



Jefferson County General Health District

— Prevent. Promote. Protect. —

Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Jefferson County General Health District Quarterly Newsletter. It is our priority at the JCGHD to communicate with our residents regarding pertinent health information, new programs, and upcoming events. Our goal is to bring value to public health in our community in order to achieve our mission to provide public health services focused on community wellness, disease prevention and protection where Jefferson County residents live, work, learn and play. Be on the lookout for our newsletter in April, July, October, and January!

Program Updates

LEAD TESTING & HEPA VACUUMS NOW AVAILABLE

The JCGHD now offers blood lead testing at the Nursing Clinic. Test results are available on the same day. Lead testing is recommended for children ages 1-2, or up to 6 if no previous tests have been completed based on the following criteria: child is on Medicaid, lives in a high risk community, or has certain risk factors. Call the Nursing Department with questions or to schedule an appointment.

The JCGHD has two HEPA vacuums for Jefferson County residents to borrow. A HEPA vacuum cleaner is a type of vacuum equipped with a High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter. HEPA filters are designed to trap extremely small particles, including allergens and fine dust, ensuring that the air expelled by the vacuum is cleaner and has fewer airborne particles. HEPA vacuum cleaners are commonly used in environments where air quality is crucial, such as homes with individuals who have allergies or asthma. Call the Environmental Department to learn more about the lending program.

FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

Due to ongoing concerns from waste treatment facilities about excessive amounts of grease in sewage, food program Environmental Health Sanitarians are going to emphasize proper cleaning and maintenance of grease traps as per rule 3717-1-05.3 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

Mobile Food Service Operators must have at least one person present in each unit during hours of operation with the Ohio Person-in-charge Certification in Food Safety. The Person-in-charge Certification is available online. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Department.

2025 Communicable Disease Report

Disease Type	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Campylobacteriosis	0	0	1	1
Chlamydia	20	20	12	52
COVID-19	125	107	32	264
Gonorrhea	8	4	0	12
Hepatitis B	1	0	1	2
Hepatitis C	5	4	2	11
Influenza-associated hospitalization	22	60	13	95
Legionnaires' disease	0	1	0	1
Lyme disease	2	1	1	4
Pertussis	1	0	0	1
Streptococcal disease, group A	0	1	0	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1	1	1	3
Syphilis	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	185	199	64	448

DISEASE UPDATES

Avian Flu

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a virus also known as the "bird flu". These viruses spread naturally in wild aquatic birds but can infect poultry and other birds and other animal species. Although bird flu usually does not infect people, there are some rare cases of human infection. People can get sick with bird flu when they come into contact with infected birds or animals, which may include dairy cattle and poultry. While humans are rarely infected with bird flu, there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission in the United States and very limited and sporadic reports in other areas of the world where HPAI is endemic.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife is monitoring all reports of dead wild birds in the state and has sent several samples collected in Ohio for testing to confirm highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The Division of Wildlife asks people to call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543) and report sightings of dead birds in groups of more than six.

Measles

Ohio has experienced measles outbreaks in Ashtabula County and Knox County. Measles is extremely contagious and can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. It can be brought into Ohio by individuals who travel to places where measles is spreading. If people are not protected against the disease, 9 out of 10 people who are exposed will become ill.

The measles vaccine (called MMR as it protects against measles, mumps and rubella) is safe and effective at preventing measles. Two doses of MMR is 97% effective against measles. If you are up to date on measles vaccine, the risk of getting sick is extremely low. The CDC recommends all children get two doses of MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Adults who did not receive the MMR vaccine as children or those who are unsure about their vaccination status are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider for more information.

Sources: Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Upcoming Events

Outdoor Land Lab at Fernwood Park Sponsored by Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District & JB Green Team
May 12-15

Senior Wellness Expo at the YMCA Wellness Center
St. John Arena
May 21 from 10 am – 1 pm

Basic Life Support (CPR) Class at the JCGHD
May 21 from 1 – 4pm
\$50 per person, call to register

3rd Annual Taking Steps to End Elder Abuse 5K at Jim Wood Park
June 7 at 9 am

Dean Martin Hometown Festival: Dino Dash 5k at Beatty Park
June 14 at 9 am

Both 5K events can be found at runsignup.com and cost \$25 to register



Pictured: Kayla Fogle, Danielle Czuchran, Kylie Smogonovich, Kimmy Walters, Crystal Wickham, and Andrew Henry at the Fighting Cancer 5K in Toronto on March 15, 2025



Jefferson County WIC Director Stephanie Chester presented a summary of the program's offerings to attendees at the Jefferson County Resource Network's community meeting Monday. Nursing Director Kylie Smogonovich also provided information on the JCGHD's Nursing programs on March 31, 2025. - Christopher Dacanay, Herald-Star



JCGHD Nursing and WIC staff met with Jefferson County Early Intervention on April 2, 2025. Collaboration allows us to unlock the power of collective action, shared resources, and diverse perspectives!