

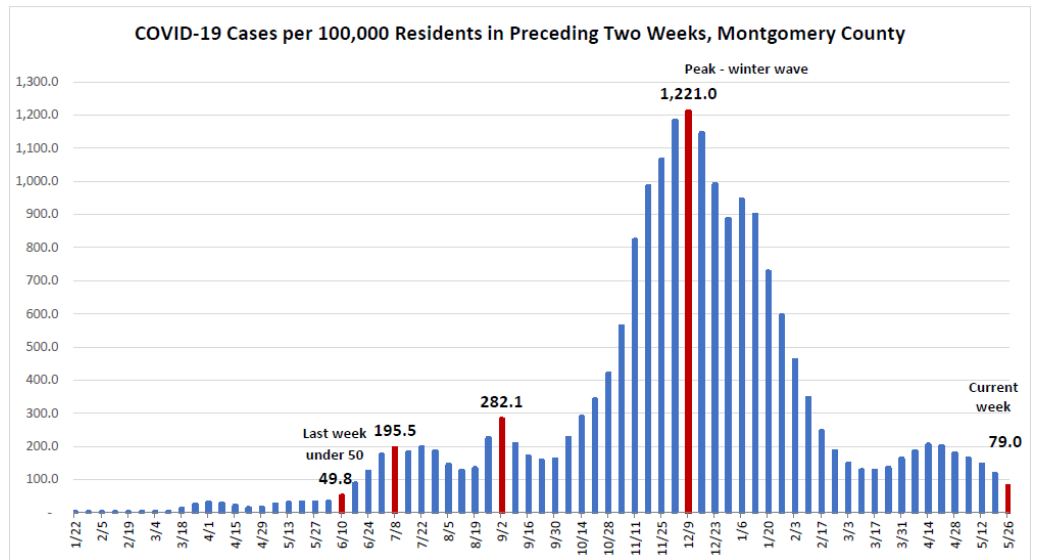


Our Mission: To improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion and protection.



COVID-19 Update

Public Health continues its effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community. As of 5/27/21, the new incidence rate is 79 cases per 100,000. As of 5/31/21, Public Health has administered 83,137 doses of the vaccine and has held 183 vaccination clinics.



Governor DeWine Statement on New CDC Mask Guidance

On May 14, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine’s office [released a statement](#) directing the Ohio Department of Health to conform the remaining health orders to CDC Mask guidance through June 2, 2021.

Dewine stated, “Ohio will be amending our remaining health orders to comply with the new CDC guidance, which says that those who have been vaccinated

no longer need to wear masks, while those who have not been vaccinated should still wear a mask and socially distance.”

The Governor continued, "The CDC still recommends everyone wear masks when they are in a healthcare setting, travelling on public transportation, including airplanes, and when they are in a business or employed by a business that chooses to require masks. Our order will be amended to reflect these recommendations as well. The most powerful tool we have to protect against the COVID-19 virus is the vaccine. Because of the vaccine, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are decreasing dramatically. The vaccine allows us to live our lives more normally and without fear.”

Dewine explained, “The more individuals who get vaccinated, the more the entire state is protected from the virus. The vaccine is our path out of the pandemic, and it is our best protection against the virus. We are on the offense, and the science is unequivocal: Vaccines are our best weapon to fight COVID-19 and save lives! However, not all Ohioans have been vaccinated yet. The June 2nd date I announced for the removal of health orders provided time for those who had not yet gotten their vaccine to get it. While our order will be amended to reflect the new CDC guidance, it will remain in place until June 2nd.”

Governor Dewine added, “Further, we must remember that we still have Ohioans who are not eligible to be vaccinated, including those younger than 12 years of age. Individuals who have not been vaccinated should continue to wear masks pursuant to CDC recommendations. Businesses also have every right to continue to use masks and to require them for employees and customers. The experience in other states has been that some individuals may choose to wear masks, and many businesses, schools, hospitals, and other employers may choose to require masks in their buildings. That will remain their choice. Regardless of the new CDC guidance, this fact remains clear: The most powerful thing anyone can do to end this pandemic is to get vaccinated.”



The Children’s Water Festival – A splash of educational fun

The Children’s Water Festival is an annual field-trip event for fourth grade students held at the University of Dayton the second week of May. The children learn about the water cycle, where it comes from and where it goes, how its treated, how it relates to their very lives and more. The festival started in 1997 with the City of Dayton Department of Water organizing the first one. Since then, multiple organizations have chosen to become involved and support grows each year. The festival has reached over 43,000 students in the Dayton area.

This year was the 24th annual festival, which was offered to fifth grade students as well since last year’s event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

This year was also the first Virtual Children’s Water Festival organized through Zoom. Not being able to attend the festival in person presented one of a kind challenges the planning committee had to overcome to deliver something wonderful for the children.

The festival continued over four days, with a different theme each day. Organizers used innovative thinking to make the festival interactive and encourage participation. They created hands-on activity kits to coordinate with the theme for each day of the festival. The activity kits were filled with educational material that met state science standards including environmental-related games, projects, worksheets, booklets, etc., and delivered to teachers around the Dayton area.

Educational activities relating to water were also provided online, which teachers could choose to complete with their class on their own, to try and accommodate their varying schedules.

The festival consisted of live presentations each day that were broadcast to the classrooms and made available for additional viewers. Approximately 1,000 students attended these live sessions which were recorded and posted on the Children’s Water Festival YouTube page. The presentations included Crystal Clear Science, UD Rivers Institute, MetroParks, City of Dayton Department of Water, Public Health, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, and Chris Rowlands.

Public Health is proud to work with these organizations and individuals who are committed to the environment and our region’s water resources. Due to the continued and generous support from our sponsors, the festival remains free of charge, making it accessible to a broad range of schools, allowing more children to attend and hopefully become life-long environmental stewards.

To volunteer or participate in next year’s festival, your business or organization may reach out to daytonwaterfest@gmail.com or call City of Dayton, Environmental Management at 937-333-3725. The Children’s Water Festival plans to be back in-person for the 25th year in 2022.

To view the virtual festival, please click the link below:
<https://www.daytonohio.gov/671/Childrens-Water-Festival>



Spring Allergies

Like clockwork, millions of people begin to feel the effects of springtime allergies as trees and grasses begin to blossom and release pollen. Tree pollen season usually runs from mid-March to early June and grass pollen season runs from May to June. Allergy sufferers may experience a variety of symptoms including, nasal congestion, sneezing, coughing and irritated eyes. [RAPCA](#) has historically provided daily pollen and mold counts so the public can track levels and take protective measures to reduce symptoms.

In 2021, RAPCA officially ended a decades long tradition of measuring pollen and mold with the Burkhardt sampler and switched to an automated sampler that provides real-time pollen and mold data with the use of artificial intelligence, or AI. The method of sampling pollen and mold with the Burkhardt sampler was a resource intensive process which required staff to manually setup and collect a slide then count the pollen gains and mold spores under a microscope.

The new PollenSense sensor counts pollen and mold levels in real-time and makes the data available to the public with the PollenWise app. Ultimately the decision to retire the Burkhardt sampler in favor of the PollenSense sensor came down to improvements the company made with the AI software to improve counting accuracy, ease of use and cost savings. Currently, the data is only available via the PollenWise app, which is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, however, RAPCA is actively working with the company to make the data available on the RAPCA website.

As always, RAPCA encourages allergy sufferers to take simple steps to manage their allergies like keeping your windows and doors closed, dry your laundry indoors rather than outdoors, shower and changes clothes after spending time outdoors when pollen levels are high. If these simple avoidance measures do not work, sufferers should work with a doctor or immunologist to create a treatment plan to ease allergy symptoms.



National Men's Health Week

National Men's Health Week starts June 14 and is observed each year leading up to Father's Day. This week is a reminder for men to take steps to be healthier, but they don't have to do it alone! Whether it's your husband, partner, dad, brother, son, or friend you can help support the health and safety of the men in your life. The CDC gives [these tips and examples](#) for supporting the men in your life with these healthy habits. Remind men to get regular checkups, know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, and to seek help for depression.



Media Opportunities:

- Fox 45 - COVID-19 Vaccinations - 5/6/2021
- WDTN - Overdoses - 5/6/2021
- DDN - Addiction - 5/7/2021
- WROU - COVID-19 Gettysburg Opening - 5/7/2021
- WHIO - COVID-19 Gettysburg Opening - 5/7/2021
- WDTN - COVID-19 Gettysburg Opening - 5/7/2021
- WHIO - COVID-19 Mother's Day - 5/7/2021
- WDTN - COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination - 5/11/2021
- DDN - COVID-19 - 5/13/2021
- WDTN - COVID-19 Youth Vaccinations - 5/13/2021
- Washington Post - COVID-19 Vaccinations - 5/13/2021
- Fox 45 - COVID-19 Vaccinations - 5/18/2021
- Mix 107.7 - COVID-19 Vaccinations - 5/18/2021
- DDN - COVID-19 Masks - 5/19/2021
- WDTN - Heat - 5/20/2021
- WDTN - COVID-19 Vax-A-Million - 5/20/2021
- DDN - COVID-19 Homebound - 5/24/2021
- WDTN - COVID-19 Moderna - 5/25/2021



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:
Jeff Cooper, MS, Health Commissioner and **Michael Dohn, MD MSc, Medical Director**

