



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

This year we have been able to add a new Community Health Worker, who assists residents who need help accessing health care, housing, employment, food, mental health services, and other health and social services resources! Visit <https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/Nursing-WIC/FDH-Community-Health-Workers.html> for more information.

We are currently conducting our 2025 Community Health Assessment. This will result in a report that describes the health status of our county, and is used to drive public health policy and funding decisions to address the health needs in our communities. Changes in federal policy, leadership, and funding have presented unique challenges in 2025. The federal government cancelled grants in communicable disease control, and has paused other grant funding that we had expected to receive in 2025. Funding for the Ohio Department of Health laboratory, and other programs that help the state and local health departments monitor and respond to communicable disease outbreaks, was also cut.

In 2024, 41% of FCHD's funding came from federal, state, and local grants. We are constantly working to improve efficiency and find new funding sources, but these federal grant funds are critical in supporting the department's work to provide core public health programs and services to our residents.

We are in the process of applying for re-accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. We received initial national PHAB accreditation in 2020, and we must re-apply every 5 years.

Through all of these changes, we continue to focus on preventing disease, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles so that all of our residents can live long and healthy lives.

## Stay in touch with us online!

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## Lancaster Community Garden

In May, Community members helped clean up the community garden at the Lancaster Camp Ground and get it ready for its second year of growing. Thank you to everyone who came out!

All six of the beds available for rent have been claimed this year, with the seventh garden bed being used for educational purposes. If you would like to schedule a class or group visit to use the educational bed, please contact the Garden Coordinator at [bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov). We are also looking for volunteers to help care for the educational bed. Please reach out if you are interested!

## Walk Audits

A walk audit is a simple activity in which an individual or a team observes and evaluates the walkability of a location to document how and if pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection and get from point A to B, C and so on.

FCHD conducted walk audits along three routes in Lancaster last month. We were joined by Fairfield County Mobility Management, along with several other partners who had an interest in making Lancaster more accessible for individuals to walk, bike, and roll.



## Older Adult Falls Prevention

**Contact:** [kipchoge.vanhooose@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:kipchoge.vanhooose@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

FCHD has continued to provide fall prevention resources to older adult program facilitation and the provision of fall prevention items. FCHD has collaborated with OhioHealth and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) to host a Matter of Balance class at Pickfair Square retirement community. This class was taught from May through early July.

FCHD has also collaborated with OhioHealth to host a Stepping On class in Lancaster, which will be taught in the months of July and August. FCHD has also distributed falls prevention safety items and resources in the community. FCHD provided 40 non-slip mats to older adults at senior-focused events.

Stepping On

© Clemson & Swann (2017)



A MATTER OF  
BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS



OhioHealth

## Newborn Home Visiting

FCHD continued has continued to provide new parents with extra support after baby is born through the Newborn Home Visit program. This program will allow a public health nurse to provide education to the caregiver on how to take care of themselves and the baby. Contact Shannon to get signed up and receive a free gift! For more information call 740-652-7169 or email: [shannon.mentzer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:shannon.mentzer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

## Cribs for Kids

FCHD continued to promote safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed 69 free “crib kits” containing a cribette, fitted sheet, sleep sack, and educational materials from January-June of 2025. For more information on how to see if you are eligible for a crib, contact [kaleigh.pulsinelli@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:kaleigh.pulsinelli@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)



## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

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! As a result of an increase in caseload at the Pickerington office, a Dietetic Technician and a Nutrition Assistant were hired, and the days of operation were expanded from two days per week to four days per week: Tuesday through Friday. Visit [fairfieldhealth.org](http://fairfieldhealth.org) to view the new WIC income guidelines, effective July 1, 2025. For more information on WIC services, contact [mary.smith@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:mary.smith@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

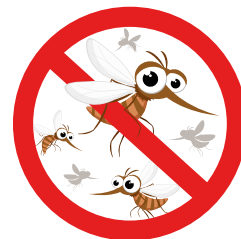
## Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB)

FCHD continues to provide car seats to eligible families, properly installing the car seat and providing education to each family. Car seat checks are also provided to any Fairfield County residents. Between January and June 2025, our car seat technicians conducted 10 car seat checks, and distributed 88 convertible car seats and 10 booster car seats. For more information on car seat safety, contact [hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

# Environmental Health

## Mosquito Control

Mosquito season is here! Mosquitoes 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 740-652-2800



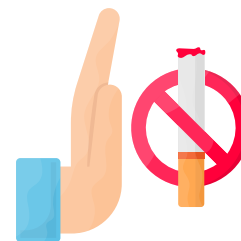
## Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant

FCHD is currently participating in the RFFM program through the FDA. This program enrolls us in the Voluntary Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, which are proven to reduce foodborne illness risk factors. This program will allow us to strengthen our food safety program to better support Fairfield County residents and visitors.



## 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 are 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.



FCHD conducted 53 compliance checks from February-April 2025. Six out of the 53 stores sold to minors, meaning Fairfield County had a compliance rate of 88.6%. FCHD also hosted an Anti-Vaping Video Contest. Youth were trained on the dangers of vaping and then came up with their own anti-vaping videos. Nine videos were submitted, with a total of 15 youth participating. Two media campaigns were completed, one promoting adult cessation, and one promoting youth vaping prevention reached over 161,000 people total.

**Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Contact:** [hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

## Integrated Harm Reduction

**Harm Reduction Contact:**  
[megan.baker@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:megan.baker@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

FCHD is a proud recipient of the Integrated Harm Reduction Grant from the Ohio Department of Health. This funding supports our ongoing efforts to minimize preventable injury or death in our county.

With this grant, FCHD continues to provide naloxone and fentanyl test strips to the public. In addition, we have expanded our offerings to include a broader range of harm reduction supplies such as sharps containers, medication and/or firearms lock boxes, condom kits, Detera drug deactivation pouches, pregnancy tests, and first aid kits.

Our collaboration with local first responders also remains a priority. FCHD is currently supplying naloxone to several fire departments throughout the county and plans to offer training sessions in the near future.

Distribution Highlights (January-June 2025):

- 30 units of naloxone to first responders
- 733 units of naloxone to general public
  - Of these, 59 kits were sent through our free mail-order program

FCHD is also excited to co-host Overdose Awareness Day again this year. Join us at the gazebo in downtown Lancaster on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, from 6:30-8:30 to hope, heal, and remember.



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

**NALOXONE SAVES LIVES**  
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# Medical Reserve Corps & Emergency Preparedness



## Emergency Preparedness

Fairfield County is in the early stages of creating the Fairfield County Community Crisis Intervention Team for crisis intervention and psychological first aid deployment.

## Fairfield County MRC 2025 Mid-Year Check-in:

- 87 MRC Volunteers (+5)
- 101 volunteer hours
- Economic Value: \$2,872.59
- Volunteers have been engaging in community outreach events, assisting in teaching CPR and Stop the Bleed trainings, and assembling Project DAWN kits.



Contact Riley Ernst at [riley.ernst@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:riley.ernst@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

## Traffic Safety

### Fatal Crash Data

There has been 1 fatal accident this year, compared to 7 this time in 2024. 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 [bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

### Bike Safety

The second annual Tri-County Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo was held in Fairfield County this year. 20 children were fitted for a free helmet, learned about the "rules of the road", and practiced bike handling skills.





The Fairfield County Health Department has investigated a total of **737** reported disease cases, excluding Covid-19 from January 2025 to June 2025. The disease with the highest cases so far this year is Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations, **32%** of total cases.

The table below highlights the top 5 reported diseases in our community for the first half of 2025.

Top 5 Diseases	Number of Cases
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations	234
Chlamydia	200
Pertussis	49
Lyme Disease	47
Gonorrhea & Hepatitis C (Chronic)	36 (for each disease)

**Source:** Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS)

## Back to School Vaccine Clinics

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

### August 12

4:30pm-5:45pm by appointment  
1550 Sheridan Dr. Ste 100  
Lancaster, OH 43130

### August 20

10am-3pm by appointment  
11050 Tussing Rd.  
Pickerington, OH 43147

FCHD also has vaccine clinics at our Lancaster office during regular business hours on Tuesday and Thursday every week. We also have a clinic at our Pickerington office once a month on the third Wednesday of each month, by appointment. Call 740-652-2800 to make an appointment for all clinics. Off-site clinics for flu and COVID-19 vaccinations can be held at workplaces, churches, schools, senior centers, and other locations.

## Community Health Worker

In February, FCHD hired a Community Health Worker (CHW). The CHW meets with Fairfield County residents to discuss their goals, needs, limitations, and then connects them with services around the county to help meet their health, social, and economic needs. The areas that our CHW can provide assistance on include but are limited to:

- Housing
  - Food
  - Clothing
  - Education
  - Diapers
- Transportation
  - Dental
  - Vision
  - Utilities
  - Legal Assistance
- Domestic Violence
  - Substance Abuse
  - Health Insurance
  - Identification Assistance
- Medical Referrals - Primary Care Doctors, Specialist, Mental Health

# FCHD in the Community



Four FCHD staff completed the Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program. They each spent six months working on projects to help local nonprofits and presented on them

FCHD participated in a CarFit event, facilitated by Fairfield County Mobility Management, to ensure drivers properly "fit" in their vehicles to prevent crashes



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



FCHD partnered with Lancaster Police to put on a Prom Promise presentation for the seniors of Lancaster High School



An MRC volunteer helped us do blood pressure checks at a health fair at Olivedale



We passed out household safety items at the Lancaster Farmers' Market for Safe Kids Month

One of our Health Educators presented on the community garden at the noon Rotary Meeting in Lancaster

