



–Volume 12 Newsletter

MCHD Annual Flu Drive-Thru Clinic Recap

The MCHD Annual Flu Drive-Thru Clinic took place on October 7, 2025. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, along with Biggby Coffee, Cooper Farms, and Bella's Catering, for helping to keep everyone energized throughout the day.

Additionally, we want to
thank all the
community members
who participated and
received their flu shot!



OUR MISSION

Protect, promote, and improve
the health of Mercer County

OUR VISION

All people of Mercer County lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life

A Peek Inside●



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What's New

Ohio's Communicable Disease Reporting

Effective October 1, 2025, the Ohio Department of Health has implemented an updated list of reportable diseases and their classifications. This revision includes newly reportable diseases such as Cronobacter, melioidosis, and mpox. Additionally, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are now mandated for reporting in hospitalized cases.



MERCER COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT

Communicable Disease

In Ohio, over 90 diseases must be reported, including Salmonella, Hepatitis A, B, C, and E, Measles, and Chlamydia. As of October 1, 2025, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has introduced additional reportable diseases. Moreover, **COVID-19** and **RSV** are now required to be reported for hospitalized cases. The urgency of reporting these diseases varies based on the severity of the illness and the potential for community transmission. Comprehensive case investigations and educational efforts are essential in curbing the spread of disease.

Outbreaks can be caused by many different microorganisms, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites; they do not have to be caused by a reportable disease. An outbreak can occur when 2 or more cases of the same illness are linked. Controlling the outbreak and providing education can help to stop community spread.

Lead Testing

The Mercer County Health District works with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in an effort to prevent and manage Childhood Lead Poisoning cases in Ohio and Mercer County. The ODH's Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OHHLPPP) and the CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) are both dedicated to eliminating childhood lead poisoning as a public health problem through strengthening blood lead testing, reporting, and surveillance. The best way to know if your child has exposure to lead is to get their blood tested for lead. Most children with lead poisoning do not show any immediate signs or symptoms. Talk to your doctor about getting your child tested for lead. Children should be tested at age 1 and 2 years, or up to age 6 if no previous test has been done, based on the following criteria:

- If your child is on Medicaid, your child must be tested.
- If your child resides in a high-risk ZIP code (see the link below for the list), he/she must be tested.

Even small amounts of lead can cause learning and behavior problems in children. Lead replaces iron and calcium and affects many parts of the body, especially the nervous system. Lead is most harmful to children under the age of six, because a child's growing body takes up lead easily. Lead can also be dangerous to a baby during pregnancy. Problems related to lead poisoning can last the child's whole life. Even at low levels, lead can lower IQ, cause attention disorders, make it difficult for a child to pay attention in school, delay growth, impair hearing, and more.

The Mercer County Health District (MCHD) provides lead testing for individuals via a simple finger prick. The cost for this testing is \$25. Should the results indicate elevated lead levels, your child will be referred to their physician for further evaluation and testing.

Emergency Preparedness

PG. 3

While fall is a beautiful time in Ohio, it's also a dangerous window for fire risk. October is considered Ohio's "fire season". Falling leaf litter and dry grass create ample fuel. Drought significantly increases the risk of uncontrolled wildfire. After the driest August on record, Mercer County is currently designated as D1 Moderate Drought and D2 Severe Drought.

Ohio Open Burning Laws

The Ohio Revised Code [§1503.18](#) largely **prohibits open burning between 6am and 6pm, from March through November.** You are never allowed to burn garbage, plastic, rubber, grease, or animal carcasses. Brush may be burned under appropriate conditions.

The Fire Marshall may issue temporary bans on open burning on counties experiencing droughts. When in doubt, check with your local fire department, ODNR, or OEPA.

Violating Ohio's open burning laws can lead to fines or even criminal charges. Liability for damages caused by escaped fires can be traced back to the person who started the burn.



Safety tips

- Follow all local and state directives.
- Stay far from trees and buildings.
- Monitor drought, weather, and air quality reports from [NOAA](#). Avoid burning during dry or windy weather, or on days with poor air quality.
- Ready fire extinguishing implements
- Consider alternate ways to dispose of brush: mulching, composting, or pick-up. The City's residential limbs and brush collection will be conducted on the first Monday of the month, from April through October.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Everyone can contribute to our Medical Reserve Corps team and help serve our community! Medical background appreciated but not necessary. To join or learn more, contact us at healthdistrict@mchdohio.org.



SAVE THE DATE

**Final 2025 MRC Meeting:
12/3/2025**

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

MCHD's Health Services Division Precepts Nursing Students

From September through November, the health services division of MCHD provided valuable training for final-year nursing students from Wright State University Lake Campus. During this period, these students had the opportunity to administer vaccines to adults using aseptic techniques, all while gaining insights into vaccines and various aspects of Public Health.



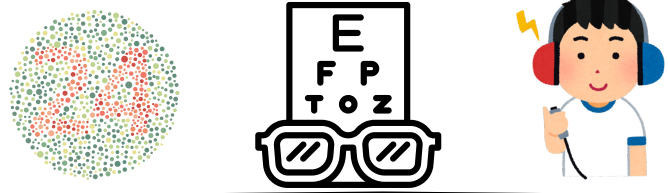
Respiratory Illness Guidance

When sick with a respiratory virus, individuals should stay home. COVID-19 and influenza treatments can lessen symptoms and reduce severe illness risk. People can return to normal activities after 24 hours of improving symptoms and no fever without medication. Upon resuming activities, additional prevention strategies should be followed for 5 days, including improving air quality, enhancing hygiene, wearing masks, maintaining distance, and/or testing for viruses.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0301-respiratory-virus.html>

Vision and Hearing Screenings

In August, coinciding with the start of the school year and continuing through the third week of September, the MCHD was contracted to conduct vision and hearing screenings for Fort Recovery and St. Henry Schools. These screenings are administered to students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, and Eleventh grades. Two nurses are required to complete the screenings over a span of five to seven days for each school, ensuring that all the students are evaluated.



School Vaccine Recap

Typically, back-to-school vaccinations commence from mid to late July. This year, we experienced a surge in demand during late August and early September. Despite this rush coinciding with our vision and hearing screenings, we successfully administered over 500 vaccines to school-aged children during August and September.

School required vaccines

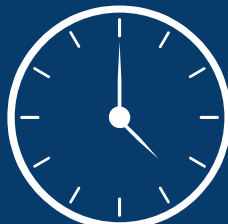
- Kindergarten: Dtap, Polio, MMR and Varivax
- 7th grade: Tdap, MenACWY
- 12th grade: Men ACWY second dose

Clinic Hours:

 (419) 586-3251 Option 2

*Friday vaccine appointment hours are from 7:30AM-11:45AM

Monday:	7:30am-3:30pm
Tuesday:	7:30am-3:30pm
Wednesday:	7:30am-3:30pm
Thursday:	9:30am-5:15pm
Friday*:	7:30am-3:30pm
Saturday:	CLOSED
Sunday:	CLOSED



Operation and Maintenance Program Update

The Operation & Maintenance program is a statewide initiative aimed at ensuring the ongoing maintenance of all Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) to safeguard public health and reduce pollution in Ohio's waters. Regular maintenance of your system not only extends its lifespan but also protects your investment, enhances your health, preserves surface and groundwater, and prevents sewage-related nuisances on your property.

While the state mandates this program, it does not provide funding for its execution. The fees collected are allocated towards materials, postage, and personnel costs related to the program's operations. These personnel costs include:

- Preparing mailings
- Maintaining the database
- Reviewing service reports
- Following up on non-compliance issues
- Educating homeowners

The Mercer County Health District (MCHD) is implementing the program township by township. The first round, which is currently being executed, is for properties that do not have a septic installation permit on file. Out of the 14 townships in Mercer County, property owners in 10 have already been enrolled in the program. Currently, we are issuing second or final notices to residents in Center and Hopewell townships, while we have completed the process in Jefferson township. Next on our agenda is to send out initial notices in Liberty township. In the coming year, we plan to address the remaining three townships north of Liberty: Blackcreek, Dublin, and Union. After completion of the remaining three townships, MCHD will go back through, township by township, to enroll properties with a septic installation permit on file.

Temporary and Mobile Food Licenses

In MCHD's third quarter, a total of 56 temporary food establishment licenses and 7 mobile food licenses were granted. This quarter typically experiences an increase in numbers, as it coincides with the festival and fair season in Mercer County.

Our primary objective is to prevent foodborne illnesses by conducting comprehensive inspections of the vendors.

