



Mercer County Health District Quarterly Digest

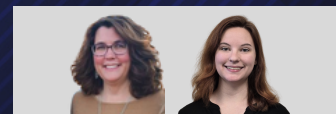
Volume 13 Newsletter

WHAT'S NEW?



In August, the Ohio Department of Health introduced a revamped vital statistics system. This new system enhances the management process for both birth and death records across the state of Ohio.

- While birth certificates have been obtainable statewide for an extended period, most death certificates from the past 50 years are now available to any health department.
- Our Vital Statistics Registrar and Deputy Registrar advise that if a death occurred more than 20 years ago, please give us a call to confirm our access to the record.



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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Vitals by the Numbers ● ● ● ● ●

- 1,670 Total Birth Certificates issued
- 1,326 Total Death Certificates issued
- 15 Home Birth Registrations completed
- 93 Burial Permits



(419) 586-3251 Option 3 to reach Vitals Statistics



MERCER COUNTY

HEALTH DISTRICT

Body Art

Body art facilities are required to be licensed by the health department. In addition to the Mercer County code, the Ohio Department of Health also has regulations regarding the procedures involved in safely administering tattoos and body piercings. New facilities are required to submit plans to the local health department in which the following items are reviewed:

- Provision of proper equipment such as autoclaves
- Hand washing sinks
- Ultrasonic cleaning devices
- Proper lighting
- Adequate surface finish materials
- Documentation of completion of bloodborne pathogens training courses.

Pools and Spas

All public swimming pools and spas are required to be licensed and inspected by the local health department. Inspections include evaluation of water chemistry, proper disinfection and filtration equipment operation, and safety concerns.

The Ohio Department of Health reviews plans for new swimming pools and spas to determine compliance with construction design standards.

Solid Waste

The solid waste program involves licensing and inspecting solid waste disposal facilities, including the landfill and transfer stations. Inspections are performed on a quarterly basis at the landfill in order to verify compliance with the state law governing operation of such facilities. Basic inspections at the landfill involve checking for adequate daily cover, presence of maintenance problems such as erosion or ponding of water, proper handling of scattered litter, control of vectors such as rodents and nuisance animals, verifying waste receipts do not exceed daily allowance, and verifying that the types of wastes accepted for disposal are allowed under the permit.

Emergency Preparedness

PG. 3

Current Status of Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), otherwise known as 'bird flu', is a dangerous zoonotic viral disease that can decimate poultry flocks. USDA-APHIS conducts routine surveillance for H5N1 in domestic poultry, wild birds, and dairy cows, though many other species, including humans, are susceptible to the virus.

HPAI has been detected in Ohio poultry. In November, a person in Washington state died of HPAI contracted from their backyard chicken flock. However, there has never been a confirmed case of person-to-person disease transmission, and the public health risk remains low.

Preventive Measures

- Poultry farmers or processors, veterinarians, and backyard poultry hobbyists are most at risk. People with occupational exposure should be careful to wear appropriate personal protective equipment to interact with livestock, especially poultry, including:
 - N95 masks
 - Gloves
 - Boots and aprons
 - Safety goggles
- Avoid unprotected exposures to sick or dead animals and contaminated materials.
- Avoid consuming unpasteurized dairy or undercooked meat.
- For more information on HPAI, visit: [ODA HPAI website](#) or call (614) 728-6220.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Everyone can contribute to our Medical Reserve Corps team and help serve our community! Medical background appreciated but not necessary. To learn more, contact the MRC coordinator at irichter@mchdohio.org.



SAVE THE DATE

**First 2026 MRC meeting:
3/4/2026**

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

MCHD Administered Vaccines:

- Total: 6,656
- 2,745 Federal Grant Purchased
- 3,911 MCHD Purchased
- 1,066 Flu Shots

Lead and TB

- 236 TB Skin Tests Administered
- 19 Lead Screenings

Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Car Seats Distributed

- 45 convertible and booster seats

Cribs for Kids Cribs Distributed

- 18 Total Cribs

Communicable Disease Cases

- 361 Total Cases

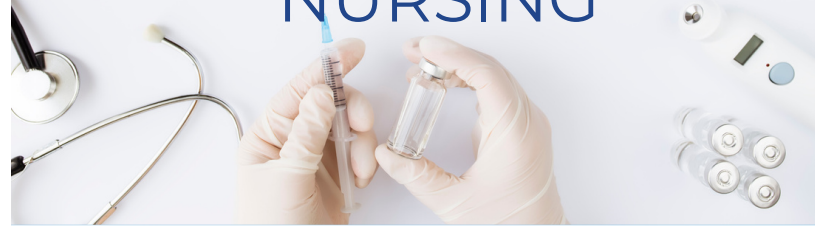
*CD count may increase due to lag in reporting system by ODH

Clinic Hours:

(419) 586-3251 Option 2

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

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING



Vision and Hearing Screenings

Fort Recovery Schools:

- 550 Hearing Screenings
- 74 Hearing Rescreens
- 29 Referrals
- 550 Vision Screenings
- 31 Referrals

St. Henry Schools:

- 624 Hearing Screenings
- 58 Hearing Rescreens
- 29 Referrals
- 632 Vision Screenings
- 49 Referrals

Totals

- 1,174 Hearing Screenings
- 103 Hearing Rescreens
- 58 Hearing Referrals
- 1,182 Vision Screenings
- 80 Vision Referrals

Complex Medical Help

- 216 Total cases managed
- \$16,528 Services billed to CMH

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

This past quarter, we successfully completed Center Township and dispatched the third notices to Hopewell Township. Additionally, we have issued the initial notice to Liberty Township. Currently, we are preparing the mailing for Blackcreek Township, which we plan to send out at the beginning of 2026.

Our action plan for Operations & Maintenance remains unchanged from last quarter: we will complete the final three townships in phase one before commencing phase two with properties that have a permit on file.

Food Program Update

While several licensed food service operations and retail food establishments in the county have recently closed, the EH division has received plans for roughly the same amount of new licensed facilities to keep our overall number of licensed establishments steady. Routine inspections of licensed facilities are performed in accordance with requirements from the state's food code. Facilities with lower risk level licenses are inspected at least once per licensing period, while higher risk level operations require two or four inspections per licensing period, which begins March 1st of each year.

Elevated levels of Enforcement in Certain Programs

Fortunately, most of the regulatory oversight done in EH programs can be completed with voluntary compliance from licensed facilities, contractors, and the public we serve; However, there are instances where elevated enforcement becomes necessary to bring situations into full compliance. Over the past year, our office has worked with the Mercer County Prosecutor's office to gain full compliance with situations in the Solid Waste, Household Sewage Treatment System, and Rabies Virus Control Programs. The goal of this elevated enforcement is not to impose financial penalties, but rather to ensure situations are fully resolved so that they are in compliance with local and state codes.

Office Hours:

 (419) 586-3251 Option 4

Monday: 7:30am-4:00pm
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