

From the Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, REHS, MS MBA :



The first half of 2024 has been seen new programs, new staff, and our continued commitment to work every day to help residents live long, healthy lives.

We welcomed new staff, including Mackenzie Kaminiski (Epidemiologist), Riley Ernst (Emergency Planner), Shannon Mentzer (Public Health Nurse, and Crystal Warner (Public Health Nurse).

We have launched our Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Program, Welcome Home, to provide no cost home visits to new parents to help with

questions about caring for a newborn, breastfeeding, safe sleep, and making referrals to programs like Help Me Grow, Early Head Start, WIC, Cribs for Kids, and medical and mental health services in the county. This program is being supported by the Fairfield County Foundation, Fairfield County United Way, and the Fairfield County ADAMH Board.

Through a \$70,000 Healthy Aging Award approved by the County Commissioners, we were able to help 7 households repair or replace their failing sewage treatment systems. This, in addition to our 2024 \$150,000 Ohio EPA grant, allows us to help income qualifying homeowners of all ages repair or replace their failing sewage systems.

We also received a grant this year to provide fall prevention equipment, like grab rails, to the Violet Township Fire Department to help prevent household injuries for vulnerable residents in their community.

The Fairfield County Health Department is always looking for ways bring additional federal, state, and local grant funding into our community to help our residents reach their full health potential.

Stay in touch with us online!



@fairfield_health

@fairfieldco1550



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FDHealth



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FairfieldCountySC



fairfieldhealth.org



Healthy Eating & Active Living

Contact: bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Lancaster Community Garden

FCHD is excited to announce Lancaster's new community garden at the Lancaster Camp Ground! The garden contains six garden beds that have been rented out by community members, as well as one garden bed being used for educational purposes by the county's Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program.

WIC is using their garden bed to educate children on how to plant produce, care for a garden, and eat healthier. They plan to offer the extra produce from their garden bed to community members once the plants are grown. Signage posted next to their bed indicate what produce is planted and when it is ready to harvest.

This garden was made possible through generous donations from community partners, as well as the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) program that FCHD participates in through the Ohio Department of Health. HEAL is a program that aims to increase healthy eating and active living opportunities. The community garden was created as part of FCHD's efforts to increase access to fresh food in the Fairfield County, as the most requested HEAL initiative by the community in 2023.

Cribs for Kids

FCHD continued to promote safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed **72 free "crib kits"** containing a cribette, fitted sheet, sleep sack, and educational materials from January-June of 2024. For more information on how to see if you are eligible for a crib, contact kaleigh.pulsinelli@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



AARP Community Challenge



AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages

FCHD received funding to engage adults 50 years and up in conducting bike path audits. The goal of the program is to ensure bike paths and walking paths are safe for older adults to use and feel comfortable to get physical activity. The bike path audits will be conducted in Lancaster and will be completed by September 2025. The results of the audits will be communicated to Lancaster City to guide future improvements. Contact baylie.blevins@fairfieldcountyohio.gov for more information.

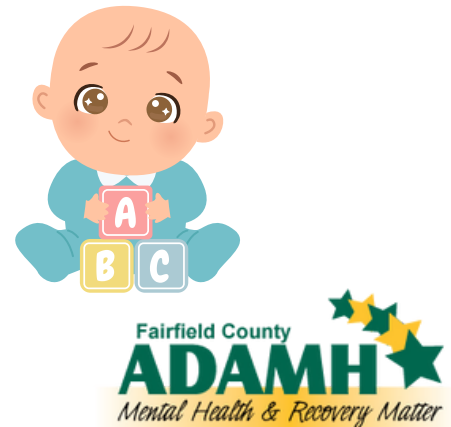
Welcome Home

Contact: gale.neville@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Newborn Home Visiting

FCHD has successfully started a Newborn Home Visit program to provide new parents with extra support after baby is born. This program will allow a public health nurse to provide education to the caregiver on how to take care of themselves and the baby. FCHD has received 15 referrals and made 6 home visits to support families in our community!



The program is done in partnership with the Fairfield County Foundation, Fairfield County ADAMH Board and the United Way of Fairfield County.



For questions or more information call Shannon Mentzer, RN at 740-652-7169 or email: shannon.mentzer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Older Adult Falls Prevention

Contact: baylie.blevins@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

FCHD has recently launched an Older Adult Falls Prevention Program. Through this program, FCHD is collaborating with the Violet Township Fire Department's Community Paramedic Program to assess older adult's homes for falls risk. Older adults will then be able to receive free grab bars, anti-slip mats and/or be referred to attend a Matter of Balance class. Matter of Balance classes will be taught at the Pickerington Senior Center during the month of September. These classes, taught by the Fairfield County Senior Hub, empower and equip older adults with the skills to prevent falls.



A MATTER OF
BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS



Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

FCHD continues efforts to reduce dependence on nicotine through the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation grant. The two main goals of the program is to prevent youth and young people from starting using tobacco and nicotine-containing products, and to help adults to stop using tobacco and nicotine products.



Fairfield County's Youth Tobacco Use Action Plan was completed to address the issue of youth usage along with **54** tobacco retailer store audits across the county. The point of sale audits collected data on how tobacco products are marketed and promoted.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Contact:
hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)

FCHD has given a total of **1,055** Naloxone kits since January 2024. Approximately **118** kits were distributed to First Responders throughout Fairfield County.

FCHD has started a **mail order** for the Project DAWN kits. The only requirement is that you are a Fairfield County Resident to have up to two Project DAWN kits shipped directly to you at no cost. To place your order, go to the Project DAWN Tab on the FCHD's website and complete the survey.



Project DAWN Contact:
megan.baker@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

Call **740-652-2851** for **FREE** Naloxone.

For more information, visit the Project DAWN program tab at fairfieldhealth.org

Medical Reserve Corps & Emergency Preparedness



Fairfield County MRC 2024 Mid-Year Check-in:

- 82 MRC Volunteers (+6)
- 161.5 volunteer hours
- Economic Value: \$5,446.15
- Sponsored 33 community members
CPR Certifications



Contact Riley Ernst at
riley.ernst@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Emergency Preparedness

Distributed over 800 solar eclipse glasses for the North American Solar Eclipse on April 8th. Collected over 1,400 glasses to be recycling through Astronomers Without Borders

Traffic Safety

Contact: bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Fatal Crash Data

This quarter, there were 4 fatal accidents, compared to the 5 in quarter 2 of 2023. Variables that contributed include but are not limited to drug-related, failure to yield-related, motorcycle-related, OVI-related, and unbelted-related variables. The Safe Communities Coalition works to reduce these variables and the number of fatal crashes in Fairfield County. For more information or to be involved, reach out to the Traffic Safety Contact



Events

The first annual Tri-County Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo was a success! 30 children were fitted for a free helmet, learned about the "rules of the road", and practiced bike handling skills.

Find us at these upcoming events for a free helmet and other swag!

Bike Race for Lancaster Festival - July 26

Tour de Buckeye Lake - August 17

Public Health Nursing & Communicable Disease



The Fairfield County Health Department has investigated a total of **533** reported disease cases, excluding Covid-19 from January 2024 to June 2024. The disease with the highest cases so far this year is Chlamydia, **37%** of total cases.

The table below highlights the top 5 reported diseases in our community for the first half of 2024.

Top 5 Diseases	Number of Cases
Chlamydia	197
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations	70
Gonorrhea	54
Lyme Disease	42
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	27

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS)

BACK TO SCHOOL Vaccine Clinics

AUGUST 6 and **AUGUST 20**

4:30pm-6:45pm by appointment.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR KIDS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, MAKE SURE THEY ARE UP TO DATE ON THEIR REQUIRED VACCINATIONS. SOME OF THE VACCINES WE OFFER INCLUDE:

DTAP/POLIO • MENINGITIS • MMR/VARICELLA • TDAP • HPV

FCHD also has vaccine clinics during regular business hours on Tuesday and Thursday every week. We also have a clinic in Pickerington once a month on the third Wednesday of each month, by appointment. Call 740-652-2800 to make an appointment for all clinics.



WIC: Women, Infants & Children

Contact: mary.smith@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



WIC is continuing to focus on offering Nutrition Education with various topics in several formats to make sure it is relevant and accessible for all participants! We offer in-person breastfeeding class with Kaleigh, access to online self-paced modules to complete at home, and the Nutrition Education Station tablet in the waiting room.

Starting in May, WIC partnered with AHA to offer hands-on gardening activities one day a month! Children had fun planting vegetables, pulling carrots, and tasting greens. Each child got to take home a tomato plant, as well as lettuce and basil harvested from the garden!

Farmer's Market Coupons

FCHD's WIC program passes out Farmer's Market coupons to eligible families to purchase fresh foods at the Lancaster Farmer's Market. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call 740-652-2800.

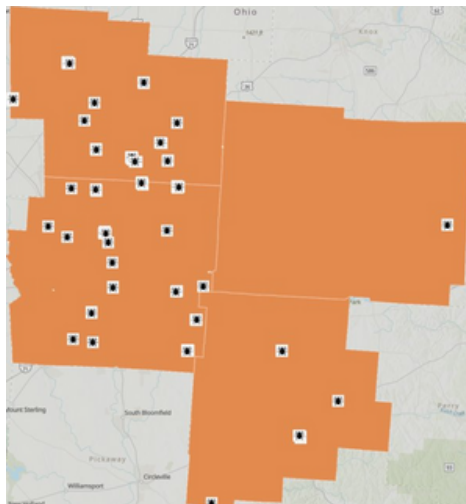
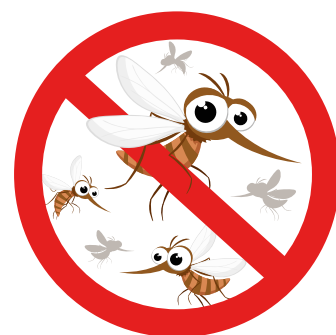


Environmental Health

Contact: rachel.moresea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Mosquito Control

Mosquito season is almost here! Mosquitos are considered vectors for many diseases including West Nile Virus. FCHD offers low cost spraying as part of an integrated pest management approach to reduce mosquitos in Fairfield County. FCHD started spraying the end of May. If you are interested in contracting with FCHD for these services please contact Rachel Moresea at rachel.moresea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Tick Blitz

FCHD participated in the Tick Blitz in May to collect ticks for testing across parks in Fairfield County. There were over 40 volunteers in 20 locations across four counties. Over 200 ticks were collected! This program allowed us to make note of target areas that contain higher rates of ticks.

FCHD in the Community



FCHD was one of 47 counties in Ohio who received the 2024 Mosquito Control Grant. This funding goes directly to education and outreach efforts in our community, and to maintaining equipment that helps to prevent and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds to protect residents from serious mosquito borne illnesses.



FCHD staff did a Look Out For Motorcycles campaign at the Millersport, Rockin' The Block Event!



FCHD, with support from Tyrex Resources, hosted a tire collection event in Thurston in May. We collected over 1600 tires, filling a 53-foot trailer, a 28-foot trailer, and two box trucks.



FCHD received over 400 helmets from Put a Lid on It and Safe Kids to distribute to the community.



FCHD passed out seeds and educational materials for the Seeds of Change Earth Day Event at Rising Park



FCHD Environmental Health Staff put out Tick Collection Stations in parks all over the county. The ticks collected will be sent to a lab to be tested for diseases.