



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



Monthly Update

June 2020

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 - Dayton & Montgomery County, 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 29, The United States reported **1,721,750** cases with **101,617** deaths. Ohio reported **34,566** cases with **2,098** deaths. Montgomery County reported **651** cases with **17** 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 March 22, under the direction of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH issued a Director's Order to require all Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 beginning March 23. On April 2, Director Acton issued an Amended Director's Order that all persons are to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity.

On April 27, the Governor's office made several announcements regarding Ohio's plan to responsibly restart Ohio's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guiding principles of the [Responsible RestartOhio plan](#) are protecting the health of employees, customers and their families, supporting community efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, and responsibly getting Ohio back to work.

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.

On May 19, Governor DeWine released details of the new ["Ohioans Protecting Ohioans Urgent Health Advisory"](#) which replaces the Stay Safe Ohio order that was issued by the Ohio Department of Health on April 30. The health order replaces language requiring Ohioans to stay at home with limited exceptions with language that strongly recommends that citizens, especially those who are high-risk, stay at home as much as possible. The order does not change the mass gathering restrictions, which remain at a 10-person limit.

On May 21, Governor DeWine announced initial findings from his Minority Health Strike Force. The team was formed in April in response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on African Americans who make up 14 percent of Ohio's population, but represent 26 percent of positive COVID-19 cases, 31 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 17 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Ohio. [Recommendations](#) were created using feedback from the Strike Force's Health Care, Resources, Data, and Education subcommittees.

On May 26, Governor DeWine announced the formation of new [Congregate Care Unified Response Teams](#) to test residents and staff members in Ohio's nursing homes. The teams will include medically-trained members of the Ohio National Guard. Testing will begin on two parallel paths:

- All staff in all Ohio nursing facilities will be tested to help nursing home administrators gauge the status of the virus in their facilities.
- Testing will be conducted in facilities where residents or workers have confirmed or assumed positive cases. Testing will be conducted on all staff, and the testing of residents will be based on a clinically-driven strategy that targets those who have likely been exposed to COVID-19.

On April 30, Director Acton issued the [Director's Updated and Revised Order for Business Guidance and Social Distancing](#). The order is in effect through July 1.

Updates from Public Health's May 29 COVID-19 Situation Report:

- Public Health strike teams started conducting sample collection from hotspots within the county.
- The Ohio Guard will begin testing staff at nursing homes on June 1. There are nearly 950 nursing homes in the state, so this will take time.
- The county will receive more Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deliveries the week of June 1.

- Public Health expanded their contact tracing capability with additional staff.
- Public Health continues to meet weekly with the University of Dayton to discuss planning issues for the summer as well as the fall.
- Public Health is planning to provide COVID-19 educational materials to several non-English speaking communities.
- Updates from Governor DeWine and ODH:
 - May 31 - childcare providers can reopen with reduced numbers in classrooms and intensified cleaning
 - May 31 – Child Day Camps
 - Social distance when possible
 - Wedding receptions limited to 300
 - Self-service drinks are okay at gas stations and convenience stores
 - May 31 - childcare providers can reopen with reduced numbers in classrooms and intensified cleaning
 - Assisted living outside visitor guidance coming out later today
- Nursing homes are projected to receive their direct delivery of PPE from the SNS between May 28 and 31, 2020.
- Staff within Public Health are responding to complaints at businesses within the county. Environmental Health continues to address concerns at all restaurants and bars as well.
- If you wish to learn how to make your own homemade face coverings go to the following link: https://youtu.be/c0zOVbE0_FU
- The Public Health COVID-19 informational phone line remains open Monday through Friday to answer general questions. The info line is 937-225-6217.

Public Health is considered an essential operation in the fight against COVID-19 and will remain open. However, in support of Director Acton's order, Public Health is practicing social distancing across all parts of the agency and employees are working remotely as needed.

As of March 30, 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.**



Letters of Hope

According to preliminary data, 101 overdose deaths occurred in Montgomery County between January and April of 2020. This represents a 26% increase from 80 in the first four months of 2019. Additionally, our community is in the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) is working to support those in our community struggling with the disease of addiction.

As one of many efforts, we called on our community partners to write letters to overdose survivors. The letters were to inspire hope and let the survivors know that they are not alone in this journey. In addition to the letters, we included a COVID-19 Addiction Resources flyer, outlining services still available during these trying times. Our community partners have truly risen to the occasion and modified their service provision to not only keep our community members safe, but to ensure Montgomery County is still providing the services necessary to support those struggling with the disease of addiction.



June is LGBTQ Pride Month

Every year during the month of June the LGBTQ community celebrates in a number of different ways known as LGBTQ Pride Month. Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognizing the journey for equality LGBTQ people have had around the world. Although the pandemic is prohibiting our ability to celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month together in person, we will be celebrating virtually in whatever ways we can, including social media posts/campaign and joining other organizations to recognize this month, which began in the U.S. as a way to honor the Stonewall Uprising for civil rights that began in June 1969. As a virtual way to celebrate, [here is a brief video](#) that highlights the meaning of LGBTQ Pride, especially in the midst of the pandemic.

At Public Health, we take time during Pride Month to acknowledge the work that we are doing toward health equity for LGBTQ citizens across Montgomery County. Our LGBTQ Community Health Alliance has organized into five action teams to help address health disparities in the community, which has a higher prevalence of some mental health issues, substance use and abuse, suicidality and HIV, among a few others. Here are just a few of the Health Alliance accomplishments since their work began about 18 months ago:

- LGBTQ Youth Summit for youth-serving professionals drawing about 80 people
- Horizons of Aging Summit for older LGBT adults and senior-service organizations with over 230 people attending
- Thrive with Pride LGBT Aging Survey to identify needs of older adults with over 350 participants
- Healthcare provider cultural competence survey to assess readiness to serve LGBTQ patients and identify those with competence with over 100 providers taking the survey

- Public Health educational booth at the annual Pride celebrations
- Social media campaigns to address various disparities including tobacco use, HIV, suicide and other issues in collaboration with other agency programs
- Speaking engagements and training with various groups and organizations including the Ohio School Nurses Association, Premier Health System and the Area Agency on Aging, among numerous others.
- COVID-19 survey for the LGBTQ community

We also launched our first-ever employee resource group with the Public Health Pride LGBTQ group. To learn more about our LGBTQ Health Initiatives please visit our website at: <https://www.phdmc.org/client-services/lgbtq-care> or contact Jerry Mallicoat, LGBTQ Health Initiatives Manager, at 937-224-3727 or jmallicoat@phdmc.org



Children’s Mental Health Affected by Closure of Schools

The decision on when to re-open schools has become one of the most hotly contested issues around easing the coronavirus sector closures. But while the debate has largely focused on the loss to children’s education while schools have been shut, a major concern is the effect on their mental health. Deprived of the opportunity to play and interact with their peers in person, young people risk losing those skills and instead of developing confidence and self-assurance are at risk of feeling isolated and insecure. [This article](#) shows the impact on young people’s mental health is likely to be significant and long-lasting.



Using Law and Policy to Promote Breastfeeding

More than 4 out of 5 women breastfeed their babies immediately after birth, but many encounter barriers that keep them from continuing to breastfeed despite health benefits for both mother and baby. Laws and policies can help communities increase breastfeeding rates while supporting the achievement of ambitious national goals proposed by Healthy People 2020. [This report](#) highlights the practical application of law and policy to improve health across the Nation. It also presents evidence-based policy solutions that community leaders, public health professionals, and other social service providers can use in their own communities.



Media Opportunities:

- 5/4/20, Dayton Daily News, COVID-19
- 5/5/20, WDTN, Air Pollution
- 5/6/20, Wright State News, Contact Tracing
- 5/8/20, Mix 107.7, Restaurants
- 5/8/20, WDTN, Contact Tracing
- 5/11/20, WYSO, Restaurants

5/11/20, Spectrum News, Restaurants
 5/12/20, WYSO, Contact Tracing
 5/13/20, Indigo Media Life, Restaurants
 5/14/20, WDAO, COVID-19
 5/14/20, WHIO, Contact Tracing
 5/18/20, Dayton Daily News, WHIO, WDTN, Restaurants
 5/20/20, Dayton Daily News, Schools
 5/20/20, Dayton Daily News, Graduations
 5/21/20, WHIO, Food Service
 5/21/20, ABC 22, Restaurants
 5/22/20, Dayton Daily News, Masks
 5/22/20, Dayton Daily News, Flu
 5/26/20, Dayton Daily News, COVID-19
 5/26/20, WDTN, Pools
 5/27/20, WDTN, Wall Street Journal, COVID-19
 5/28/20, Associated Press, COVID-19
 5/28/20, DATV, LGBTQ Health Alliance
 5/29/20, Dayton Daily News, Death Rate



Outreach Opportunities:

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



Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that Ohioans take the following actions:

- Use coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and public parks.
- Maintain 6-foot social distancing whenever possible, even if you are wearing a face covering.
- DO NOT place cloth face coverings on children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- DO NOT use medical supply masks, which must be reserved for healthcare workers, first responders, and people who are known to be sick.
- Make cloth face coverings from household items or common materials. Use multiple layers of a fabric that does not damage or lose shape when laundered or machine dried.

Other Dos and Don'ts

- DO use coverings that fit snugly but comfortably and allow for breathing without restriction. Secure behind the head with ties or ear loops. Wear horizontally.
- DO NOT touch the face covering while wearing it. If you do, wash your hands immediately.
- DO ensure that your nose, mouth, and chin are covered.
- DO NOT allow the face covering to slip under your nose and DO NOT untie straps/unhook ear loops.
- DO wash your hands before putting on and immediately after removing.
- DO NOT touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the face covering.
- DO launder coverings after each use.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Submitted by:

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