



Immunization Program/School Nursing Section

Adult, Childhood and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

From January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024 there was a total of 14 patients from Bexley attending 15 separate visits, resulting in a collective administration of 27 vaccinations.

NACCHO Partnering for Vaccine Equity (PAVE) III Grant

The communications team has been diligently working on revamping the "Getting to Know Public Health" Campaign. They've introduced a character named "Vicki Vaccine" to aid in communicating and educating Franklin County residents about vaccines. Susan Foster, the Immunization and School Health Supervisor, collaborated with the Communications team to finalize a concise PSA aimed at vaccine education for the community.

Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) Grant

FCPH immunization staff convened to create an implementation plan to address some of the disparities highlighted in the 2024 Get Vaccinated Ohio Franklin County Immunizations Disparities Report. The immunization program plans to focus efforts in Groveport, Minerva Park, Whitehall, and Reynoldsburg. Strategies identified include providing parental education, supporting school nurses in these jurisdictions, and exploring additional community partnerships to improve childhood immunization completion rates. Work is underway to establish a standing vaccine clinic at Groveport-Madison Schools, commencing in the fall of 2024. A pop-up clinic is scheduled for May 16, 2024, at Groveport-Madison Schools.

School Health

The Immunization and School Health team at FCPH is actively engaged in cross-sector initiatives aimed at reducing the asthma burden in Franklin County. Collaborating with members from various divisions, they are part of coordinated efforts to apply for the CDC EXHALE grant, a strategy-based grant designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals with asthma. The application deadline for this grant is April 19th, 2024, with a Notice of Selection anticipated in August 2024.

Staff Training, Conferences, Outreach, and Partnerships

The implementation of MARTTI a real time, audiovisual language interpretation service, has begun and the Immunization and School Health team is actively addressing any challenges encountered during the rollout process to ensure its effectiveness for the agency.

Immunization staff is partnering with the HSP CHAT team to offer health resources, education, and COVID/flu vaccines to residents of Prairie Township on April 27, 2024, and Whitehall residents on April 26, 2024.



Maternal and Child Health Section

CMH Program

Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) oversees the Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program catering to individuals aged 0-24 residing in Franklin County. Within this program, Public Health Nurses (PHNs) offer case management assistance to children with specific healthcare requirements. Their support encompasses helping families locate high-quality healthcare, accessing community resources, engaging in outreach initiatives, and facilitating the coordination of care for children with diverse medical needs. The CMH PHNs deliver their services through various channels including telephone, email, mail, and home visits.

From January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024 PHN case management services were provided to 7 families from Bexley concerning CMH services.

Community Partnership Grants

The Beautiful Beginnings home visiting program continues in collaboration with Heart of Ohio Family Health with funds from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. The CHW is currently in the process of enrolling clients on the Beautiful Beginnings program. MCH leadership is currently interviewing for 2 public health nurses to staff the program, and 1 Community Health Worker. Additionally, a comprehensive pregnancy and postpartum resource and education client resource binder is in development.

FCPH continues to partner with ROOTT (Restoring Our Own Through Transformation) through a separate Community Partnership grant opportunity. ROOTT provides perinatal doula services to Black individuals within Franklin County.

Partnership and Collaboration

Meetings with partner agencies are being convened to discuss current action steps on the Maternal and Infant Health strategy areas of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Alyssa Grodhaus, Prevention and Wellness Division Manager is spearheading an agency-wide committee aimed at enhancing interpreter and translation services across FCPH. This collaborative effort is co-led by the Interim Director of the Health Systems and Planning Division.

MCH Events

On March 12, 2024, Acacia Luster, Supervisor of the Beautiful Beginnings Program, and LaQuisa Richardson, a Community Health Worker within Beautiful Beginnings, participated in a profound panel discussion called Black Mothers Matter, held in Linden. The discussion was deeply emotional and impactful, as five panelists bravely shared their personal pregnancy and birthing journeys, along with their encounters with medical professionals and the complexities of navigating the healthcare system. The key takeaways emphasized the urgent need for Black birthing individuals to be listened

to and acknowledged, rather than dismissed or overlooked when expressing concerns. Advocacy, support, and empowerment regarding their bodies and health were underscored as essential. It was stressed that the responsibility for this change cannot fall solely on the affected individuals. Every effort must be made to ensure that Black birthing individuals and their babies receive the highest quality healthcare, setting them on a path towards success and long-term health.



- March 27, 2024: Two PHNs from CMH attended the Franklin County Provider & Community Resource Fair, organized by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The fair attracted numerous families and providers. The PHNs from FCPH distributed informational resources to families, focusing on infant safe sleep practices, immunizations, and details about the CMH Program. Additionally, they established connections with other providers and partners present at the event.
- April 5, 2024: The Director of Prevention and Wellness, alongside the Prevention and Wellness Division Manager, and the Director of Epidemiology & Data, along with the Health Systems and Planning Division Manager, are scheduled to participate in a Data Capability pilot interview for the Community Information Exchange (CIE), facilitated by the RISE Together Innovation Institute. The primary objective of this initial interview is to gain insights into each organization's data management practices, including client and programmatic data handling, as well as their capacity to collect, receive, and share data. Understanding the data management capabilities of each organization and those within the broader health and human service ecosystem in Central Ohio will enable the RISE Together Innovation Institute to identify the necessary support and resources required to ensure the participation of all organizations in the CIE.
- April 18, 2024: The Supervisor of the Beautiful Beginnings Program and the Beautiful Beginnings Community Health Worker will be attending CompDrug's 2024 Perinatal Conference. This conference is specifically tailored for individuals supporting pregnant individuals dealing with substance use issues. The agenda includes critical topics such as recovery during pregnancy, the current housing crisis, the intersection of sex work and substance use, treatment of neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome, addressing generational trauma, harm reduction strategies including xylazine, maternal mental health, advocacy within healthcare systems, and a peer panel discussion.

Staff Highlights



Mary Taylor, Supervisor of Maternal and Child Health, has been accepted into the fifth cohort of the Early Childhood Fellowship, commencing in August 2024. This Fellowship is tailored for emerging leaders within the early childhood workforce. Throughout the program, participants will bolster their ability to shape policies promoting healthy development and early learning, ultimately aiming to improve outcomes for Ohio's youngest learners and their families. Over the course of the year, Fellows from across Ohio will partake in a curriculum designed to enhance leadership skills, deepen knowledge, and enrich the professional landscape of early childhood professionals. The Fellowship offers a stimulating curriculum comprising keynote speakers, online learning modules, dialogues with policymakers, networking opportunities, and collaborative small-group projects. Upon completion of the program, Fellows will be better equipped to advocate successfully for themselves, infants and toddlers, families, and their communities. Congratulations to Mary!

[Source: <https://www.groundworkohio.org/fellowship>]

LaQuisa Richardson, a Community Health Worker with the Beautiful Beginnings program, recently concluded a 4-day virtual Grief Recovery Method Training Program, spanning from March 22, 2024, to March 25, 2024. This evidence-based training covered various forms of grief, including loss of life, relationships, employment, pets, or any other loss experienced by individuals. The program emphasized that emotional pain resulting from loss is a universal human experience and equipped trainees with tools to facilitate release, empowerment, and healing in others.

[Source: <https://www.griefrecoverymethod.com/>]

Advancing Health Literacy Franklin County

With the support of the Advancing Health Literacy Franklin County (AHLFC) grant, the grant partners organized a successful All Access Pass to Health Literacy Conference, focusing on access to care and community engagement. This conference served as a platform for exchanging insights and strategies to enhance health literacy within the community.

Furthermore, AHLFC collaborated successfully with partners at CommunicateHealth to present the final Digital Health Literacy Training, which focused on social media best practices. The session attracted 30 attendees, who reported a 3-point increase in knowledge overall from before to after the presentation. These trainings will be available as enduring materials on the Advancing Health Literacy Franklin County webpages, providing valuable resources for the community.

In addition, a total of 9 sessions on Reader-Friendly Plain Language Material, along with coaching, have concluded. These robust trainings enhance accessibility and comprehension of health information through plain language and the delivery of written materials. These sessions have played a pivotal role in improving health literacy skills among the target audience.



Lastly, AHLFC hosted the final CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) and Cultural Competency Training in collaboration with partners at Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS), with a focus on the Haitian Creole community. The session attracted 48 attendees, who reported a 4-point increase in knowledge overall from pre- to post-presentation.

Infectious Disease Section

Measles Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Alert Network (HAN) has issued an advisory regarding the increase in global and domestic measles cases and outbreaks.

- Measles (rubeola) is highly contagious, with one infected individual capable of spreading the virus to 9 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals with whom they have close contact.
- From January 1, 2024 to March 14, 2024, the CDC has received reports of 58 confirmed cases of measles across 17 jurisdictions in the United States, including seven outbreaks in seven jurisdictions. This marks a notable increase compared to the 58 total cases and four outbreaks reported for the entire year of 2023.
- Among the 58 cases reported in 2024:
 - 54 (93%) cases were linked to international travel.
 - Most cases occurred in children aged 12 months and older who had not received the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Recommendations for Healthcare Providers regarding measles include:
 - Ensuring patients are up to date with the MMR vaccine.
 - Administering the first dose of MMR vaccine to children aged 12 to 15 months, followed by a second dose at 4 to 6 years.
 - Advising all U.S. residents older than 6 months without evidence of immunity who are planning international travel to receive the MMR vaccine prior to departure.
 - Recognizing that evidence of measles immunity for international travelers includes birth before 1957, documented administration of two doses of live measles virus vaccine, or laboratory confirmation of immunity or disease.
 - Considering measles as a potential diagnosis in individuals with fever ($\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 38.3°C) and a generalized maculopapular rash with symptoms such as cough,



coryza, or conjunctivitis, particularly if they have recently traveled abroad, especially to countries experiencing measles outbreaks.

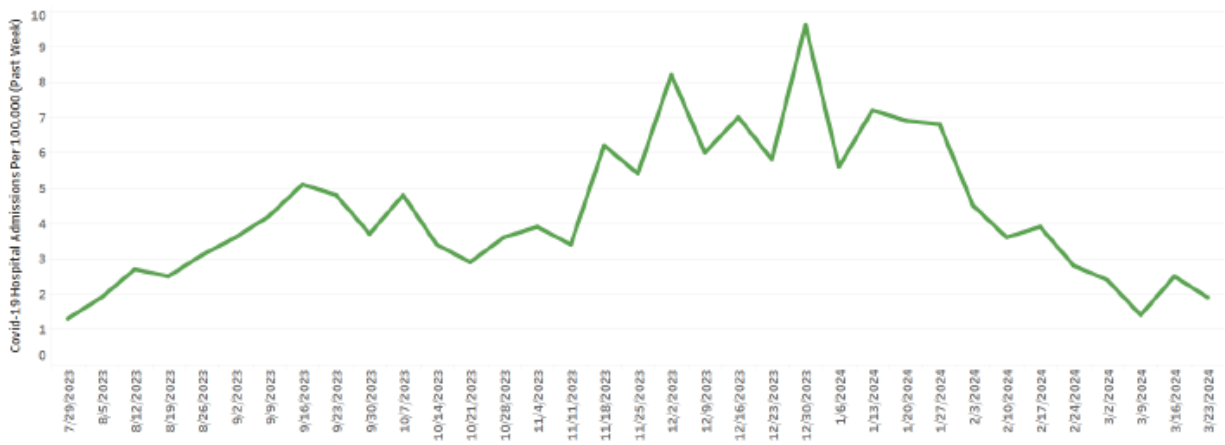
COVID-19 Response Updates

Epidemiology Update for COVID-19
Franklin County Public Health
April 1, 2024

Please note: Due to underreporting of COVID-19 testing and cases, please interpret data with caution on this report. The true number of cases are likely higher. Data are pulled from the Ohio Disease Reporting System and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COVID-19 Cases Reported by Year and Sex, Franklin County Public Health Jurisdictions						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Female	15,235	22,795	28,573	6,441	1,519	74,563
Male	13,673	20,215	22,661	4,390	1,096	62,035
Blank	200	163	366	32	4	765
Unknown	53	148	240	20	3	464
Grand Total	29,161	43,321	51,840	10,883	2,622	137,827

Despite an increase in the rate of hospitalizations since October 2023, COVID-19 Hospitalization Admission Levels have decreased since January 2024. COVID-19 Hospitalization Admission Levels have remained **Low in Franklin County.**

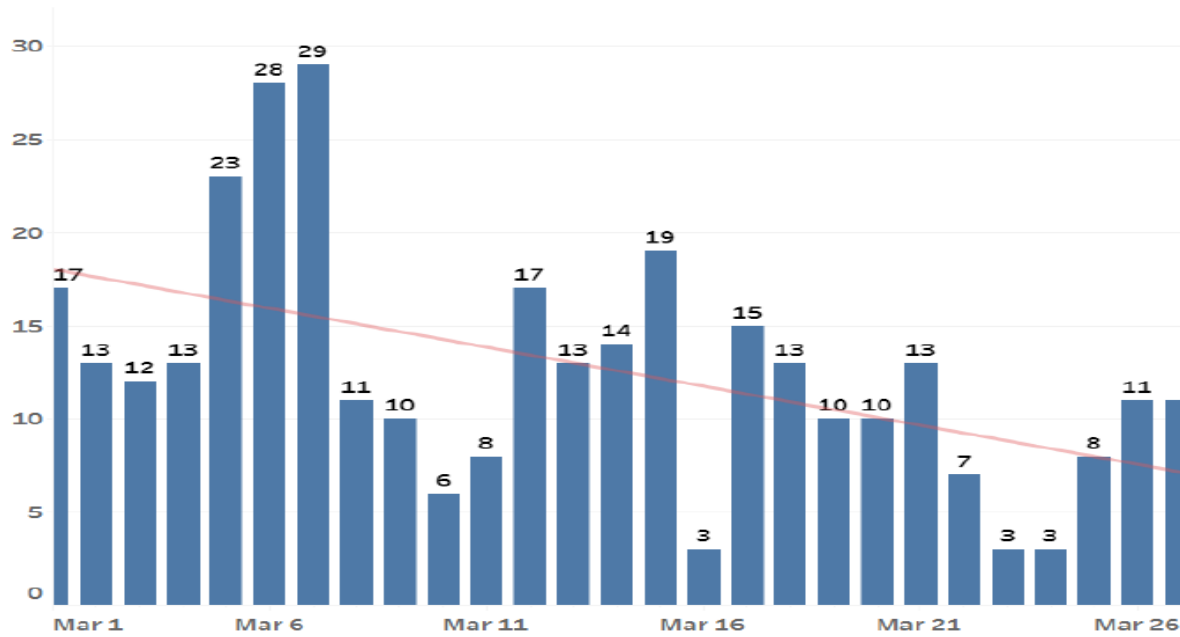




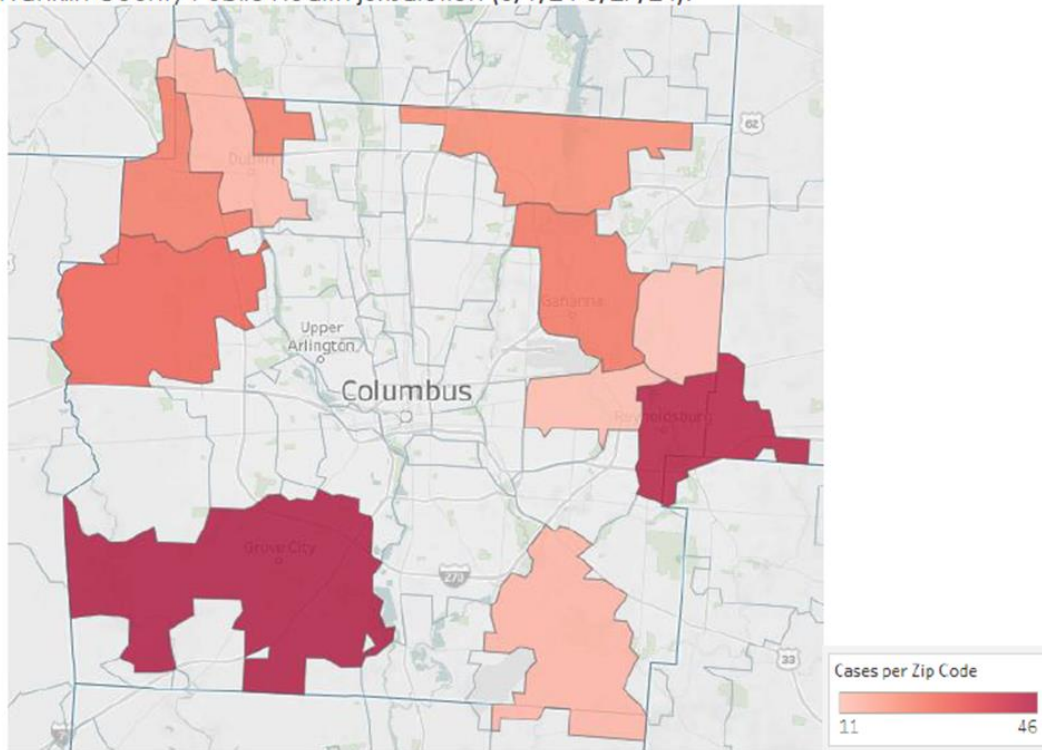
CDC Metric: New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population, past week (total)	Low (<10.0)	Medium (10.0 to 19.9)	High (≥20.0)
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For more information on COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels, visit [CDC COVID Tracker](#)

Reported cases of COVID-19 in Franklin County Public Health’s jurisdiction have had a decreasing trend since March 1, 2024.

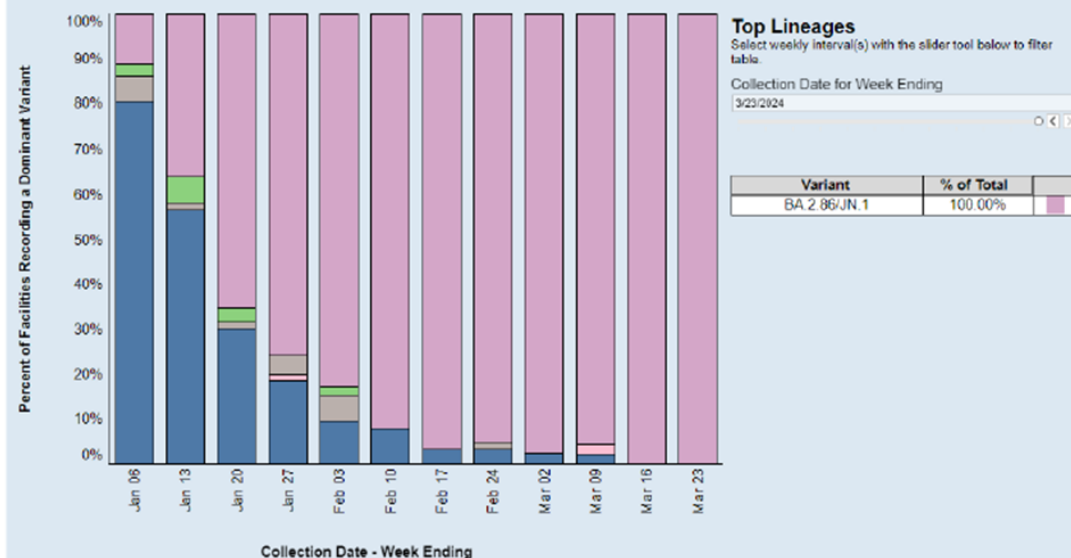


Over the past 4 weeks, 43123 and 43068 have seen the majority of **COVID-19 Cases** in Franklin County Public Health jurisdiction (3/1/24-3/27/24).



Wastewater surveillance shows variant BA.2.86/JN.1 has been the most found variant in Ohio over the last 4 weeks.

This dashboard calculates the highest proportion (i.e., dominant) variant at each wastewater facility with sufficient levels of SARS-CoV-2 to allow for successful sequencing in a given week. The figure shows the proportion of sites with dominant variants circulating in Ohio each week.



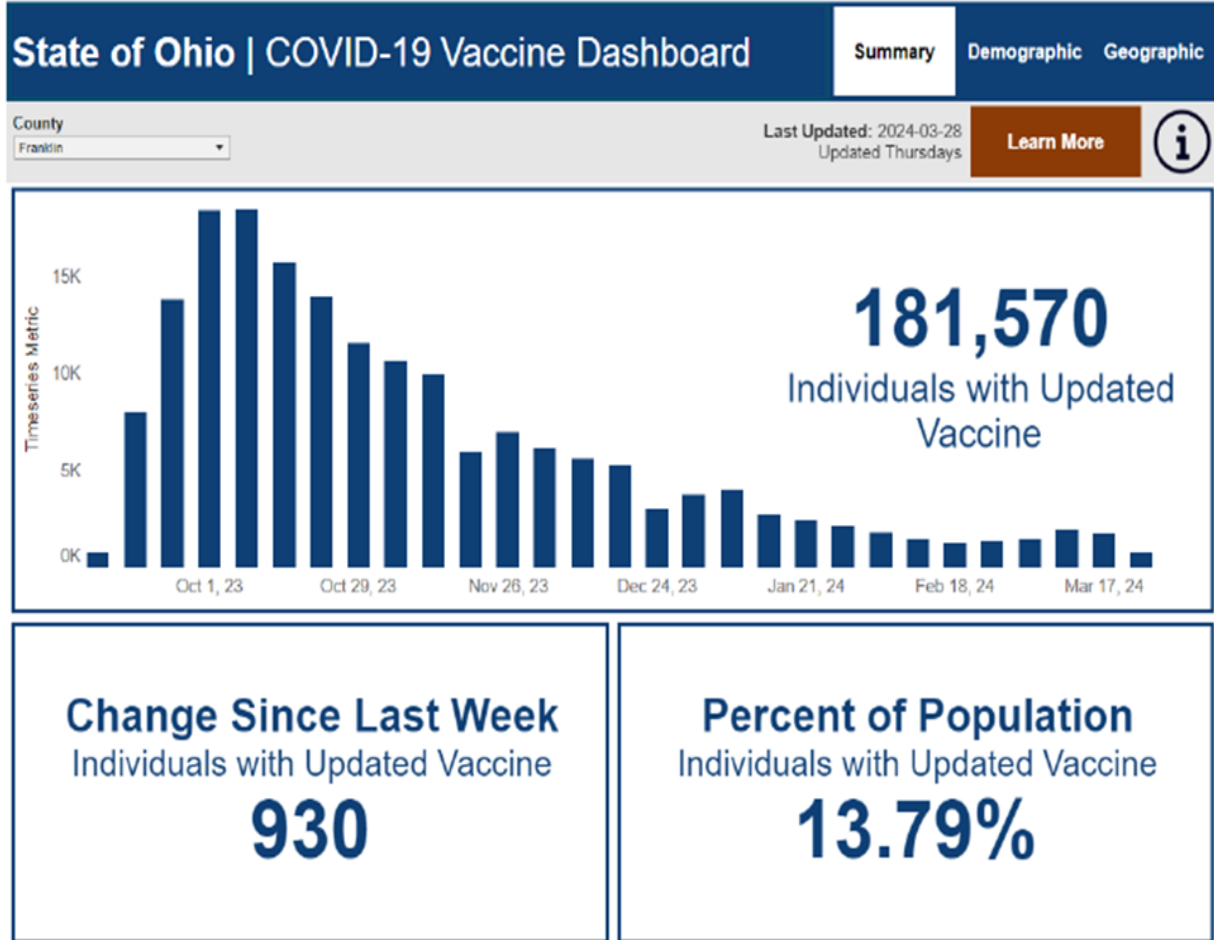


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Division of Prevention & Wellness
Bexley Board of Health Report
April 2024

For additional information on COVID-19 vaccine and wastewater data, please visit the [Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

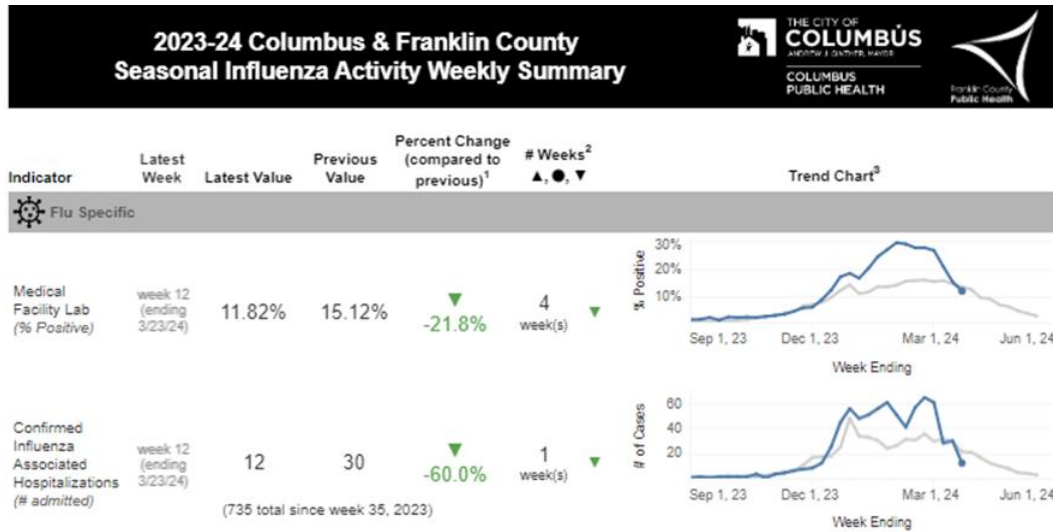
In Franklin County, 13.79% of the population has received an updated vaccine. Please note that vaccine data are no longer required to be reported by Ohio by vaccine providers.





2023-2024 Franklin County Seasonal Influenza Activity

Local influenza activity remains high, but we are starting to see a downward trend in the indicators.



Source: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/columbus/viz/Flu_Surveillance/Dashboard-FluActivity

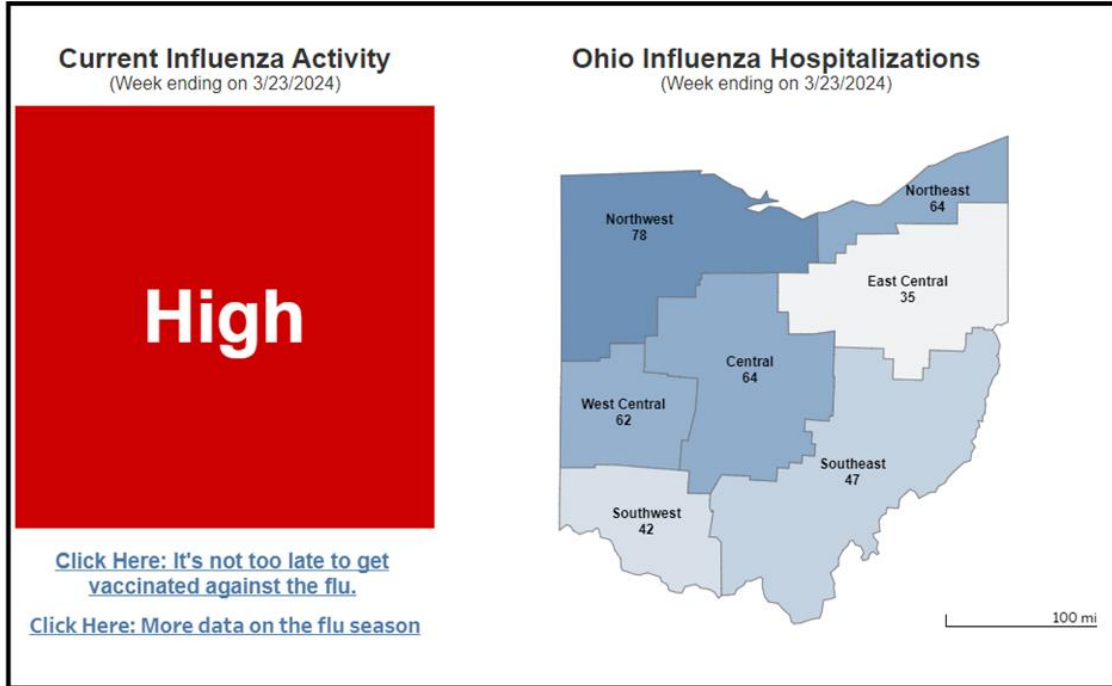


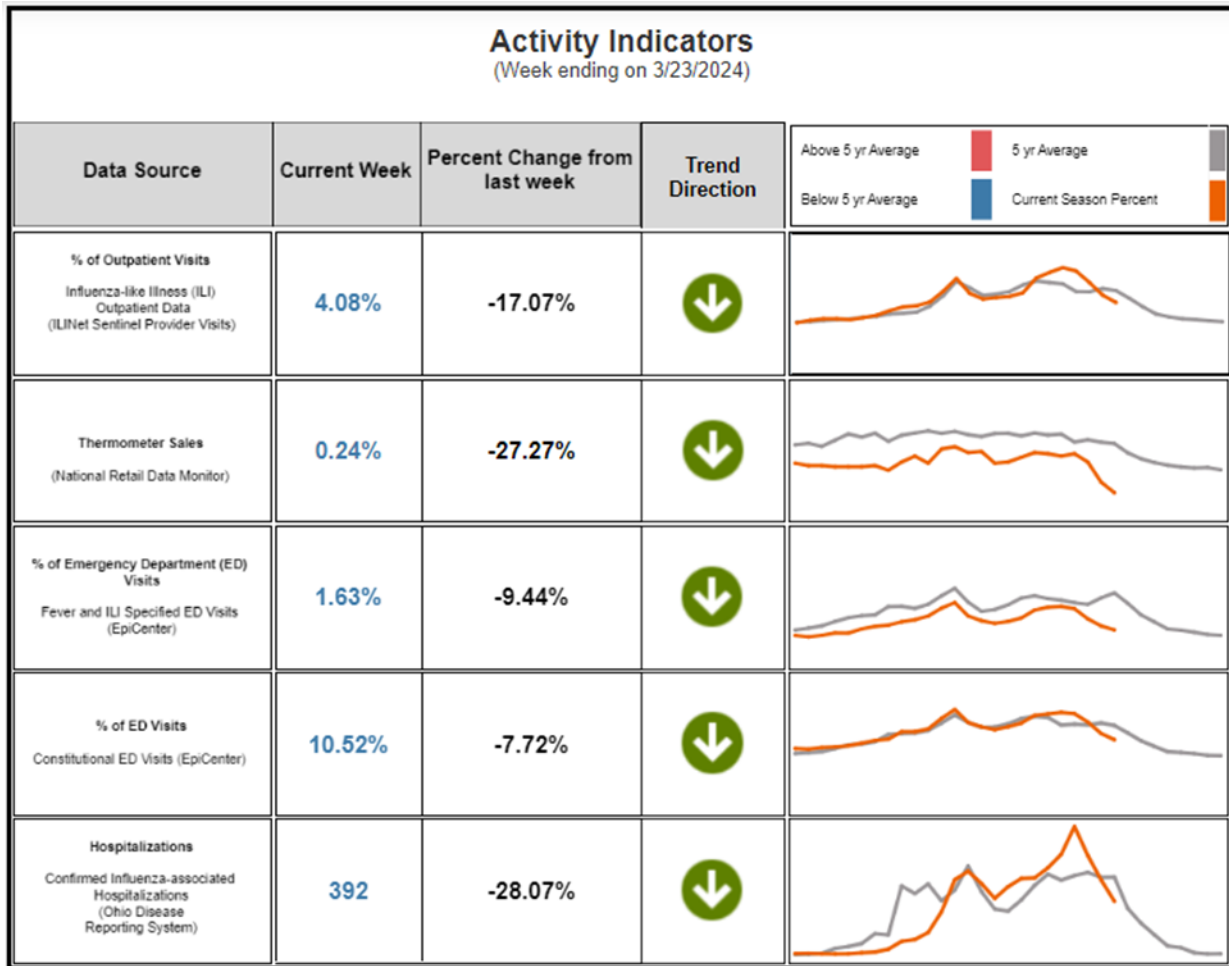
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State of Ohio | Current Influenza Activity

Last Updated: 2024-03-29
 Updated Fridays During Flu Season



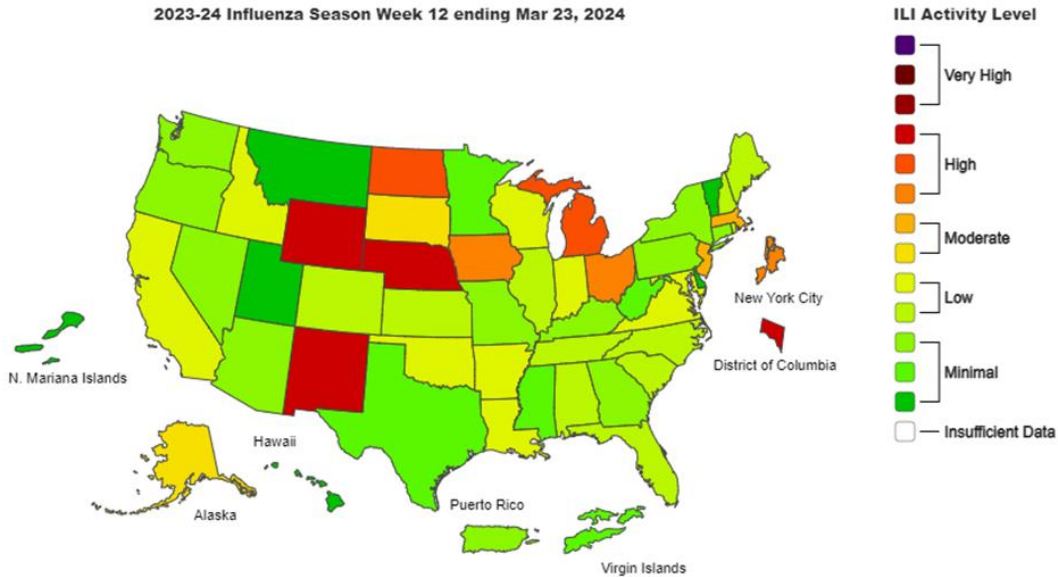


Footnotes:

- **National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM)-Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug Purchases:** A five-year average, which includes data from the 2016-2017 season through the 2018-2019 season in addition to the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons is displayed. Thermometer sales from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons have been omitted from the five-year baseline average due to abnormally high sales during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Emergency Department Visits (EpiCenter):** A five-year average, which includes data from the 2016-2017 season through the 2018-2019 season in addition to the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons is displayed in the figure above. EpiCenter data from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons has been omitted from the five-year baseline average due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Sentinel Providers (ILINet):** A five-year average, which includes data from the 2016-2017 season through the 2018-2019 season in addition to the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons is displayed in the figure above. ILINet data from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons has been omitted from the five-year baseline average due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (ODRS):** A five-year average, which includes data from the 2016-2017 season through the 2018-2019 season in addition to the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons is displayed in the figure above. Influenza-associated hospitalization data from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons has been omitted from the five-year baseline average due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza/influenza-dashboard>

NATIONAL ACTIVITY



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

Top 15 Reportable Condition	FCPH Case Counts		
	March 2024	2024 YTD	2023
COVID-19	341	2625	10913
Chlamydia infection	135	506	2203
Gonococcal infection	40	142	789
Influenza-associated hospitalization	35	189	132
Hepatitis C - chronic	12	30	150
Pertussis	<10	22	27
Streptococcal – Group A Invasive	<10	15	60
Campylobacteriosis	<10	23	137
Syphilis – stage Unknown	<10	<10	<10
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	<10	11	15
Syphilis – early	<10	15	49
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	<10	17	108
Salmonellosis	<10	11	75
Syphilis - unknown duration or late	<10	25	70
Giardiasis	<10	16	43

Data are current as of 3/27/2024

Contains Suspected, Probable, and Confirmed cases

Cases counts labeled as <10 due to confidentiality purposes

Counts do not include cases in cities of Columbus and Worthington; only FCPH jurisdictions are included

HIV data is excluded

Respectfully submitted by Alex Jones, Assistant Health Commissioner/Director of Prevention & Wellness, April 5, 2024.