



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



### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

Public Health, along with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are closely monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) global pandemic.

As of May 5, 2020, the United States has reported **1.2 million** cases with **71,000** deaths. Ohio has reported **20,969** cases with **1,135** deaths. Montgomery County has documented **328** cases with **10** deaths.

For the latest U.S. case count, [visit the CDC's website.](#) For the latest Ohio and Montgomery County case counts, [visit the ODH Coronavirus website.](#)

On April 30, Director Acton issued the [“DIRECTOR'S STAY SAFE OHIO ORDER”](#) that reopens businesses, with exceptions, and continues a Stay Healthy and Safe at Home Order. If you have questions after reading the order, please call the Ohio Department of Health’s COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-427-5634, open seven days a week from 9am-8pm.

Protocols established for all businesses are list in the following graphic.

## Ohio's Safe Business Practices for Getting Back to Work

- 1. Require face coverings** for employees and clients/customers at all times.
- 2. Conduct daily health assessments** by employers and employees (self-evaluation) to determine if "fit for duty."
- 3. Maintain good hygiene** at all times – hand washing and social distancing.
- 4. Clean and sanitize** workplaces throughout workday and at the close of business or between shifts.
- 5. Limit capacity** to meet **social distancing** guidelines.
  - Establish maximum capacity at 50% of fire code.
  - And, use appointment setting where possible to limit congestion.

Find industry-specific required criteria at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

**As of March 30, 2020, hours for the Public Health Clinic have been changed to 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (noon) Monday to Friday.** The Clinic provides specialty services for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), Immunizations, Tuberculosis (TB), and Refugee Health and is located in the Reibold Building at 117 S. Main St. in Dayton. This change will be in effect until further notice. **Call 937-225-4550 to schedule an appointment.**

As a reminder, Public Health’s specialty clinics are limited to those services and **cannot provide COVID-19 diagnosis, testing, or treatment. If you have been tested for COVID-19, contact your physician to obtain the results.**



### Why African Americans are More Vulnerable to COVID-19

COVID-19 has been called the great equalizer. No one is immune; anyone can succumb. But early data shows that African-Americans are more likely to die from the disease than white Americans. Even without nationwide data, the numbers are stark. Where race data are known, African-Americans account for 42 percent of the deaths. Although states have been issuing stay-at-home orders, many individuals are considered part of the critical workforce by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and must continue to work. That includes caregivers, cashiers, sanitation workers, farm workers and public transit employees, jobs often filled by African-Americans. See the article [here](#).



## May is Hepatitis Awareness Month

May is [Hepatitis Awareness Month](#). Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. In the United States hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are the most common types. While each can produce similar symptoms, they are not spread or affect the liver the same.

Hepatitis A (HAV) is usually transmitted person-to-person by the fecal-oral route or through consumption of contaminated food or water. The best way to prevent HAV is by getting vaccinated.

Hepatitis B (HBV) is transmitted when blood, semen, or another body fluid from a person infected with virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or from mother to baby at birth. Chronic HBV can lead to serious health issues, like cirrhosis or liver cancer. The best way to prevent HBV is by getting vaccinated.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is mostly transmitted by blood. An estimated 2.4 million people are living with HCV in the United States, and many people do not know they are infected. Today, most people become infected with HCV by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. For some people, HCV is a short-term illness but for more than half of people who become infected, it becomes a long-term, chronic infection and can cause serious health problems. It is the #1 cause of liver transplants and a leading cause of liver cancer. Most people with chronic HCV will not have symptoms for 20 years or more, however, even without symptoms, serious damage to the liver can occur. While there is no vaccine for HCV, treatments are available that can cure HCV. This is critical to prevent further liver damage, cirrhosis and liver cancer.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Public Health is still committed to providing hepatitis C education and testing services. Please call 937-225-5700 for more information.



## National Nurses Month 2020 Celebration

Traditionally we celebrate “National Nurses Week” early in May. This year, the American Nurses Association has extended the celebration throughout the entire month of May. [National Nurses Month 2020](#) is expanding opportunities to elevate and celebrate nursing.

The diverse workforce of nurses at Public Health do amazing work throughout our community. Public Health nurses conduct disease investigations, contact tracing, patient care, immunizations, patient education as well as responding to health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We have nurses who are also going out in the field to congregate meal sites, homeless shelters or to

bus stops making sure people have face coverings. Nurses are going to the jail for STD testing and also are prepared to see sick clients in their homes. Please express your appreciation to these committed professionals now and throughout the year.

***National Nurses Month will have four different themes, celebrated by week.***

**Week 1: Self Care, May 1-9, 2020**

Start the month with mindful self-recognition. Focus on yours and others' emotional and physical well-being by encouraging and challenging yourself, colleagues and friends to engage in healthier activities. CRNAs: Visit [AANA COVID-19 Well-being Resources](#)

**Week 2: Recognition, May 10-16, 2020**

Raise visibility of the critical work nurses do and foster greater understanding of the diversity of the nursing profession by honoring exemplary nurses and engaging with your community. CRNAs: Give a shout out to mentors and those who inspire you on social media. Also, for remembering special nurses, check out the Kansas State Nurses Association's "[The Nightingale Tribute](#)" - Remembering a Nurse.

**Week 3: Professional Development, May 17-23, 2020**

Focus on how you can excel and lead in your nursing career or inspire and help others in their professional nursing journey. CRNAs: Explore [AANALearn opportunities](#).

**Week 4: Community Engagement, May 24-31, 2020**

Help promote nurses' invaluable contributions by engaging with your community, educating them on what nurses do, and encouraging future nurses. CRNAs: Take advantage of [Public Relations Resources](#).



**Spring Allergy Season**

RAPCA resumed pollen and mold sampling in mid-February at our downtown Dayton (Sinclair Community College) monitoring station only to have it shut down in late March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, over the winter, RAPCA signed a one-year lease to operate an automated pollen and mold sampler at the same location. The one-year lease was originally planned as an evaluation period to compare the automated sampler against the traditional pollen and mold counts to determine if the automated sampler was accurate enough to replace our traditional sampling program. The automated sampler began operating in January, and even with a limited data set to compare, RAPCA believes the pollen counts are comparable. Being able to continue to provide these data to the community in an automated way is both helpful to those with allergies and a more cost-effective option for the agency long-term.

Currently counts are only available by downloading the Pollen Wise app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. For more information about sampler, visit <https://pollensense.com/>



### Adapting to Work from Home Environment

During the COVID-19 pandemic response, some Public Health staff are working remotely to help reduce the spread of the disease and to comply with the Stay-At-Home-Order.

Site visits and inspections by programs have been adjusted as well as in person meetings and events have been cancelled. Where possible services are being provided remotely including those by Vital Statistics, RAPCA, Health Promotion among others.

Staff continues to have virtual meetings both internally and with community partners using the Microsoft Teams application.



### National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (NTPPM) which highlights the historic declines in the rates of teen births in the United States. Significant declines have occurred in all 50 states and among all racial/ethnic groups, yet disparities continue. Learn more about Teen Pregnancy Prevention from [Health and Human Service's Office of Populations Affairs.](#)



### Get Ready to Grill Safely

As warmer weather approaches, grilling season is in! Remember to follow these food safety tips to avoid food-borne illness: **Separate, Chill, and Clean.**

Use a food thermometer to ensure meat is cooked hot enough to kill harmful germs. 145°F – whole cuts of beef, pork, lamb, and veal; 145°F – fish; 160°F – hamburgers and other ground beef; and 165°F – all poultry and pre-cooked meats, like hot dogs. See the full CDC [grilling safety page](#) here along with infographics.



### Media Opportunities:

**Multiple COVID-19-related interviews** (4/1 through 4/30)

**Multiple COVID-19 press conferences** (4/1 through 4/30)

WHIO on **Pollen** (4/22 and 4/28)

DDN on **Food Insecurity** (4/28)



## Outreach Opportunities:

Public Health's community events have been temporarily suspended to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

# USE OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS TO HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

## How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

## Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

## How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

## How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



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

*Submitted by:*

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