



Fairfield County  
Health  
Department

# 2021

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ANNUAL REPORT



# Health Commissioner Report

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R. Joseph Ebel R.S., M.S., MBA



Hello, I'm Joe Ebel, Fairfield County Health Commissioner. I joined the Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) in April of 2021, after the retirement of our former Administrator, Larry Hanna. Larry came to the department in October 2006 as the environmental health director. He became the department's administrator about five years later.

I have over 30 years of public health experience, having worked in Licking, Morrow, Marion and Crawford counties during that time. I am excited to work with our talented staff at FCHD as we move out of our pandemic response and move to advance public health services and programs in Fairfield County.

The Fairfield County Health Department's activities in 2021 were primarily focused on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccines became available in December of 2020 and eligibility expanded to all adults by the spring of 2021. Early COVID-19 vaccine efforts were focused at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds where 10,337 vaccines were given. The Fairfield County Health Department opened a mass vaccination clinic at the River Valley Mall where 19,738 vaccinations were given. We also worked with the Violet Township Fire Department to set up a drive-through vaccination site in Violet Township where 1,008 vaccinations were administered. FCHD staff, partners, and volunteers gave a total of over 33,183 COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses during 2021.

To reduce the community spread of the virus we performed contact tracing, the quarantine of exposed individuals, and isolation of positive cases. This required a huge effort by FCHD staff and contract employees.

When in-person school resumed in the fall, we worked closely with the school staff to implement risk reduction and to perform quarantine and isolation notifications for exposed students and staff and to exclude positive cases from school. Eventually, the schools were able to adopt the "Mask to Stay" and "Test to Play" policies developed by the Ohio Department of Health, which helped to keep more students in the classroom.

During the pandemic, our normal public health activities continued. Environmental Health was busy with an increase in new home construction, which means increased well and sewage permits and plumbing inspections. Food safety was still important, and our staff inspected restaurants (Food Service Establishments) and grocery and convenience stores (Retail Food Establishments), with most facilities receiving two inspections per year.

Our nurses focused on COVID-19, but worked on other communicable disease investigations, childhood immunizations, flu clinics, and home visits.

We hired a health educator to begin expanding our health promotion and disease prevention activities. Investing in prevention activities is at the heart of public health and is much more cost effective than treating preventable illnesses later in life.

In 2022, we will continue to work to make Fairfield County a place where everyone is empowered to reach their full health potential by preventing disease, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

# Administration

## 2021 Board of Health



Tina Childers, President



Steven Kapetansky,  
MD, MPH



Dave Petty



Brian Oliver



Teresa Wood,  
PhD., RN, NEA-BC

## Health Commissioner



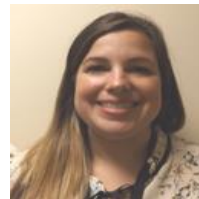
R. Joseph Ebel R.S., M.S., MBA



Stephanie Fyffe MPH, BSN, RN  
Director of Nursing



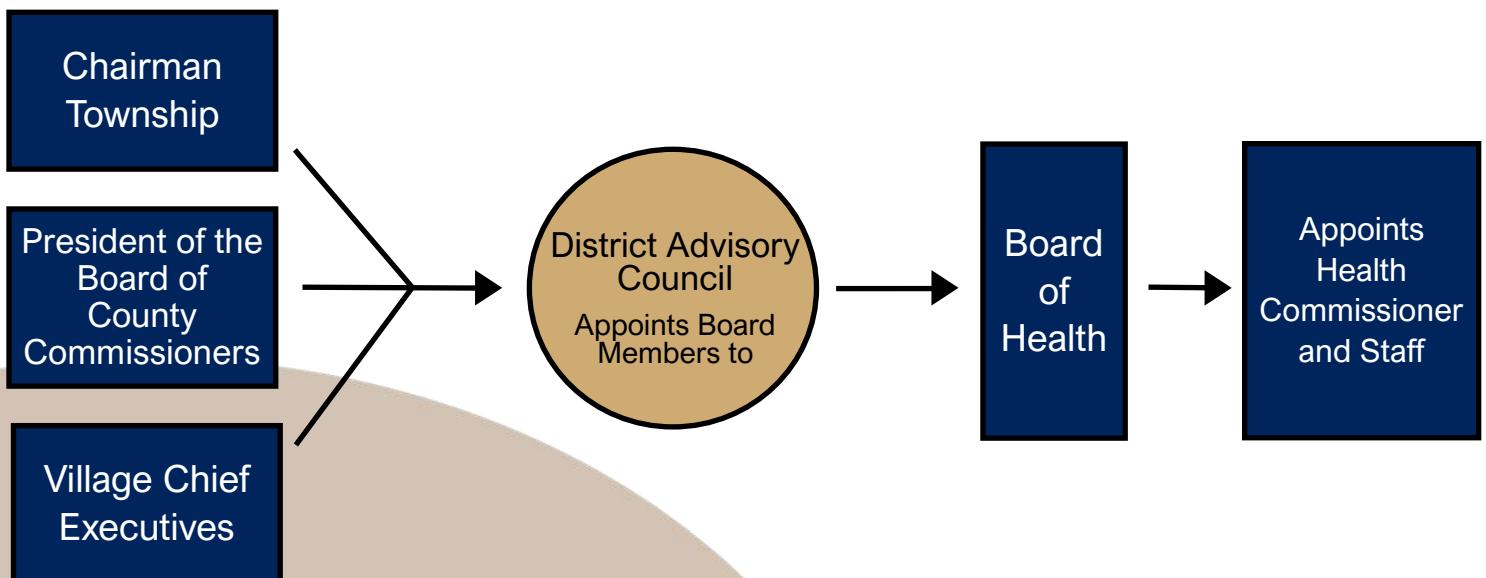
Mary Smith MEd, DTR, LSW, CLC  
WIC Project Director



Rachel Moresea REHS  
Environmental Health Director

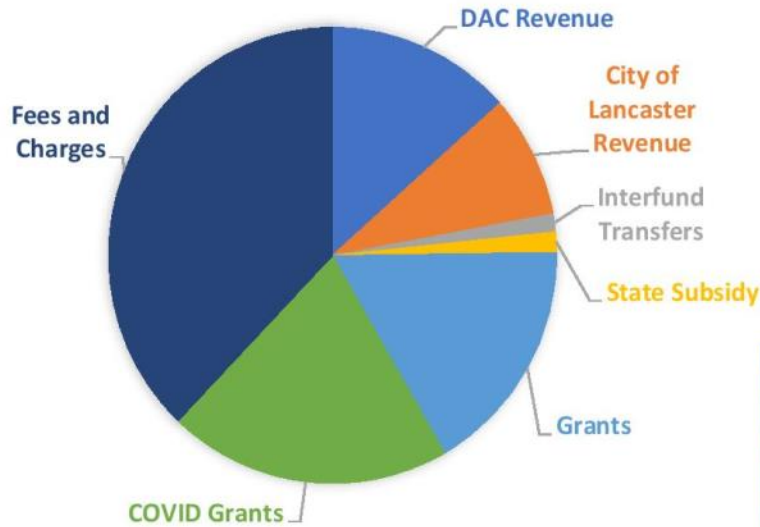


Jamie Ehorn  
Administrative Services  
Director



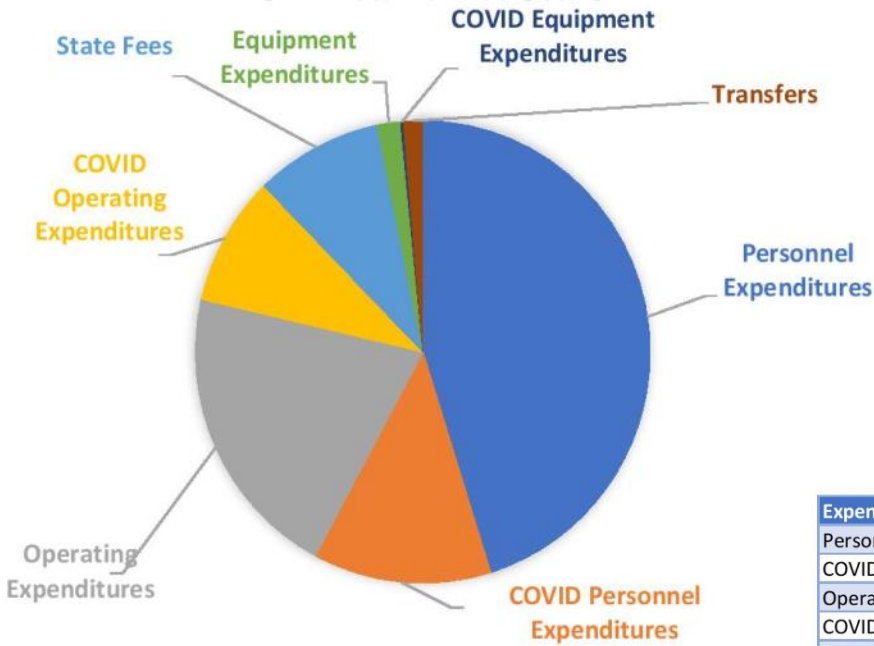
# 2021 Financial Report

## 2021 FUNDING SOURCES



Funding Sources	2021
DAC Revenue	\$ 514,375.92
City of Lancaster Revenue	\$ 333,296.11
Interfund Transfers	\$ 48,800.00
State Subsidy	\$ 54,198.47
Grants	\$ 649,347.58
COVID Grants	\$ 784,094.29
Fees and Charges	\$ 1,454,151.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,838,264.02</b>

## 2021 EXPENDITURES



Expenditures	2021
Personnel Expenditures	\$ 1,637,692.14
COVID Personnel Expenditures	\$ 458,814.73
Operating Expenditures	\$ 755,890.81
COVID Operating Expenditures	\$ 328,289.67
State Fees	\$ 328,899.48
Equipment Expenditures	\$ 60,904.92
COVID Equipment Expenditures	\$ 7,191.15
Transfers	\$ 48,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,626,482.90</b>



# Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Public health preparedness for emergencies, business continuity, mass care events, pandemics and many other events involves all departments of FCHD. Emergency management and response functions are integrated into each program and into each plan created by FCHD. The PHEP program oversees the Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers and serves as co-chair for the Fairfield County Healthcare Coalition. The PHEP program also oversees all training and exercising, as well as quality improvement, for the Fairfield County Health Department.

- Received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Operational Readiness Award for expanding and training the MRC volunteers.
- Expanded the Fairfield County Healthcare Coalition members to assist in future planning
- Was awarded the NACCHO MRC Leadership and Preparedness Summit award to allow our MRC to enhance capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies.
- The PHEP Coordinator was nominated to serve on the Central Region Coalition Operations Advisory Board, housed by the Central Ohio Trauma System, to ensure Fairfield County has a voice in regional planning and assist with plan development for FCHD for future emergencies.



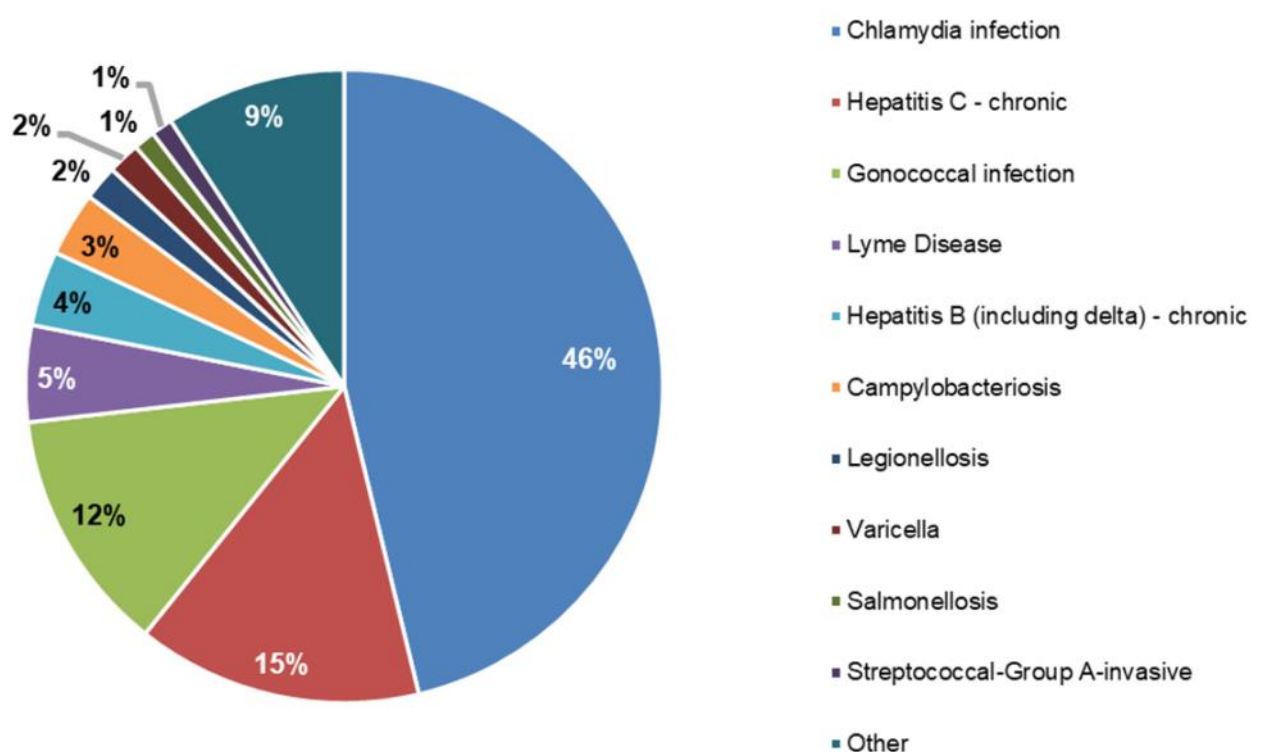
# Vital Statistics

<b>2021 Vitals Report</b>		
<b>Births for Fairfield County Residents</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Total Births</b>	<b>1642</b>	<b>1727</b>
Mother's age under 18	9 (0.5%)	13 (0.8%)
Mother's age 18 to 19	40 (2.4%)	40 (2.3%)
<b>Deaths of Fairfield County Residents</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1684</b>	<b>1817</b>
Deaths by Suicide	18	29
Deaths by Cancer	325	315
Deaths by Accident	118	126
Deaths by Homicide	4	11
Deaths by Heart Disease	330	331
Deaths by COVID-19 (01/01/2021-12/31/2021)	135	220
<b>Top Baby Names</b>	<b>2021</b>	
<b>Boys</b>	Elijah (9), Asher (7), Cooper (6), Lincoln (6) Sawyer (6), Oliver (5), Colson (5)	
<b>Girls</b>	Eleanor (12), Amelia (9), Emma (8), Sophia (7), Avery (7), Kennedy (6), Elizabeth (6)	

# Epidemiology Report

Fairfield County Health Department investigated 731 reported disease cases in 2021, excluding COVID-19 investigations. Chlamydia remained the most frequently reported disease accounting for 46% of all cases. Hepatitis C and gonorrhea cases were the next most frequently reported diseases. (Note: Not all diseases are required to be reported to local health departments. In Ohio, there are about 90 diseases that are considered reportable infectious diseases.)

2021 Communicable Diseases Report (Excludes COVID-19)			
<b>Flu</b>	<b>2020 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Incidence Rate</b>
Hospitalized Flu Cases	61	8	5.0
<b>STDs</b>	<b>2020 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Incidence Rate</b>
Chlamydia	354	338	212.7
Gonorrhea	112	91	57.3
<b>Hepatitis (A-C)</b>	<b>2020 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Incidence Rate</b>
Hepatitis A	3	4	2.5
Hepatitis B - chronic	19	28	17.6
Hepatitis C - chronic	85	106	66.7
<b>Top 5 Diseases 2021</b>	<b>2020 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Cases</b>	<b>2021 Incidence Rate</b>
Chlamydia infection	354	338	212.7
Hepatitis C - chronic	85	106	66.7
Gonococcal infection	112	91	57.3
Lyme Disease	15	36	22.7
Hepatitis B (including delta) chronic	19	28	17.6



# Public Health Nursing Division

## **Nursing Programs**

### Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)

Judy Scali is our CMH nurse. She works part-time in this program to assist families in finding providers and services for children with special medical needs. She also assists with finding financial assistance for these services.

### Help Me Grow (HMG)

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Early Childhood Program contracts with FCHD for a part-time nurse to conduct home visits. In addition to CMH, Judy Scali also works in the HMG program. Judy goes out with a team to do evaluations for children who may need special referrals or other services. When COVID-19 hit Fairfield County, this program was limited.

### Perinatal Leadership

Perinatal Leadership is a coalition of many community partners that focuses on pregnant women and their new babies, ensuring they are healthy. This group identifies barriers in care for women who are facing challenges and collaborates to reduce these gaps. The goal is to have healthy women birth healthy babies and surround them with resources.

FCHD continues to focus on Plans of Safe Care from the Comprehensive Addiction and Recover Act (CARA) legislation. Any infant exposed in utero to illicit drugs or other compounds requires a Plan of Safe Care. The goal of this legislation is to surround the family unit with resources to lead happy and healthy lives.

Fairfield County was one of the first three counties in Ohio to turn this legislation into a community plan with the support of the Ohio Injury Prevention Program (OIPP), Child Injury Action Group (CIAG), and the Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT) Grants.

### Get Vaccinated (GV) Ohio Grant

FCHD continued to implement the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The foundations of this grant focus on improving immunization rates in Fairfield County while removing barriers that prevent children from getting vaccinated. Due to COVID-19 this program was delayed for half the year.

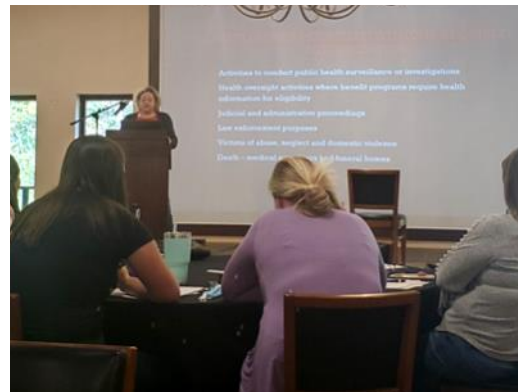
### Tuberculosis (TB) Unit

FCHD is the appointed TB Unit for the county. FCHD provides skin testing which screens for TB. These screenings are required for select school programs, employment, and medications. FCHD works to provide physicals to immigrants moving to Fairfield County as well. Lastly, FCHD provides case management for people who have active TB disease including Daily Observation Therapy (DOT), side effects of prescriptions, investigations, and screenings of close contacts.

### Infections Disease Investigation and Control Program

Health departments are required to monitor and investigate reportable diseases. The Ohio reportable diseases are usually reported by laboratories, physicians or their offices, hospitals daycares, and schools.

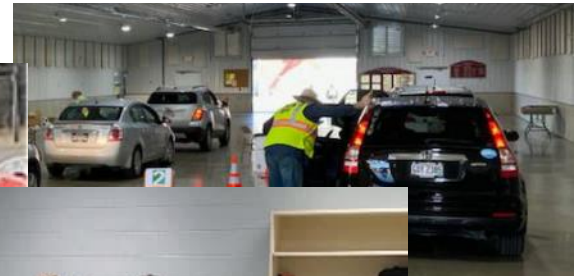
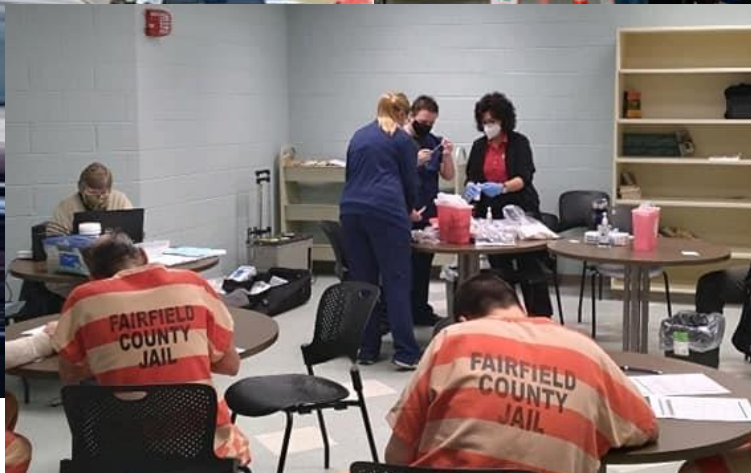
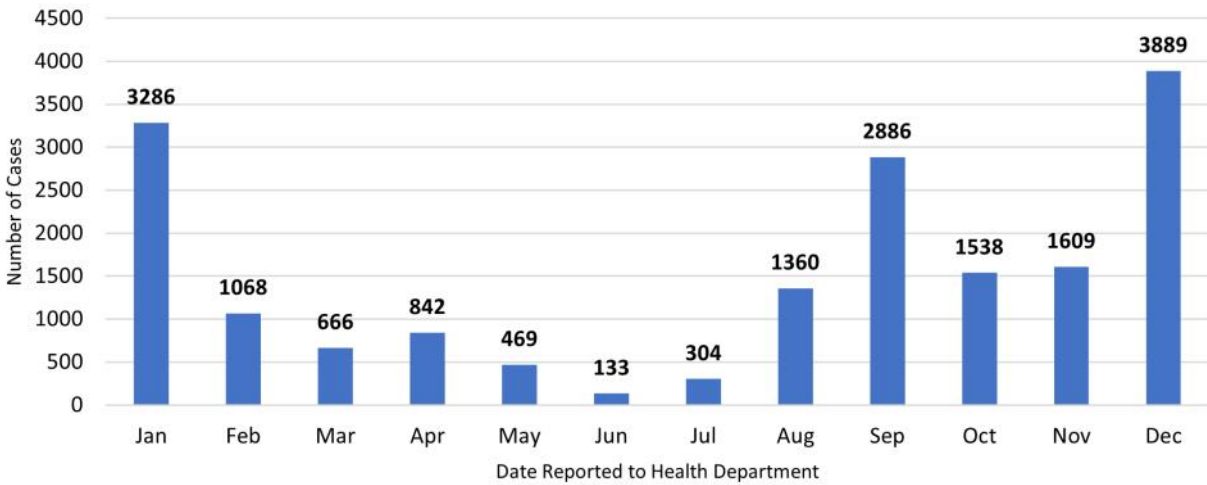
The Infectious Disease Program is also responsible for COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigation. In addition to these services the program provides surveillance and guidance to community entities including long-term care facilities , schools, and daycares.



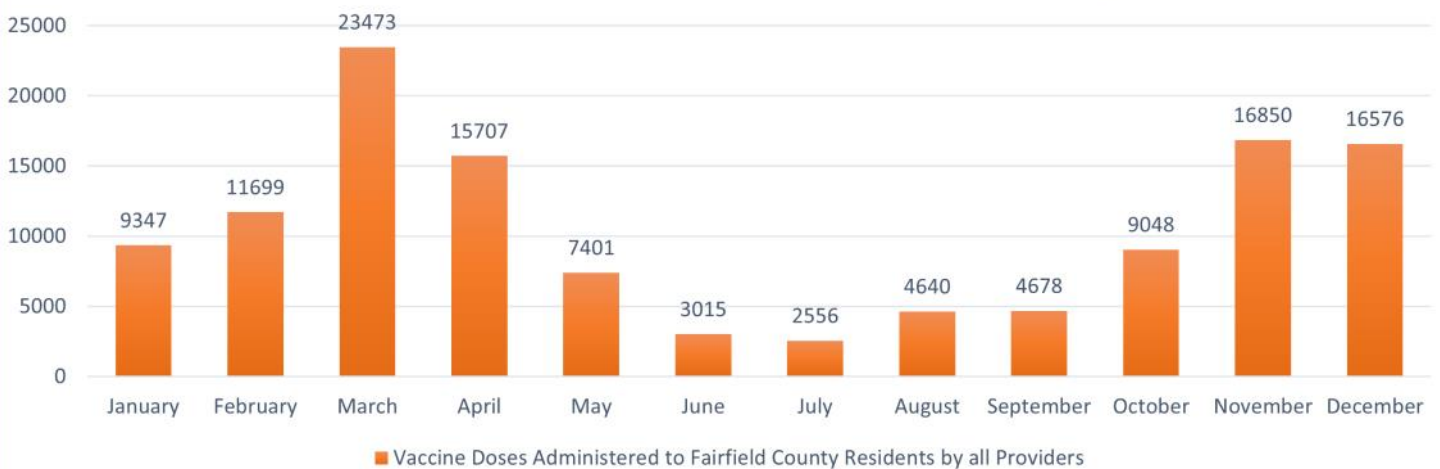


# COVID-19 Pandemic 2021

## 2021 COVID-19 Cases by Month in Fairfield County



## Total (1st, 2nd, and booster) Vaccine Doses Administered by Month



# Environmental Division

## **Environmental Health Programs**

### Food Safety Program

Food Safety Program staff work to protect the community against food-borne illnesses by educating and inspecting all food service and retail food establishments including, restaurants, grocery stores, mobile food services, food vending machines, and temporary food establishments.

### MS4 Program

FCHD conducts Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) inspections on discharging aeration systems in Violet Township, Liberty Township sections 6 and 30R, and the Lithopolis area. This program is part of the U.S. EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff.

### Rabies

When an animal bite is reported to our office as a result of a person being bitten by an animal such as a dog, cat, or bat, the Environmental Health Division conducts an animal bite investigation to determine if the animal has or is experiencing signs of rabies. Animals are quarantined and further action is taken as necessary. Staff encourages vaccination for all animals to help prevent the spread of the rabies virus.

### Vector Grant (Mosquito Control)

We received grant funding again in 2021 from the Ohio EPA Mosquito Control Grant Program. With this funding we were able to hire a summer employee to trap and collect mosquitoes. Sites were chosen throughout Fairfield County, and trapping took place from June through August. All mosquitoes were identified, and all Culex mosquitoes were tested for West Nile Virus. A mosquito spraying program will be implemented moving forward.

### Recreation Programs

The public swimming pool and campgrounds programs protect the public from injury, the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy recreational environment. Recreational programs include: Campgrounds, resident camps, pools, and spas.

### Schools

FCHD staff perform two school environment inspections a year to help school districts improve the environmental health of the school facility. State guidelines are used by staff for those inspections.

### Household and Small Flow Sewage Treatment Systems

Sewage Program staff permit and inspect all new residential and commercial small flow septic systems to ensure that they are designed and installed correctly. They permit and inspect existing septic systems that require an alteration permit for repairs and respond to sewage nuisance complaints.

### Plumbing Program

Our plumbing inspector permits and inspects the plumbing in all new homes and commercial buildings, existing home additions, and existing commercial building remodels.

### Private Water Systems

Much of Fairfield County does not have a public water supply. Many homes are served by a private water system which could be a well, cistern, hauled water storage tank, spring, or pond. The private water staff permits, inspects, and samples all new private water systems in the county and samples existing wells to ensure safe drinking water.

### Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

FCHD continues to take part in the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program to help low to moderate income families repair or replace their failing septic systems.

### Solid Waste Program

FCHD includes an Ohio EPA approved enforcement program charged with regulating solid waste activities in Fairfield County. The Solid Waste Program includes the oversight of the collection, storage, and final disposal of all solid waste.

### Body Art Program

Body Art Facilities are also monitored and licensed to ensure safe and sanitary conditions are being maintained. Body art establishments include businesses that offer tattoos, piercings, permanent makeup/cosmetics, and microblading.



# Environmental Division

## 2021 Campgrounds, Pools, MHP, Animal Bites by Political Subdivision

Political Subdivision	Campgrounds & day camps	Public Pools	Mobile Home Parks	Animal Bites	Site Visits Total
Amanda Twp	0	0	0	9	9
Berne Twp	0	6	0	7	13
Bloom Twp	2	4	0	8	14
Clearcreek Twp	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfield Twp	0	2	0	0	2
Hocking Twp	0	2	0	0	2
Liberty Twp	0	1	0	0	1
Madison Twp	0	0	0	1	1
Pleasant Twp	0	4	0	0	4
Richland Twp	0	0	0	0	0
Rushcreek Twp	0	0	0	0	0
Violet Twp	0	10	0	8	18
Walnut Twp	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster City	7	44	8	134	193
Pickerington City	0	0	0	0	0
Amanda Village	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore Village	2	3	0	11	16
Bremen Village	0	2	0	5	7
Carroll Village	0	0	0	7	7
Lithopolis Village	0	0	1	1	2
Millersport Village	0	0	0	7	7
Pleasantville Village	0	2	0	3	5
Rushville Village	0	0	1	2	3
Stoutsville Village	1	0	2	7	10
Thurston Village	0	0	1	0	1
West Rushville Village	0	0	0	0	0
Buckeye Lake Village	2	0	1	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>318</b>

# Environmental Division

## 2021 Sewage and Water Permits/ Complaints by Political Subdivision

Political Subdivision	Sewage Permits	Well Permits	Lot Splits/ Lot Inspect.	Nuisance complaints	Complaints abated	Site Visits Total
Amanda Twp	11	13	2	3	2	20
Berne Twp	18	21	4	7	7	36
Bloom Twp	39	49	6	2	1	72
Clearcreek Twp	15	10	3	1	1	19
Greenfield Twp	17	21	8	4	3	30
Hocking Twp	11	10	5	1	1	17
Liberty Twp	25	32	7	2	2	42
Madison Twp	13	15	3			18
Pleasant Twp	25	30	5	1	1	37
Richland Twp	2	2	2			10
Rushcreek Twp	21	16	5	2	2	30
Violet Twp	13	15	4	15	9	41
Walnut Twp	11	31	3	3	3	39
Lancaster City	1		1	2	1	4
Pickerington City						
Amanda Village						
Baltimore Village						
Bremen Village				1	1	2
Carroll Village						
Lithopolis Village						
Millersport Village				1	1	1
Pleasantville Village						
Rushville Village						
Stoutsville Village						
Thurston Village						
West Rushville Village						
Buckeye Lake Village						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>418</b>



# Environmental Division

## Environmental Health Food Safety Total Inspections 2021

Political Subdivision	Retail Food Establishment	Food Service Operation	Mobile	Vending	Total Inspections
Lancaster City	85	162	38	30	562
Violet	4	28	5		68
Pickerington	3	19	5		39
Lithopolis Village	2	7	3		22
Liberty	1	2	1	1	10
Baltimore Village	3	12	9	1	41
Walnut	1	2	1		7
Millersport Village	3	11	13	2	50
Thurston Village		1			2
Bloom			2		2
Greenfield	3	25	2		58
Carroll Village	3	7	4		24
Pleasant	3	7	3		23
Pleasantville Village	1	2	2		8
Richland	2	5	3		20
West Rushville Village	2				4
Amanda Village	2	9	5		27
Amanda	1	2	1		7
Hocking	2	1	2	3	11
Bremen Village	2	4	4		18
Berne	1	3	9		18
Sugar Grove Village	2	2			8
Rushcreek	2	2		1	9
Rushville Village	2	1			6
Clearcreek	1	1	1		5
Stoutsville Village	2	3			10
Madison			2		2
Total	133	318	115	38	1061

# Women, Infants, and Children

(WIC)

WIC is a nutrition education program. WIC provides nutritious foods that promote good health for pregnant women, women who recently gave birth, breastfeeding moms, infants and children up to age 5. Some of the nutritious foods provided include cereal, eggs, milk, whole grains, peanut butter, beans, fruits, and vegetables. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals for obtaining specialty health care. In 2021, the Fairfield County WIC Program served an average of 1,060 participants per month.

In 2014, WIC added another site located in Pickerington, Ohio at the Government Services Building (11050 Tussing Road). WIC served an average of 243 participants at this location per month during 2021.

The USDA provided the Ohio WIC program a waiver to perform WIC appointments over the telephone during the COVID 19 Pandemic. In January 2021, the Fairfield County WIC program staff returned to the office to perform WIC Certifications, Recertifications, and Follow-up appointments over the telephone during the COVID 19 Pandemic. The parent or participant continued to come into the health department to load their benefits on their WIC Nutrition Card.

The local WIC program issued 236 Farmer Market Coupons and 96 were redeemed at Farmer Markets, total percentage redeemed was 40.68%

WIC Vendor Redemption: \$351,504.53 was spent by WIC participants on the purchase of WIC Authorized Foods in Fairfield County.



2021	Initiated BF	Goal
January	54%	50%
February	53%	50%
March	49%	50%
April	48%	50%
May	47%	50%
June	47%	50%
July	47%	50%
August	47%	50%
September	49%	50%
October	58%	50%
November	58%	50%
December	57%	50%
<b>Average</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>50%</b>

## Program Highlights

### Average Monthly Caseload

Fairfield County Health Department Location  
1060 participants per month

Pickerington Site 243 participants per month

### Farmers Market Coupons

Issued 236 coupons

# Health Education

2021 was an exciting year at the Fairfield County Health Department! The addition of a Health Educator allowed some new programs to go out into the community and help bring awareness to several topics. Physical materials and digital messaging through social media was utilized to increase health related messaging throughout the county.

## Program Highlights:

- **Stomp Out Germs:** This program provided curriculum, books, hands-on activities, and more to participating Kindergarten through Third grade classrooms in Fairfield county to learn about hand washing, germ prevention, and hygiene.
  - ◇ Over 1,600 students received materials
  - ◇ 70 teachers received classroom supplies
- **WIC Reading Readiness:** Fairfield County Community Foundation awarded FCHD a grant from the Terry A. McGhee/Sally J. Grimm Community Fund to provide books to our WIC participants.
  - ◇ 300 families will receive books for the Prekindergarten aged children
- **Whole Health Bags:** Goody bags featuring a healthy recipe, safe cooking information, information on general wellness, and more went out to those participating in our COVID-19 Thanksgiving test kit give away.





Fairfield County  
**Health  
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