

## COVID-19 Vaccine Arrives: Phased Vaccination Approach

**During Phase 1 vaccine supply will be limited.**

Vaccine administration will be focused on reaching critical groups.

**PHASE 1A**

- Health care workers and personnel, who are routinely involved with the care of COVID-19 patients
- Residents and staff at nursing homes
- Residents and staff at assisted living facilities
- Patients and staff at state psychiatric hospitals
- People with developmental disabilities and those with mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, who live in group homes, residential facilities, or centers and staff at those locations
- Residents and staff at our Ohio veterans homes
- EMS responders

**PHASE 1**

**Supply Limited**

Vaccine is available in limited supply for specific critical populations. Ohio will focus on vaccinating those most at risk, as well essential healthcare workers and personnel caring for COVID-19 patients. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.

**PHASE 2**

**Supply Increasing**

Vaccine is increasing and available for other specific critical populations who choose to be vaccinated. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.

**PHASE 3 - 4**

**Widely Available**

Once the vaccine is widely available, Ohio will continue to strategically vaccinate Ohioans if they choose. During these phases, vaccines will begin to be available to all Ohioans.

As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



**Ohio** Department of Health

**coronavirus.ohio.gov**

COVID-19 vaccines have arrived. While we all hope the vaccine distribution goes smoothly, there are bound to be some bumps in the road as Ohio (and Richland County) begin the “phased approach” to vaccinations. There may be a breakdown in the supply chain. We may fall short of our goals. And we may find out something new that will cause us to change our plans. So you should know that things are still going to change despite our best plans, because this is a pandemic. And during a pandemic, things change. We promise to keep you updated through our local media partners and social media. See the links at richlandhealth.org and know what’s going on through the **Count On Me Richland County** initiative (see CountOnMeRC.com or #countonmerc).



Denise Close, RN, gives the COVID-19 vaccine to an EMT.

Many have commented that since we now have a vaccine it’s the end of the pandemic. Instead, we can compare what we are up against to a war on the virus. As Winston Churchill said, after a pivotal victory in the early stages of World War II, *“This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”*

We still have a long way to go. So stay diligent. Continue to wear your mask, socially distance, and wash your hands. Can we count on you, Richland County?

For additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines, quarantining Q&A, general COVID-19 Q&A and updated data, see the sliders at the top of the page at richlandhealth.org

**National Health Observances for January:** Cervical Health Month; Birth Defects Prevention Month; Glaucoma Awareness Month; Blood Donor Month; 20: King Day of Service (Community Service Day); 24-30: Healthy Weight Week; 31: World Leprosy Day.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Health services for people of all ages who are residents of Richland County. Services are provided through our on-site clinic, in the community and through our home visits.

Public Health Clinic	November	YTD
Immunizations (visits)	103	809
International Travel (visits/consults)	0	19
STI/HIV Testing	1	110
Total Visits	104	807

For Clinic Appointments for child, adult, travel, and shingles vaccine as well as flu shots: call 419-774-4700. All visits to the Clinic are by appointment.

Public Health Nursing	November	YTD
CMH (client visits)	6	104
Community Health Screenings	0	162
Influenza Vaccines (Flu Shots)	103	286
Lead Case Management	0	2
Newborn/Prenatal Home Visits	1	164
Cribettes distributed	0	69
School Nurses (student care YTD)	175	1,928

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT

Infectious Diseases (not flu/sti/covid)	16	209
Influenza (A & B)	6	1,069
Hospitalizations due to Influenza	0	94
COVID-19 (coronavirus)	2,084	3,633
Hospitalizations due to COVID-19	75	275

### Sexually Transmitted Infection

STI Positive Results	38	711
Chlamydia	30	486
Gonorrhea	8	226
Syphilis	0	0
HIV	0	0

### WIC Services - Nov.

New Participants	167
Recertifications	260
Other Contacts	489
<b>Total Ashland &amp; Richland Counties:</b>	<b>916</b>



## Flu Shots Still Important

### Is it a cold, the flu, or COVID-19?

The common cold, flu, and COVID-19 are all respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Because these three types of illnesses have similar symptoms, it's hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone.

COVID-19 is obviously a very serious infection and flu is worse than the common cold. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations. COVID-19 and flu can have very serious associated complications, especially for people 65 and over.

People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems and symptoms can be lessened with over-the-counter medications.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and flu can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue (tiredness). COVID-19 often includes diarrhea and the loss of taste and smell. Symptoms of the flu typically appear one to four days after infection while COVID-19 symptoms may take as long as 14 days after infection. Not sure which one you have? Talk to your doctor and get tested if necessary.

Although a flu shot won't stop COVID-19, getting a flu shot may keep you out of the hospital and lower the burden on health care facilities handling the pandemic.

**Call 419-774-4700 to schedule your flu shot at a time convenient for you.**

## Hypothermia Awareness

When cold weather strikes, Richland Public Health reminds Richland County residents to be aware of hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature).

Hypothermia occurs when more heat escapes from your body than your body can produce. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia may include gradual loss of mental and physical abilities. Severe hypothermia can lead to death.

For most people, hypothermia isn't a serious risk. Still, each year nearly 700 people in the United States die of hypothermia. Common causes are prolonged exposure to cold air or water temperatures.

When you're outdoors enjoying such activities as camping, hunting, ice fishing, and skiing, be aware of weather conditions and whether you or others with you are wet and cold. If you get cold and wet, move indoors and get warm and dry early — before you develop hypothermia.

Hypothermia usually occurs gradually. Often, people aren't aware that they need help, much less medical attention. Common signs to look for are **shivering**, which is your body's attempt to generate heat through muscle activity, and the **"-umbles"**: Stumbles, Mumbles, Fumbles, Grumbles. These behaviors may be a result of changes in consciousness and motor coordination caused by hypothermia. Other hypothermia symptoms may include: slurred speech; abnormally slow rate of breathing; cold, pale skin; fatigue, lethargy or apathy. **Persons exhibiting these symptoms need medical attention immediately.**

Children and the elderly are at greatest risk. For more information, please see the story on our website at [richlandhealth.org](http://richlandhealth.org)

*The Richland Public Health "Health Report" is a monthly production of the Community Health and Prevention Sciences Division. Suggestions and corrections, including mailing label corrections, are welcome. Call Reed Richmond, Health Education and Communications Specialist, at 419-774-4726 or email [rrichmond@richlandhealth.org](mailto:rrichmond@richlandhealth.org)*

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## VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, check the website at [richlandhealth.org](http://richlandhealth.org) or call 419-774-4500.

	November	YTD
<b>Total Births (all ages)</b> .....	86	1211
Births to Teens.....	6	96
Repeat Births*.....	53	791

	November	YTD
<b>Total Deaths</b> .....	149	1377
Female.....	65	681
Male.....	84	696

Causes of Death		
Heart Related.....	46	418
Cancer.....	25	232
Alzheimers/Dementia.....	11	130
Lung Diseases.....	12	123
Strokes/CVA.....	7	75
Accidents (drugs/falls/crashes).....	7	73
Renal/Kidney.....	4	59
COVID-19 (coronavirus).....	20	48
Flu/Pneumonia.....	2	36
Suicides.....	0	15
Homicides.....	1	3
Infant Mortality (see below).....	0	3
Other (not listed above).....	9	126
Deaths Pending Autopsy.....	4	17

\*repeat births = 2nd or more live births  
Birth & Death statistics include City of Shelby

### Infant Mortality: Richland County

**November: 0** **Year To Date: 3**  
Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Infant deaths are considered an important indicator of the overall health of a society. Deaths to residents occurring outside of Richland County are not reflected in county death statistics. **KNOW the SAFE SLEEP ABC's: Alone, on Back, in a Crib.**

### CALLING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Main Number.....	419-774-4500
Public Health Clinic.....	419-774-4700
Public Health Nursing.....	419-774-4540
Environmental Health.....	419-774-4520
Com. Health & Prev. Sciences...	419-774-4761
WIC.....	419-774-4560

**GET YOUR FLU IMMUNIZATION**  
Call 419-774-4700 for appointments.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



555 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Richland Public Health**

