

One Year Into the Pandemic in Ohio, Caution is Mixed with Hope

It started with a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 31, 2019 of a new type of coronavirus in China (soon named COVID-19).

By the first of April 2020, the coronavirus pandemic claimed more than half a million cases and more than 30,000 deaths from the respiratory virus worldwide.

In the United States, breakouts raged in Seattle, New York, New Orleans, and Detroit. Ohio, after recording its first COVID-19 death in mid-March, put "shelter in place" orders in effect.

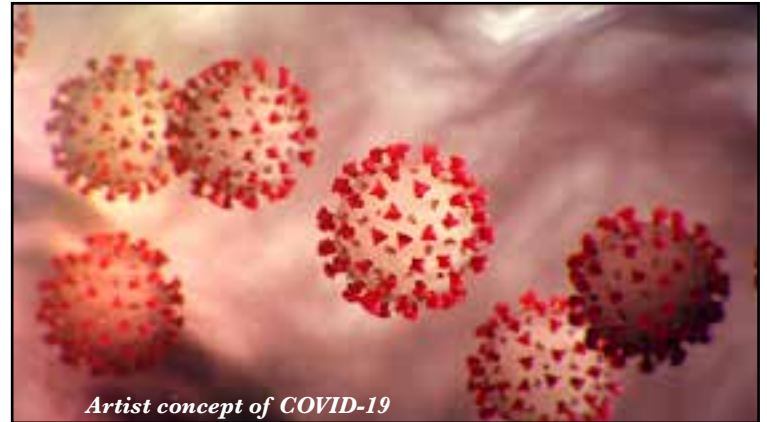
Richland Public Health's emergency preparedness team opened an Incident Command Center as cases started in Richland County, working with local hospitals, urgent care facilities and physicians, Richland County Emergency Management Authority, Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Some changes in operations at Richland Public Health took place in mid-March and into April 2020. WIC services and the Public Health Clinic operated by appointment only with most other services operating remotely. Zoom™ meetings were added to normal daily operations. Some socially distanced programs, like Environmental Health's mosquito spraying operations, continued as usual.

COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to affect every phase of life, with masking, social distancing, and frequent hand washing common behavior. In late December 2020, vaccines against COVID-19 began to arrive, with Richland Public Health vaccinating first responders on December 28.

By the end of 2020, more than 5,000 people in Richland County had contracted COVID-19 and 125 had died. But with vaccinations starting and ramping up in March, there was a renewed sense of hope. While there is concern about coronavirus mutations and their potential to start another wave of infections, there is also the positive news that more people across the United States and in Ohio are getting vaccinated.

To get your COVID-19 vaccination at Richland Public Health, call 1-866-395-1588, M-F from 9a-7p and Sat. from 9a-Noon. To find other vaccine providers locally, go to richlandhealth.org/vaccine-registration.

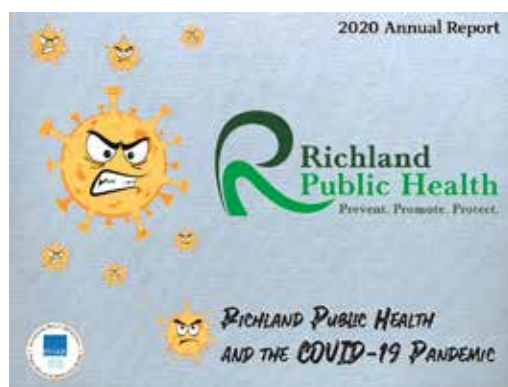


2020 Annual Report Available Online or by Mail

Richland Public Health's 2020 Annual Report is available online. The 12-page report includes highlights of activities, statistics, and photos from this past year, and a look back on a year of the pandemic.

The report is available for viewing while on the website (richlandhealth.org) as a scrolling read or as a PDF download.

The simplest way to find the report is by clicking on the "Annual Report slider" at the top of the page. It is also listed on the main menu under the "About Us" tab.



2020 Annual Report cover

Don't have access to a computer? Call 419-774-4761 and we'll mail you a copy of the 2020 Annual Report.

National Health Observances for April: Minority Health Month; Child Abuse Prevention Month; Alcohol Awareness Month; Distracted Driving Awareness Month; Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; Donate Life Month; **April 5-11:** National Public Health Week; **April 11-17:** STD Awareness Week; **April 24-30:** World Immunization Week; **April 24-30:** Infant Immunization Week; **April 7:** World Health Day; **April 22:** Earth Day; **April 24:** World Meningitis 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	February	YTD
Immunizations (visits).....	11	33
International Travel (visits/consults).....	0	0
Nurse Appointments	0	0
COVID/Other Vaccinations	1,569 . . .	3,104
Total Visits.....	1,580 . . .	3,137

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	February	YTD
CMH (case contacts).....	211	361
Community Health Screenings (postponed/covid)		
Influenza Vaccines (Flu Shots).....	3	4
Lead Case Management.....	0	0
Newborn/Prenatal Home Visits.....	10	16
Cribettes distributed.....	8	14
School Nurses (student care YTD).....	116	250

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT

Infectious Diseases (not flu/sti/covid).....	9	27
Influenza (A & B).....	0	3
Hospitalizations due to Influenza.....	0	0
COVID-19 (coronavirus).....	634	2,488
Hospitalizations due to COVID-19.....	59	160

Sexually Transmitted Infection

STI Positive Results	59	122
Chlamydia.....	46	100
Gonorrhea.....	13	20
Syphilis.....	0	2

WIC Services - Feb.

New Participants	167
Recertifications	291
Other Contacts	389
Total Ashland & Richland Counties:	847



Keep the Spring in Your Step and Avoid Weather-Related Falls



After a long winter, Spring is finally here. We can get out and enjoy the outdoors and get some much-needed exercise. However, severe spring weather and other conditions can increase your risk of falling:

- Rain and mud – Mud can be as slippery as snow and ice and can get on a variety of surfaces indoors and out. Avoid walkways that are covered with mud. Clean wet and dried mud off of your shoes and walking aids to maintain the most traction.
- Storms – Spring storms can cause a variety of tripping hazards from power outages

to debris in outdoor walkways. If you can't see the path before you, find another way.

- Flooding – Never walk or drive into flood waters! Still water can make you trip and moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Increased activity – Ask your doctor or physical therapist about strategies to safely increase your activity level.

Falls are not a normal part of aging, but as we age, we may be more susceptible to serious injury from a fall. One in three Ohioans age 65 and older will fall this year, and that rate goes up to one in two after age 79.

Fortunately, most falls can be prevented when you understand your risks and remove or avoid hazards.

Visit www.steadyu.ohio.gov for more tips and resources to prevent falls.

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Our COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Number is 1-866-395-1588.

Last month we got the good news that the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was approved by the FDA, making more doses available. That has helped relieve some of the demand.

As of April 1, 2021, Richland Public Health will be vaccinating everyone 18 and older as we have the Moderna vaccines. 16- and 17-year-olds need the Pfizer vaccine. We are encouraging all adults to get vaccinated so Ohio can stay ahead of possible COVID-19 variants (mutations) that are now in Richland County.

As of the last Monday in March, Richland County had vaccinated 27,673 with at least one dose of the vaccine and Ohio had vaccinated 3.245 million.

Additional providers were added in Richland County in March. See our website at richlandhealth.org/vaccine-registration for the latest updates. On that page you'll also find links to how Ohio's total vaccinations are progressing and the entire list of COVID-19 providers in Ohio.

COVID-19 Cases as of March 31, 2021 (since 12/31/2019)

Location	Total Cases	Deaths	Total Recovered
Richland County	10,694	210*	10,210
Ohio	1,017,566	18,609	966,373
United States	30,417,211	551,503	22,889,887
Worldwide	128,490,863	2,808,439	72,899,266

*This number is as of 3/26/2021. The rest of the data for Richland County and Ohio is from ODH. The U.S. and World data is from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

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

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 or call 419-774-4500.

	February	YTD
Total Births (all ages)	102	213
Births to Teens.....	8	14
Repeat Births*.....	55	132

	February	YTD
Total Deaths	124	319
Female.....	60	163
Male.....	64	156

Causes of Death		
Heart Related.....	41	95
COVID-19 (coronavirus).....	6	55
Cancer.....	26	42
Lung Diseases.....	8	23
Alzheimers/Dementia.....	12	21
Strokes/CVA.....	8	16
Renal/Kidney.....	3	7
Accidents (drugs/falls/crashes).....	2	4
Flu/Pneumonia.....	2	4
Parkinsons.....	3	3
Suicides.....	0	1
Homicides.....	0	0
Other (not listed above).....	7	33
Deaths Pending Autopsy.....	6	14

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

Infant Mortality: Richland County

For February: 0 **For 2021 to date: 1**

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

Richland Public Health is an equal opportunity employer/provider of services.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



555 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Richland Public Health