,996.3 per 100,000 to 203.5). This is the lowest case rate since July 2021.

There have been less hospital admissions in February (259 admissions, 10.8/day) compared to January (1,074 admissions, 34.7/day). There were 61 COVID-19 deaths in February compared to 244 deaths in January.

Figure 2. Two-Week COVID-19 Case Rate per 100,000 Residents, Montgomery, As of 2/25/2022



### CDC Releases New Framework to Monitor COVID-19 Levels in Communities

Montgomery County has been experiencing a rapid downward trend of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations for the past several weeks. Due to the general improvement in community COVID - 19 indicators, Public Health

supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) new Community Level Framework.

“As we move through the various phases of this pandemic it is important for us to make adjustments to the precautions that we take,” said Jennifer Wentzel, Montgomery County Health Commissioner.

Public Health along with our State and Federal partners will continue to monitor the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and make revised recommendations should conditions warrant.

At the time of this report, Montgomery County is designated “Medium” in the CDC’s current framework. For more information about the CDC’s new Community Level Framework visit [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor\\_82254](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_82254)

### What People Can Do to Protect Themselves

<b>Low</b> Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe disease	<b>Medium</b> Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe disease	<b>High</b> High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe disease
Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted
Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick
	If at potential <b>increased risk</b> , talk to your healthcare provider about wearing a mask	Wear a mask in public indoor settings including schools
People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.		

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

Public Health is continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccinations in Montgomery County. It is recommended that everyone who is eligible to receive a vaccine do so as soon as possible. In addition, it is recommended that individuals stay up to date on their booster doses. If you have questions about the vaccine, please [visit coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). Schedule and registration information is available at [www.phdmc.org](http://www.phdmc.org).



### Addiction Services

Addiction Services has earned another three-year accreditation from the [Commission Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities \(CARF\)](https://www.carf.org). The site survey was conducted on January 6-7, 2022. Achieving CARF accreditation involves demonstrating conformance to the applicable CARF standards evidenced through observable practices, verifiable results over time, and comprehensive supporting documentation.



## Electronic Directly Observed Therapy (e-DOT)

Public Health has implemented an asynchronous electronic Directly Observed Therapy (e-DOT) program that can increase the successful treatment of tuberculosis. e-DOT allows Public Health to maintain better communication with patients, to respond to their questions or problems more conveniently, and to verify patients' use of medication.

Tuberculosis is a serious bacterial infection that primarily affects the lungs and usually spreads from person-to-person with respiratory transmission of the bacteria. Public Health's disease prevention program provides tuberculosis testing and treatment for Montgomery County residents. The completion of a full course of medication is critical to control tuberculosis in our community.

Treatment of tuberculosis may require taking medicines for several months or even for a year depending upon the circumstances. DOT involves having a responsible person observe and record each tuberculosis medication dose that a patient takes. This strategy is endorsed by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve successful treatment of tuberculosis. Using e-DOT (video call software such as Skype and Zoom) produces better results than in-person DOT.

COVID-19 conditions have made e-DOT especially useful. Video call methods required the patients and staff to be on the video call at the same time. The addition of the asynchronous *emocha Health*® system has had several advantages. A patient can film a self-video at 5 am when taking medicine before work and staff can review the video later in the day. The secure system is HIPPA compliant, has improved two-way communication with patients, and creates a treatment record for each patient. Both patients and staff are pleased with the new options.

In addition, the Reibold Clinic and Addiction Services are exploring how this new asynchronous e-DOT system may improve outcomes for other health conditions.

For more information about Public Health's tuberculosis program or to schedule an appointment call (937) 225-4550.

## FREE Rapid HIV Testing Event at Drew Health Center

National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed annually on March 10. It is a day set aside to empower people globally with knowledge and information regarding HIV/AIDS with particular emphasis on the significant impact it has on women and girls. In recognition, on Thursday, March 11, Public Health will host a FREE Rapid HIV Testing Event from 10am - 3pm at the Dr. Charles R. Drew Health Center, 1323 W. Third Street, Dayton, OH 45402. No appointment is needed and there will be a free \$10 gift card for everyone 13 years and older who is tested (must have picture ID). Women and

Free HIV Testing in Recognition of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Free \$10 Gift Cards for Anyone Who Gets Tested

Women who take the test while wearing their mask and receive an additional gift. Why not share? We are reporting test results to make sure everyone knows the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. And, we provide empowerment and stress support for women infected and affected by HIV.

KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS

Free HIV Rapid Testing Thursday, March 11 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Dr. Charles R. Drew Health Center Conference Room 300 1323 W. Third St., Dayton 45402

Results in 20 minutes

Ages 13 years and older

Additional information To help women stay healthy will be provided

COVID-19 guidelines are in place to keep you safe! Masks are required to receive services.

Dayton & Montgomery County Public Health

girls who take the test and have on red shoes will receive an extra gift! The red shoe represents empowerment and shows support for women who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

In 2020, women accounted for 18% (160 of 897) of new HIV infections in Ohio. Most new female infections were attributed to heterosexual contact (69%) followed by injection drug use (IDU) (13%). In Montgomery County, of the new HIV infections in 2020, 14% were women. Montgomery County Black women are disproportionately affected by HIV, accounting for more than half (59%) of new female infections over the past 5 years.



### Quality Improvement

As part of Public Health's continuous quality improvement process, a new internal tracking system was launched to help manage the agency's [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services](#) (CLAS) initiatives.

CLAS is a way to improve the quality of services provided to all individuals, which will ultimately help reduce health disparities and achieve health equity. CLAS is about respect and responsiveness: respect the whole individual and respond to the individual's health needs and preferences.

Health inequities in the United States are well documented. Providing CLAS is one strategy to help eliminate health inequities. By tailoring services to an individual's culture and language preferences, health professionals can help bring about positive health outcomes for diverse populations.

The provision of health services that are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices, and needs of diverse patients [can help close the gap in health outcomes](#).

The [National CLAS Standards](#) are a set of 15 action steps intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Public Health values all community members served in Montgomery County and actively works to support and track CLAS initiatives across the agency.



### Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Public Health recognizes national Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month by highlighting the need for colon cancer screenings. Because of screenings, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers and if caught early, colorectal cancer is highly treatable.

Colorectal cancer is a disease in which cells in the colon or rectum grow out of control. Sometimes it is called colon cancer. The colon is the large intestine or

large bowel. The rectum is the passageway that connects the colon to the anus.

Sometimes abnormal growths, called *polyps*, form in the colon or rectum. Over time, some polyps may turn into cancer. [Screening tests](#) can find polyps so they can be removed before turning into cancer. Screening also helps find colorectal cancer at an early stage when treatment works best.

Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer. It is important to know that if your test result is positive or abnormal on some screening tests (stool tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and CT colonography), a colonoscopy test is needed to complete the screening process. [Talk to your doctor](#) about which test is right for you.

Adults ages 45 to 75 should be screened for colorectal cancer. The decision to be screened after age 75 should be made on an individual basis. If you are older than 75, ask your doctor if you should be screened. People at an [increased risk](#) of getting colorectal cancer should talk to their doctor about when to begin screening, which test is right for them, and how often to get tested.

In addition to risk factors such as inflammatory bowel disease and personal or family history of colon cancer, several lifestyle factors may also contribute to an increased risk of colorectal cancer including:

- Lack of regular [physical activity](#).
- A diet low in fruit and vegetables.
- A low-fiber and high-fat [diet](#), or a diet high in processed meats.
- [Overweight and obesity](#).
- [Alcohol](#) consumption.
- [Tobacco use](#).

The signs and symptoms for colorectal cancer include:

- Change in bowel habits.
- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Diarrhea, constipation, or feeling that the bowel does not empty all the way.
- Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

To raise awareness of colorectal cancer, Public Health encourages you to wear blue for National Dress in Blue Day on Friday, March 4, 2022.

For more information visit the Colorectal Cancer Alliance

<https://www.ccalliance.org/about/awareness-month/dress-in-blue-day>



## Public Health Director Honored

Public Health's Director of Health Promotion, Terra Williams, has been recognized by the [Ohio Commission on Minority Health](#) by receiving The Hero/Shero of Health Award which recognizes a person who serves others in a way that contributes to the overall health of the minority community.

The Hero/Shero of Health Award honors the hard work, special achievements, and good deeds of "unsung heroes."

Characteristics of award winners include:

- Honors individuals at the grassroots level who give their time, talent, and resources, to better serve the healthcare of minority citizens.
- Recognizes individuals who provide leadership in their neighborhood or ethnic community as it relates to better health.
- Honors individuals who support those less fortunate or those facing challenging health circumstances.
- Recognizes those individuals that somehow made a unique and innovative contribution to narrowing health disparities.

The award ceremony is the official inaugural event for Minority Health Month 2022 which is celebrated the month of April. Nominations were received from throughout Ohio and several awards will be given honoring the accomplishments of individuals and organizations working to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity.

In addition, this year marks the 35th Anniversary for the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, which was created in 1987, becoming the first freestanding state agency in the nation to develop a concerted approach to address the disparity that exists between the health status of minority and non-minority populations.



## Media Opportunities:

2/1/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

2/4/2022 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 Cases

2/7/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Case Rates

2/9/2022 - ABC 22 - Baby Formula Shortage

2/14/2022 - DDN - Overdose Deaths

2/14/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Children Vaccinations

2/16/2022 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 Masks in Schools

2/17/2022 - WDTN - Overdose Deaths

2/18/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Mask Guidance

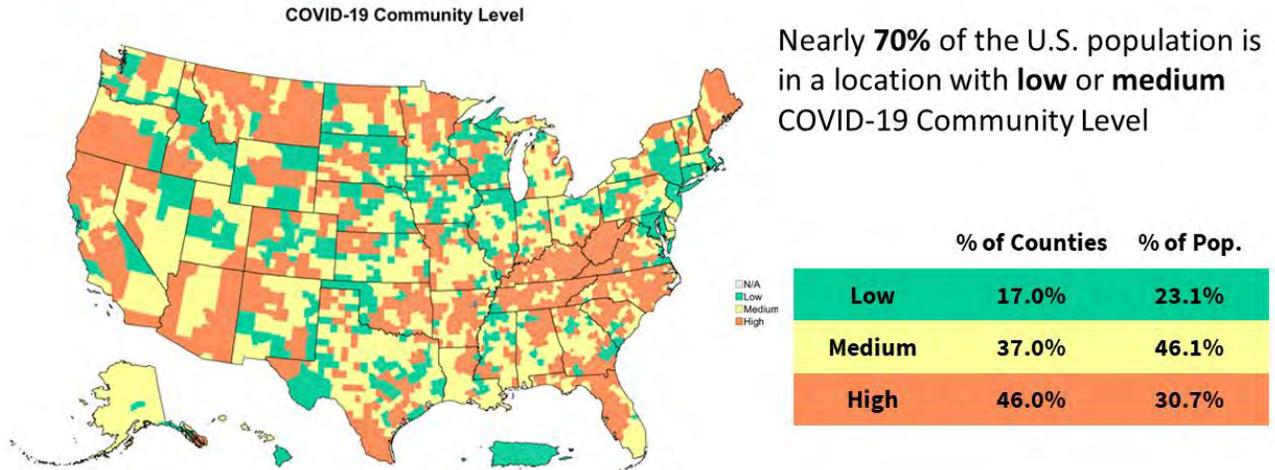
2/22/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Becoming Endemic

2/23/2022 - DDN - COVID-19 Vaccine Incentives

2/24/2023 - DDN - Life Expectancy

2/25/2023 - WHIO - COVID-19 CDC Framework  
 2/25/2023 - WDTN - COVID-19 CDC Framework  
 2/25/2023 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 CDC Framework

## County-level COVID-19 Community Levels on February 24, 2022



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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:  
**Jennifer Wentzel, M.P.H.**, Health Commissioner and **Michael Dohn, MD MSc**, Medical Director

