



Jefferson County General Health District

— Prevent. Promote. Protect. —

Quarterly Newsletter

Program Updates

New Medical Director

The Jefferson County Board of Health approved the hiring of Dr. Coleen Hart on February 18, 2026. Dr. Hart officially assumed Medical Director responsibilities on April 1, 2026. Dr. Hart practices both adult and pediatric primary care at Trinity Health System. She believes her work with youth and families as a young adult emphasized to her the importance of support networks and positive mental health. Furthermore, studying and working in underprivileged and poor communities has engrained the lessons of good health, nutrition, a healthy vaccine program in disease prevention, and a holistic approach to medicine. In addition to her internal medicine and pediatric credentials, Dr. Hart has a diploma in diabetes care and completed a fellowship in obesity management.



Mobile Food Service Season

With the spring upon us, Mobile Food Service Operation season is heating up! All Mobile Food Service Operations must renew their license annually. Any mobile operating without a current license is subject to a late fee and possible other penalties. A Mobile Food Service Operation is one that:

- is operated from a movable vehicle, portable structure, or watercraft;
- routinely changes location;
- does not remain at any one location for more than forty consecutive days.

This definition was developed to address Food Service Operations that are truly of a mobile nature by routinely changing locations. Moving a mobile unit a few feet or pulling an operation around the block and returning to the same location does not comply with the intent of the law. If you are organizing any events with “food trucks”, please call the JCGHD for a list of licensed Mobile Food Service Operations.

Visit our website to learn more about Mobile Food Services Operations: [Click Here](#)

2026 Communicable Disease Report

DISEASE TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Campylobacteriosis	1	0	0	1
Chlamydia	11	18	15	44
COVID-19 Hospitalization	24	7	11	42
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	1
Giardiasis	0	1	0	1
Gonorrhea	2	4	1	7
Hepatitis C	3	3	5	11
Influenza-associated hospitalization	31	13	13	57
Lyme disease	0	4	5	9
RSV Hospitalization	11	8	7	26
Salmonellosis	0	1	1	2
Streptococcal disease, group A	1	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	1	0	2	3
TOTAL	85	59	61	205

DISEASE UPDATES

Measles

As of March 20, 2026, the CDC has confirmed 1,487 measles cases across 31 jurisdictions, with 14 new outbreaks reported so far this year. The Ohio Department of Health confirmed the first 2026 cases in Cuyahoga County, involving three unvaccinated children from one household who had traveled to an area with an ongoing outbreak.

In 2025, the U.S. recorded its highest measles case count in 33 years, with 2,242 cases, three deaths, and 245 hospitalizations. Roughly 93% of those cases occurred in unvaccinated individuals or those with unknown vaccination status. Ohio's MMR vaccination coverage among kindergartners sits at 88.3%, well below the 95% threshold needed to prevent outbreak spread. Nationally, MMR coverage has declined from 95.2% in 2019-2020 to 92.5% in 2024-2025, with about 92% of 2026 cases occurring in unvaccinated or vaccination-unknown individuals.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio Department of Health

Lyme Disease

March marks the start of active tick season in Ohio. A new Ohio State University study published in February 2026 confirms that the risk of Lyme disease in Ohio now equals that of Northeast states that have dealt with the disease for over 50 years. Researchers found tick infection rates as high as 47.6% and infection in small mammals up to 60.4%. Risk is highest in forested areas in eastern and southern Ohio, making Southeast Ohio a direct concern. A key finding from recent OSU research: tick exposure in Ohio is now a year-round risk. As long as the ambient temperature is above freezing, blacklegged ticks remain active.

Ohio Department of Health data tracked by Ohio University shows a steep rise in cases: 554 in 2022, 1,301 in 2023, and 1,788 in 2024. The Appalachian Ohio Tick Project is actively working with Southeast Ohio public health departments on surveillance, education, and prevention.

Source: Ohio University Infectious and Tropical Disease Institute

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Tick Talk – Small Bites, Big Impact

Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County
Schiappa Branch
April 9, 6 – 7 pm

The Reset Experience – A Black Mental Health Summit

Steubenville High School
April 18, 11 am – 4 pm

Board of Health Meeting

Jefferson County Tower, 2nd Floor
April 21, 8:15 am

DEA Drug Takeback Day

Multiple Sites Expected
April 25, 10 am – 2 pm
[Search Locations Here](#)

Board of Health Meeting

Jefferson County Tower, 2nd Floor
May 19, 8:15 am

Dino Dash 5K Trail Run & Walk

Beatty Park
June 13, 9 am
[Sign-up Here](#)

Board of Health Meeting

Jefferson County Tower, 2nd Floor
June 16, 8:15 am



Staff participated in the Pat Campbell Fighting Cancer 5k on March 14. Pictured: Andrew Henry, Carla Gampolo, Jane Klug, Jackie Dinofrio, Crystal Wickham, Kayla Fogle



The District Advisory Council reappointed Dr. Mark Kissinger to the Board of Health on March 4. Pictured: Andrew Henry, Dr. Mark Kissinger, Mary Mihalyo, Suzanne Brown, Terry Bell, Pennie Scarpone (DAC), and Scott Fabian (DAC).