



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

# Monthly Update

## April 2022

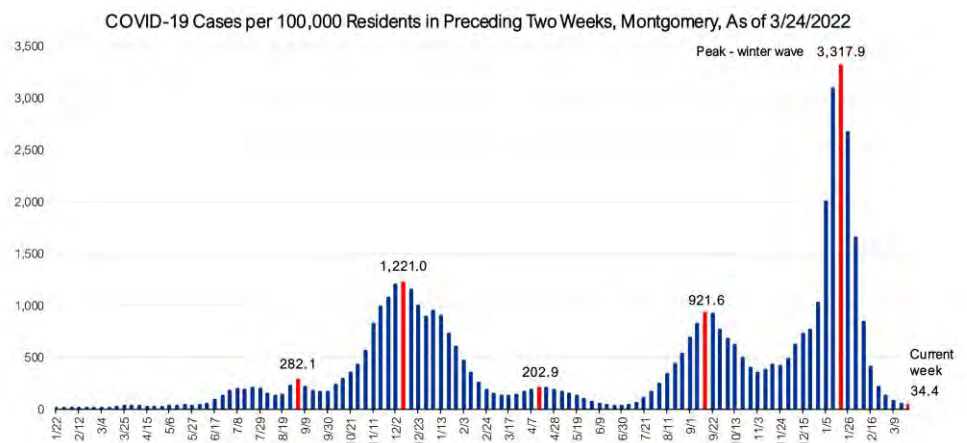
*Our Mission: To improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion, and protection.*



### COVID-19 Cases Continue Rapid Downward Trend

Public Health continues its efforts to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible citizens. For a list of upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics click [here](#).

In Montgomery County the two-week incident case rate has decreased to 34.4 per 100,000, and COVID hospitalizations and deaths have also greatly decreased.



### What People Can Do to Protect Themselves

At the time of this report, Montgomery County is designated “Low” in the CDC’s current framework. People in a county with a “Low” designation should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, get tested if they have symptoms, and may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. For more information about the CDC’s 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)

### **CDC Recommends Additional Boosters for Certain Individuals**

Data continue to show the importance of vaccination and booster doses to protect individuals both from infection and severe outcomes of COVID-19. For adults and adolescents eligible for a first booster dose, these shots are safe and provide substantial benefit. During the recent Omicron surge, those who were boosted were 21-times less likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those who were unvaccinated, and 7-times less likely to be hospitalized. CDC continues to recommend that all eligible adults, adolescents, and children 5 and older be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, which includes getting an initial booster when eligible.

Following [FDA's regulatory action](#) on March 29, CDC is updating its recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least 4 months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, based on [newly published data](#), adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

These updated recommendations acknowledge the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations including those who are elderly or over the age of 50 with multiple underlying conditions, along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

### **CDC's COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Calculator**

CDC's new COVID-19 [Quarantine and Isolation Calculator](#), takes the stress out of deciding when, and for how long, people with COVID-19 and close contacts need to stay home, get tested, and wear a well-fitting mask. The calculator provides important information about what precautions people with COVID-19 and their close contacts can take to protect loved ones and slow the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. This online, mobile-friendly calculator provides a simple, easy-to-use way to help people follow CDC's Quarantine and Isolation guidance and get customized information that applies to their unique situation.



### **National Public Health Week**

During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the U.S. to observe National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health workers and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. This year's [National Public Health Week](#) theme is "Public Health is Where You Are."

Having support and feeling included within our social communities can have a positive effect on our mental and physical health. Some barriers such as physical, mental, financial, racial, cultural and language barriers make it hard for individuals to get the help and resources they need. In addition, some communities have had a harder time than others. It is important to listen to the Black community and other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities. This way we can make sure public health is fair for all.



## Public Health Earns Top Score in Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Healthcare Equality Index

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](#) 15th anniversary 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. A record 906 healthcare facilities actively participated in the 2022 HEI survey and 496 of those earned an "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader" designation.

"Public Health is dedicated to ensure the healthcare rights of LGBTQ+ people are maintained," said Jennifer Wentzel, Montgomery County Health Commissioner. "Public Health works to advance healthcare access for LGBTQ+ individuals by providing a comprehensive schedule of staff training and policies, educational opportunities for local healthcare providers and community agencies, and working collaboratively with our local partners through the LGBTQ+ Health Alliance."

Public Health has initiated several changes to align with best practices including adapting our patient electronic health record to capture appropriate information, adopting an LGBTQ Patient Bill of Rights, changing our leave policy to make it more inclusive for all employees, and starting an LGBTQ Employee Resource Group.

Another important aspect of Public Health's effort involves the LGBTQ+ Health Alliance that includes 65 LGBTQ+ identified people, allies, and advocates. Currently, there are 33 organizations from across the county who have been working since 2018 to address health equity.

"With an intensified focus on health equity and racism, this designation sends a powerful message to our community that we are focused on improving the health of all people especially those who identify in multiple ways in communities that have historically been stigmatized and marginalized," said Commissioner Wentzel.



## April is Minority Health Month

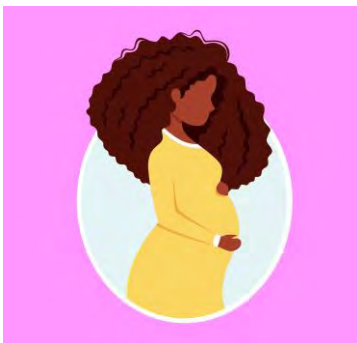
Public Health celebrates Minority Health Month (MHM) every April with a series of events aimed at reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes among minorities in Montgomery County. Minority Health Month is an annual 30-day health and wellness campaign that was instituted by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

In honor of MHM, Public Health will conduct a *Virtual Inclusive Health Education Series* consisting of three free events:

### Virtual Inclusive Health Education Series

- *LGBTQ+ Pronouns & Beyond w/ LGBTQ Health Initiatives*
  - Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11AM to 12PM
  - Eventbrite registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/304174633517>
  - For More Information: (937) 225-4962 / [fjuin@phdmc.org](mailto:fjuin@phdmc.org)
- *Cultural Competency & Proficiency w/ Dr. Kierra Barnett*
  - Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 11AM to 12PM
  - Eventbrite registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/304175155077>
  - For More Information: (937) 225-4962 / [fjuin@phdmc.org](mailto:fjuin@phdmc.org)
- *Refugee/Immigrant Sensitivity w/ Ebenezer Healthcare Access*
  - Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 11AM to 12PM
  - Eventbrite registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/304175967507>
  - For More Information: (937) 225-4962 / [fjuin@phdmc.org](mailto:fjuin@phdmc.org)

Public Health's fourth free event titled **Virtual Greater Dayton Minority Health Month 2022 Expo** will be from 8AM to 12PM on April 29. The theme of the event is *Memorializing the Past for the Betterment of the Future*. The event will include educational presentations on minority health, updates on local initiatives addressing community health needs, and holistic promotion of available health-related resources. Participants must pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/305570087357>.



### Celebrating and Centering Black Mamas

[Celebrating and Centering Black Mamas](#) is a kickoff event to celebrate Black Maternal Health Week. The event is on Monday, April 11, from 6PM – 8PM at the Dayton Metro Library and consists of a featured presentation, *Toxic - A Black Woman's Story*, and a panel presentation to discuss Black maternal health. The event will also recognize those mothers who are champions for babies in the past, present, and future. [Registration](#) for this event is required.

Throughout the pandemic, it has become even more apparent that many health disparities exist among minority groups. Public Health is committed to reducing the burden of chronic disease within vulnerable populations.

In our effort to improve health outcomes for all Montgomery County residents, Public Health will continue to: provide crucial information to allow individuals to practice disease prevention; promote healthy lifestyles and healthcare resources; highlight the health disparities of Montgomery County's minorities compared to non-minorities; and increase ongoing community support to improve minority health.

Click here for a complete listing of all MHM events being held throughout the month of April: [2022 Minority Health Month Calendar of Events.](#)



## 2021 Annual Report

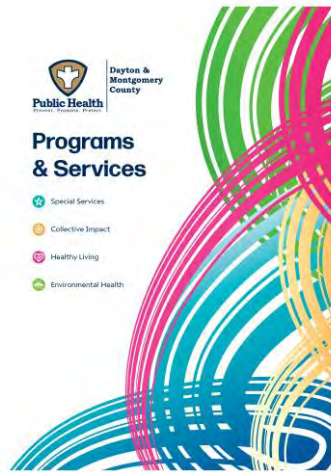
Public Health is proud to release the 2021 Annual Report to the community. In addition to highlighting the agency's many accomplishments, the report focuses on the agency's COVID-19 Pandemic response efforts - highlighting the mass vaccination campaign, outreach to minority populations and the focus on health equity, mobile vaccination clinics, and the National Vaccine Month of Action "We Can Do This" Bus Tour which featured a visit from HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge as well as other dignitaries to increase vaccination rates among vulnerable populations in Montgomery County.

The report features a special section dedicated to Public Health's COVID "Response by the Numbers" which includes a timeline of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, as well as total vaccinations, clinics, and home visits. Public Health administered over 100,000 total vaccinations in 2021. The traditional "By the Numbers" section provides a snapshot of the number of people helped by our services including food, pool, RAPCA inspections, birth and death certificates, refugee health screenings, Immunization, TB and WIC clinic visits, and HIV and Hep C tests.

Additional features include the introduction of Jennifer Wentzel as new Montgomery County Health Commissioner, as well as honoring retiring Commissioner Jeff Cooper for his 30 years of community service with Public Health and the many accomplishments that were achieved under his leadership.

The "2021 Collective Impact Highlights" features the work of local coalitions including the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT), the Food Equity Coalition, the LGBTQ Health Alliance, and EveryOne Reach One – Dayton & Montgomery County Infant Mortality Task Force. Dedicated individuals from these coalitions worked together to implement new and innovative ways to reach and serve our community during the pandemic.

The report is available on our website by clicking [here.](#)



## New Programs and Services Guide

Public Health has published an updated Programs and Services Guide featuring a brief description and contact information highlighting 56 different programs and services provided through the agency. This colorful guide also includes a map of Public Health's Service locations, and the agency's mission and vision statements.

Health Commissioner Jennifer Wentzel states, "At Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County, our mission is to improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion, and protection. It is in that spirit that we invite you to discover the many programs and services that we offer. We are here to serve you and we look forward to partnering with you to improve the health of our community." To learn more and access the new Programs and Services Guide on our website, click [here](#).



## Food Safety Training Manager Certification (Level 2)

This is a 2-day course being held on April 26 & 27 from 8AM to 5PM at Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County, Reibold Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room, 117 S. Main St., Dayton, OH 45422. The training is designed for food managers and covers food contamination, employee illness and microbiology, food sources, food storage, food preparation, safe food service, management systems, safe facilities, pest management, and cleaning/sanitizing. [Completed application and payment must be submitted within 14 days of the event.](#) Participants must pass test to gain certification. Due to limited seating, prior registration is required for this training course. No walk-ins.



## Media Opportunities:

- 3/2/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Vaccination Rates
- 3/4/2022 - DDN - COVID-10 Vaccinations
- 3/9/2022 - Bloomberg - OneFifteen
- 3/17/2022 - WHIO - COVID-19 Variants
- 3/18/2022 - WHIO - COVID-19 Boosters
- 3/21/2022 - WDTN - COVID-19 Spring Break
- 3/15/2022 - DDN - Census Data
- 3/28/2022 - ABC 22 - COVID-19 4th booster
- 3/30/2022 - DDN - Covid Update
- 3/30/2022 - WDTN - additional booster
- 3/31/2022 - ABC22 - additional booster

# WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF SEVERE ILLNESS FROM COVID-19

## Are you at higher risk for severe illness?

Based on what we know now, people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- Older adults

People of any age with the following:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic lung diseases
- Cystic fibrosis
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
- Disabilities
- Heart conditions
- HIV infection
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
- Mental health conditions
- Overweight and obesity
- Physical inactivity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking, current or former
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorders
- Tuberculosis



## Here's what you can do to help protect yourself:



Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines



Wear a well-fitting mask when recommended



Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces



If you have symptoms, test soon and treat early



Wash your hands often



Monitor your health daily

Call your healthcare professional if you are sick. For more information on steps you can take to protect yourself, see CDC's [How to Protect Yourself](#).

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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

