

DATE: April 5, 2024
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for April 9, 2024**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **April 9, 2024** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -March 2024

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -March 2024

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Parkinson's Disease-Dr. Jennewine

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-Jackie Phillips Carter & Carla Ealy, Spring Ohio Public Health Conference
2. Name, Address, Phone, Health History (NAPH) Form Update
3. 1st Quarter Report 2024
4. Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024 at 7:30am

it is the policy of the City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 425-7851 or 425-7705 (TDD) at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
March 13, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on March 13, 2024.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent and Excused

Amy Sibcy

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to excuse Ms. Sibcy from the Board of Health meeting.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2024

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the February 2024 minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-February 2024

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to board members that the completed revenue and expense reports for January were included in the packet. The February revenue report was unavailable at the time of the BOH meeting.

Motion: Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the February 2024 financial report.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Education Presentation- Total Solar Eclipse 2024-Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN

Ms. Corbin presented the board with information on the total solar eclipse that will occur on April 8, 2024. Ms. Corbin explained that a total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk.

The last total solar eclipse in Ohio was in 1806. There have only been 15 visible in the U.S. since 1867. The last one was in 2017 and was visible from Oregon to South Carolina. The next one visible in the U.S. will be in 2044, and the next one visible in Ohio will be in 2444.

Middletown will be in the southern aspect of totality. Totality will begin at approximately 3:08pm in Ohio and will exit the state at 3:19pm. Butler County will experience 2.5-3 minutes of totality. Other areas closer to the center line will have up to 4 minutes.

Populations within the totality area could double to quadruple depending on proximity to the centerline. There could be increases in traffic and stress on local infrastructure. There is also expected to be an increased demand on restaurants, stores and hotels.

If viewing the total solar eclipse, do not look directly at the eclipse. Purchase solar viewing glasses that comply with ISO12312-2 standards. You can make a projector that will prevent you from looking directly at the sun. A household item you could use to project onto a wall or the ground would be a colander.

Your phone camera is not a safe way to view the eclipse and may damage your camera. You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the moon completely obscures the sun's bright face- during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.

Plan accordingly for travel-full fuel tank, emergency equipment and water. Outdoor venues may not have sufficient shelter if the weather turns bad. Be aware of your surroundings.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to the board that Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training, Sarah Chaney, will be attending the annual Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA) Educational Conference April 11th and 12th in Columbus, Ohio.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to approve the travel authorization for Ms. Chaney to attend the OEHA Conference.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

2024 Public Health Week, April 1st-7th

Ms. Phillips Carter informed he board that Public Health Week is always the first week of April. This year's themes are: civic engagement, healthy neighborhoods, climate change, new tools and innovations, reproductive and sexual health, emergency preparedness and the future of public health. Ms. Phillips Carter emphasized that the themes align with Destination Middletown and Middletown Connect's goals of increasing civic engagement and making our neighborhoods and communities healthier and more connected. A proclamation is typically issued by the Mayor the first week of April.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Middletown Connect is gaining traction. Middletown Connect will be providing the BOH and the community with a presentation sharing the status of current goals and their future vision. Middletown Connect has been a great asset in giving communities voices through civic engagement.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Middletown Connect has been selected to present at the Ohio Public Health Spring Conference.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Point In Time information has been sent to City Managers.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that one of the goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was to start walking groups within Middletown communities. This goal has been achieved as Middletown now has two community walking groups in which community members can come together and address concerns and explore solutions together.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the February Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	26
COVID-19	168
CPO	1
Dengue	1
Gonococcal Infection	9
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	2
HIV	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	9
Pertussis	2
Salmonellosis	2
Syphilis	3
Tuberculosis	1
Varicella	2

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that there has been an increase in type A flu hospitalizations among the unvaccinated population. Most hospitalizations are 1-2 days in duration.

The case of salmonella last month did not turn out to be typhi, and the second case was a household contact of the first. Ms. Corbin stated that the dengue fever case reported was a traveler.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that CMHD is working on preparing education for the eclipse and sending information to schools and daycares.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that Dr. Jennewine has signed off on orders for the measles vaccine which will allow CMHD to be able to secure and distribute the vaccine in the event of an outbreak.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that food license renewal fees are still being collected. There are 40 facilities that have not renewed their licenses at this time.

Ms. Ealy stated that plans for 4 new facilities have been received: a mobile, Kroger remodel, Shaddock's remodel and a new La Rosa's.

Ms. Ealy stated that information regarding T21 payments has been sent to the finance department in preparation of refunding vendors for their T21 license payments.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Environmental Health Specialists-in-Training, Ms. Chaney and Ms. Barner, will be conducting temporary inspections at the Spring Blast Soccer Tournament held at Smith Park the weekend of March 16th.

Ms. Phillips Carter introduced board members to the new Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Leon, and to the new Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training, Brandy Barner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 AM. The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2024 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department

March 2024 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$8,213.78 Revenue Earned
- 702 Certificates Sold
- 44 Burial permits Processed

Environmental

- \$21,908.42 Revenue Earned

Indigent Services

- \$9,072 Spent of the \$20,000 Budget for Indigent Services for 2024
- 12 Applications approved (*4 waiting for invoices*)
 - 2 OD's (*1 COD Pending*)
 - Zero dollars in Reimbursements from the Embalmer's Association Program which ended May 2023

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027 - \$445,000
 - Multi-year project to support the development of current and future public health workforce
 - Award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
 - \$13,217.37 - *Deposited to date*
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 - \$24,361.62
 - Deliverable based pass-through with BCGHD
 - \$2,095 *Deposited to date*
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC Billing) 1/01/2024-12/31/2024
 - Yearly agreement. Payments approved quarterly
 - \$22,607.25- *Deposited to date*
- Smoking State Reimbursement
 - \$175.00 *Deposited to date*

City of Middletown Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 4/30/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND			Target Percent:	33.33%	
DEPT: 000						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	PHHS GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$9,300.00	\$0.00	\$19,349.93	(\$10,049.93)	208.06%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$14,334.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,334.00	0.00%
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$123,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$123,000.00	0.00%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	\$175,300.00	\$0.00	\$19,349.93	\$155,950.07	11.04%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$56,591.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,591.00	0.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$108,130.00	\$0.00	\$19,826.49	\$88,303.51	18.34%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$449.05	(\$449.05)	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$530.44	\$89.56	85.55%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,671.00	\$30,329.00	51.86%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,271.00	\$3,729.00	83.05%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,020.00	\$480.00	86.29%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$61.00	\$29.00	67.78%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,700.00	0.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,125.00	\$375.00	75.00%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$215.00	0.00%
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	\$284,546.00	\$0.00	\$75,953.98	\$208,592.02	26.69%
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc						
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%

Revenue Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 4/30/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
Reimbursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,455.04	(\$8,455.04)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$180,000.00	10.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$28,455.04	\$171,544.96	14.23%
	DEPT: 000 Totals:	\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$123,758.95	\$580,087.05	17.58%
228 Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$123,758.95	\$580,087.05	17.58%
Grand Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$123,758.95	\$580,087.05	17.58%
					Target Percent:	33.33%

City of Middletown Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200
Account Access Group: N/A
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 4/30/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: No
Include Pre-Encumbrances: Yes

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228	HEALTH FUND						33.33%	
DEPT: 450								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$600,840.00	\$24,069.08	\$154,967.03	\$445,872.97	\$0.00	\$445,872.97	25.79%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	\$84,118.00	\$0.00	\$17,943.13	\$66,174.87	(\$0.02)	\$66,174.89	21.33%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$24,034.00	0.00%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$23,019.86	\$80,128.14	\$0.00	\$80,128.14	22.32%
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	\$8,712.00	\$0.00	\$1,829.86	\$6,882.14	\$0.00	\$6,882.14	21.00%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,941.00	\$0.00	\$439.40	\$1,501.60	\$1,501.60	\$0.00	100.00%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	\$822,793.00	\$24,069.08	\$198,199.28	\$624,593.72	\$1,501.58	\$623,092.14	24.27%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$29.00	\$3,971.00	\$103.00	\$3,868.00	3.30%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$228.35	\$2,771.65	\$0.00	\$2,771.65	7.61%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.26	\$4,052.74	\$0.00	\$4,052.74	28.14%
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$156.50	\$3,343.50	\$0.00	\$3,343.50	4.47%
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$1,940.86	\$39,144.14	\$96.30	\$39,047.84	4.96%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$71,840.95	\$0.00	\$2,450.00	\$69,390.95	\$13,619.95	\$55,771.00	22.37%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$18,430.00	\$0.00	\$530.00	\$17,900.00	\$17,900.00	\$0.00	100.00%
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$249.33	\$1,750.67	\$0.00	\$1,750.67	12.47%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,109.00	\$6,891.00	\$0.00	\$6,891.00	13.86%
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$11,855.00	\$0.00	\$1,603.00	\$10,252.00	\$63.50	\$10,188.50	14.06%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$254.00	\$1,246.00	16.93%
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Contractual Services Totals:	\$170,850.95	\$0.00	\$9,883.30	\$160,967.65	\$32,036.75	\$128,930.90	24.54%
Commodities								

Expense Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 4/30/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$157.99	\$2,342.01	\$668.21	\$1,673.80	33.05%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$19.38	\$180.62	\$19.00	\$161.62	19.19%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$196.22	\$3.78	98.11%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$384.62	\$115.38	76.92%
	Commodities Totals:	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$177.37	\$3,222.63	\$1,268.05	\$1,954.58	42.51%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$436.37	\$4,363.63	\$0.00	\$4,363.63	9.09%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$436.37	\$4,363.63	\$0.00	\$4,363.63	9.09%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	DEPT: 450 Totals:	\$1,001,843.95	\$24,069.08	\$208,696.32	\$793,147.63	\$34,806.38	\$758,341.25	24.31%
228 Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$24,069.08	\$208,696.32	\$793,147.63	\$34,806.38	\$758,341.25	24.31%
Grand Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$24,069.08	\$208,696.32	\$793,147.63	\$34,806.38	\$758,341.25	24.31%

Target Percent: 33.33%

City of Middletown Health Department

Travel Request

2024 Ohio Public Health Conference

Health Commissioner, Jackie Phillips Carter and Environmental Director-Assistant Health Commissioner, Carla Ealy will be attending the Spring Ohio Public Health Conference held in Columbus April 29th through May 1st. Jackie will be attending all three days of the conference, while Carla will be attending day two only.

The goal of the conference is to advance the mission of public health in Ohio and celebrate the people behind the achievements.

Total budgeted costs for both attendees for this conference: \$1,007.76



Ohio's Public Health Conference

Celebrating Public Health:
People and Purpose

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16505
Date Submitted.....: 04-04-24
Official or Employee Name...: JACKIE PHILLIPS CARTER
Title or Position.....: HEALTH COMMISSIONER
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: ODH
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: COLUMBUS
State Where Meeting Held.....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 04-29-24 to 05-01-24
Dates Leave Requested - From: 04-29-24 to 05-01-24

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....:
Vehicle to be Occupied by....:

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration..:	200.00
Transportation:	143.38
Lodging.....:	318.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	74.00
Miscellaneous.:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	74.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	1477.70	735.38

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16506
Date Submitted.....: 04-04-24
Official or Employee Name...: CARLA EALY
Title or Position.....: DOE-ASST. HEALTH COMMISSIONER
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: ODH
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: COLUMBUS
State Where Meeting Held.....: OH
Dates of Meeting - From: 04-30-24 to 04-30-24
Dates Leave Requested - From: 04-30-24 to 04-30-24

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....:
Vehicle to be Occupied by....:

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...	100.00	
Transportation:	143.38	
Lodging.....:	0.00	
Rental Car.....:	0.00	
Meals.....:	29.00	
Miscellaneous..:	0.00	
Amount of Advance Requested:		29.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	1477.70	272.38

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

PUBLIC HEALTH NAME, ADDRESS AND PERSONAL HISTORY (NAPH) FORM (*revised 5/2017)



Full Name of Person Picking up Medication

Address

City/State/Zip

Date of Birth Phone Date

		A B C D				To Be Completed By Staff
		Is the person allergic to: Doxycycline or Tetracyclines	Is the person allergic to: Ciprofloxacin or Quinolones Or are they taking: Tizanidine (Zanaflex) Or do they have: Myasthenia Gravis	Is the person: A Breastfeeding Mother or Pregnant	Does this person weigh less than 76 pounds (lbs): If yes, indicate weight	
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Label
Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Medical Referral Notes:

Provide the name and age of each person receiving medication. Answer Yes or No to questions A, B, C, and D for any person for whom you are picking up medication.		A B C D				To Be Completed By Staff
		Is the person allergic to: Doxycycline or Tetracyclines	Is the person allergic to: Ciprofloxacin or Quinolones Or are they taking: Tizanidine (Zanaflex) Or do they have: Myasthenia Gravis	Is the person: A Breastfeeding Mother or Pregnant	Does this person weigh less than 76 pounds (lbs): If yes, indicate weight	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	

Medical Referral Notes:

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 Activity Quarterly Report- First Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	January	February	March	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	35	32	22	89
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	13	2	11	26
Mobile FSO/RFE	1	1	6	8
Prelicense/Consultations	6	7	5	18
Inspection of Temporaries	0	1	1	2
Environmental School Inspections	0	3	8	11
Smoking Inspections	0	1	0	1
Swimming Pools Inspections	0	7	5	12
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	0	1	1	2
Animal Bites	5	2	8	15
Complaints	4	3	1	8
Level 1 Food Certification Training	3	0	0	3
Sewage Inspections	0	1	0	1

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	January	February	March	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	314	311	366	991
Death Certificates Issued	411	334	336	1081
Birth Certificates Filed	72	68	67	207
Death Certificates Filed	99	111	82	292
Indigent Cremations	5	6	0	11
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	0	0	1	1
Falls	0	0	1	1
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	2	2
Homicide	0	0	0	0
COVID-19 Related Deaths	2	2	0	4
9 Pending Death Certificates				

Meetings/Conference Calls

Health Commissioner & Environmental Health Director:

- ODH Conference Call
- COVID ODH Emergency After Hours Calls
- Harm Reduction Meeting
- Southwest Ohio Health Commissioner Meeting
- Southwest Executive Steering Committee Meeting
- Emergency Preparedness Meeting
- Unhoused/Homeless Meeting
- AOHC Conference Calls
- Amanda Meeting
- Council Prep Meeting
- Health Department Staff Meeting
- Senior Staff Meeting
- Solar Eclipse Meetings
- Senior Citizen Center Meeting

Community Meetings attended by Health Commissioner

- Middletown Connect Core Meeting
- MLK Presentation
- Centerpoint Board Meeting & Program Committee
- EOC with Butler County
- Regional Exchange Harm Reduction
- Family Children First Council (FCFC) And Executive Committee
- Harm Reduction
- OneOhio Board Meeting
- Butler County Cares Meeting with County Commissioner, Cindy Carpenter
- YWCA Board Meeting
- Butler County Housing Meeting
- Southwest Ohio Safety Council Meeting

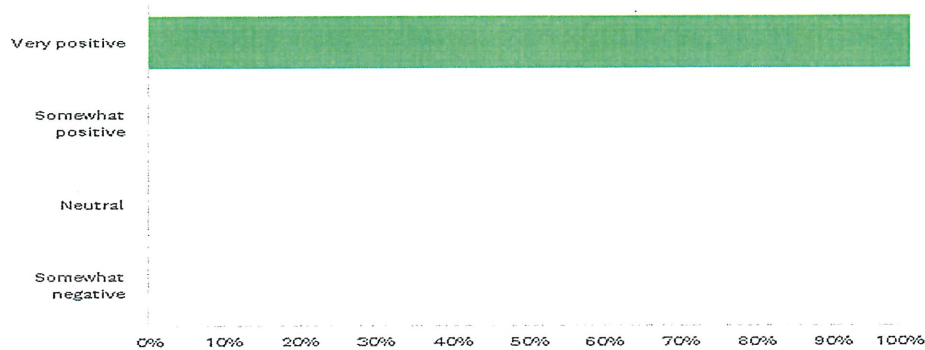
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2024**

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	460	-	-	-	460
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	-	-	-	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	-	-	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	5	-	-	-	5
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	1	-	-	-	1
Campylobacter	0	-	-	-	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	-	-	-	0
E Coli Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	-	-	-	1
Salmonella	3	-	-	-	3
Shigella	1	-	-	-	1
Dengue	1	-	-	-	1
Coccidioidomycosis	1				1
Hepatitis A	1	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis B	5	-	-	-	5
Hepatitis C	14	-	-	-	14
Meningitis Bacterial	0	-	-	-	0
Meningitis Viral	0	-	-	-	0
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	1	-	-	-	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	60	-	-	-	60
Varicella	2	-	-	-	2
Mumps	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	1
Lyme Disease	1	-	-	-	1
Pertussis	5	-	-	-	5
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	-	-	-	0
CPO	3				3
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	-	-	-	0
Giardiasis	0				0
HIV	3	-	-	-	3
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	77	-	-	-	77
Gonococcal Infection	19	-	-	-	19
Syphilis	5	-	-	-	5

2024 1st Quarter Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Overall, how would you rate the quality of your customer service experience?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

- ▼ Very positive
- ▼ Somewhat positive
- ▼ Neutral
- ▼ Somewhat negative

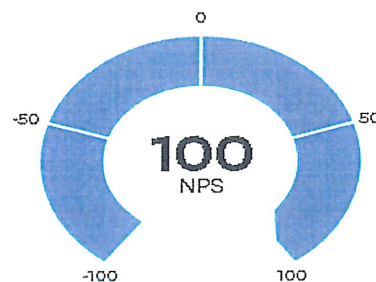
TOTAL

RESPONSES

Very positive	100.00%	1
Somewhat positive	0.00%	0
Neutral	0.00%	0
Somewhat negative	0.00%	0
TOTAL		1

How likely is it that you would recommend Health Department to a friend or colleague?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 0



DETRACTORS (0-6)

0
0

PASSIVES (7-8)

0
0

PROMOTERS (9-10)

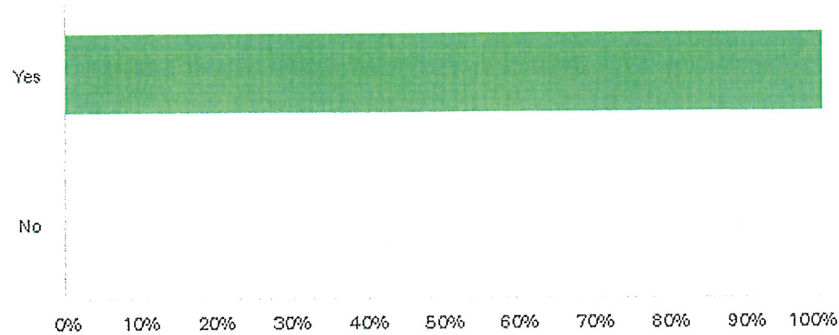
100%
1

NET PROMOTER® SCORE

100

Are our hours of operation sufficient to meet your needs?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

▼ Yes

▼ No

TOTAL

▼ RESPONSES

100.00%

0.00%

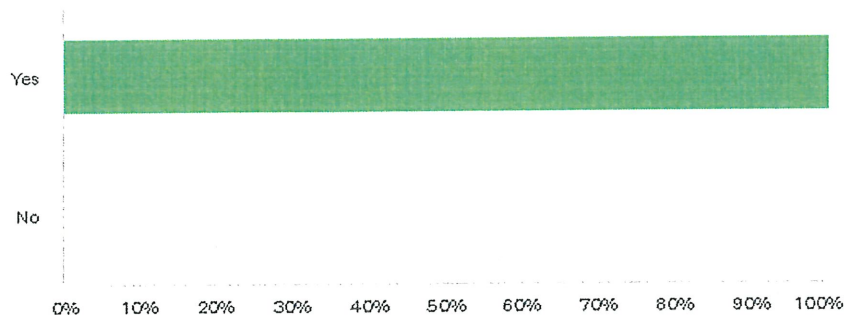
1

0

1

The wait time for service was reasonable.

Answered: 1 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

▼ Yes

▼ No

TOTAL

▼ RESPONSES

100.00%

0.00%

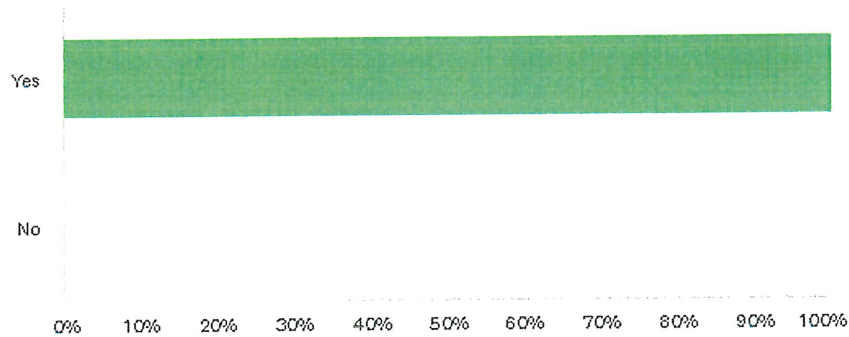
1

0

1

The staff was friendly and courteous.

Answered: 1 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

▼ Yes

▼ No

TOTAL

▼ RESPONSES

100.00%

0.00%

1

0

1

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 Activity Quarterly Report- First Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	January	February	March	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	33	22	30	85
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	8	2	33	43
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	0	5	5
Prelicense/Consultations	9	6	4	19
Inspection of Temporaries	0	0	1	1
Environmental School Inspections	0	0	5	5
Smoking Inspections	0	1	0	1
Swimming Pools Inspections	9	11	9	29
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	0	0	0	0
Animal Bites	7	5	8	20
Complaints	3	7	6	16
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	5	5
Sewage Inspections	0	0	0	0

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	January	February	March	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	356	328	406	1090
Death Certificates Issued	339	299	447	1085
Birth Certificates Filed	63	56	78	197
Death Certificates Filed	69	106	85	260
Indigent Cremations	4	2	4	10
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	0	5	3	8
Falls	1	3	2	6
Exposure to Elements	0	2	0	2
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0
Suicide	1	0	1	2
Homicide	0	1	1	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	2	0	1	3
9 Pending Death Certificates				

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2023

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	537	-	-	-	537
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	-	-	-	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	-	-	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	0	-	-	-	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	2	-	-	-	2
Campylobacter	0	-	-	-	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	-	-	-	0
E Coli 0157 H7	1	-	-	-	1
Ehrlichiosis	0	-	-	-	0
Salmonella	1	-	-	-	1
Shigella	0	-	-	-	0
Yersinia Enterocol	0	-	-	-	0
Hepatitis A	1	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis B	7	-	-	-	7
Hepatitis C	25	-	-	-	25
Meningitis Bacterial	0	-	-	-	0
Meningitis Viral	0	-	-	-	0
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	1	-	-	-	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	2	-	-	-	2
Varicella	0	-	-	-	0
Mumps	0	-	-	-	0
Tuberculosis	0	-	-	-	0
Lyme Disease	0	-	-	-	0
Pertussis	0	-	-	-	0
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	1	-	-	-	1
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	-	-	-	0
Giardiasis	0	-	-	-	0
HIV	2	-	-	-	2
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	65	-	-	-	65
Gonococcal Infection	14	-	-	-	14
Syphilis	3	-	-	-	3

Health Commissioner Notes

March 2024

T21 Update:

- Updated meeting with BC Policy and Advocacy Coalition
- Still in process of reimbursing facilities

Middletown Connect/Grant OHIZ

- Meeting with Ambassadors of all Census tracks
 - Amanda-Ambassador 4/4
 - Prepping for retreat with and sponsored by Interact for Health April 13th pm thru April 14th 5pm
 - Presenting at Spring Conference

BC Housing Meetings Continue

- Still holding ongoing meetings forming leadership

BC Cares

- Continue to meet every Wednesday at 1p to discuss community issues-Eclipse planning, homelessness
- Dr Rasmus with MHARS Board stated possible BC State of Mental Health will be held at Miami Hamilton

One Ohio Opiate

- Press Conference held 4/1/2024 info in packet
- RFP registration and process at OneOhio website

PHAB Community Health Improvement Phase

- Meeting set with Coordinators to pull together status updates for 3 groups
- Next meetings will be scheduled for the 3 sub-groups TBA

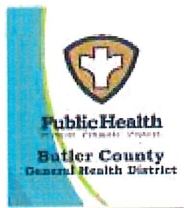
Senior Citizen Update

- Council was rescheduled for this evening 4/9 so no update

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

City of Middletown

- Indigent/Unclaimed Services and activities
- Continue to Meet w/ CM and assistant CM's
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meeting
- Council Review Meeting
- Amanda Meeting
- Met w/ PW Director
- Together we Can ODH Conference Calls
- YWCA Board Meeting
- YMCA Board Retreat
- CenterPoint program committee
- CenterPoint Board Meeting
- BC Board of Development and Disabilities
- Middletown Connect Core Meetings
- Infectious Disease meetings
- MLK Gala HC Prestige Honor
- Walk with a Doc meeting
- Kevin Harlan CEO Atrium
- AOHC Health Commissioners



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

March of 2024

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, MPH
Jordan.luttrell-freeman@bcOhio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 745
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Influenza-associated hospitalization, Gonorrhea, and Hepatitis C.

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, March 2024 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	17,511	154.1	-	-
Butler County	606	155.2	1.008	0.93-1.093

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 0.8% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are not statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (March 2024)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	458	166.0	↓49.2% from February 2024 (n=1,271)
Middletown City Health Department	143	280.2	↓37.3% from February 2024 (n=228)
City of Hamilton Health Department	144	227.2	↓38.5% from February 2024 (n=234)
Butler County (all inclusive)	745	190.9	↓45.4% from February 2024 (n=1,364)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (March 2024)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	31	↓13.9% from February 2024 (n=36)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	139	↓16.3% from February 2024 (n=166)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	12	↑71.4% from February 2024 (n=7)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Haemophilus influenzae, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella)	542	↓52.3% from February 2024 (n=1136)

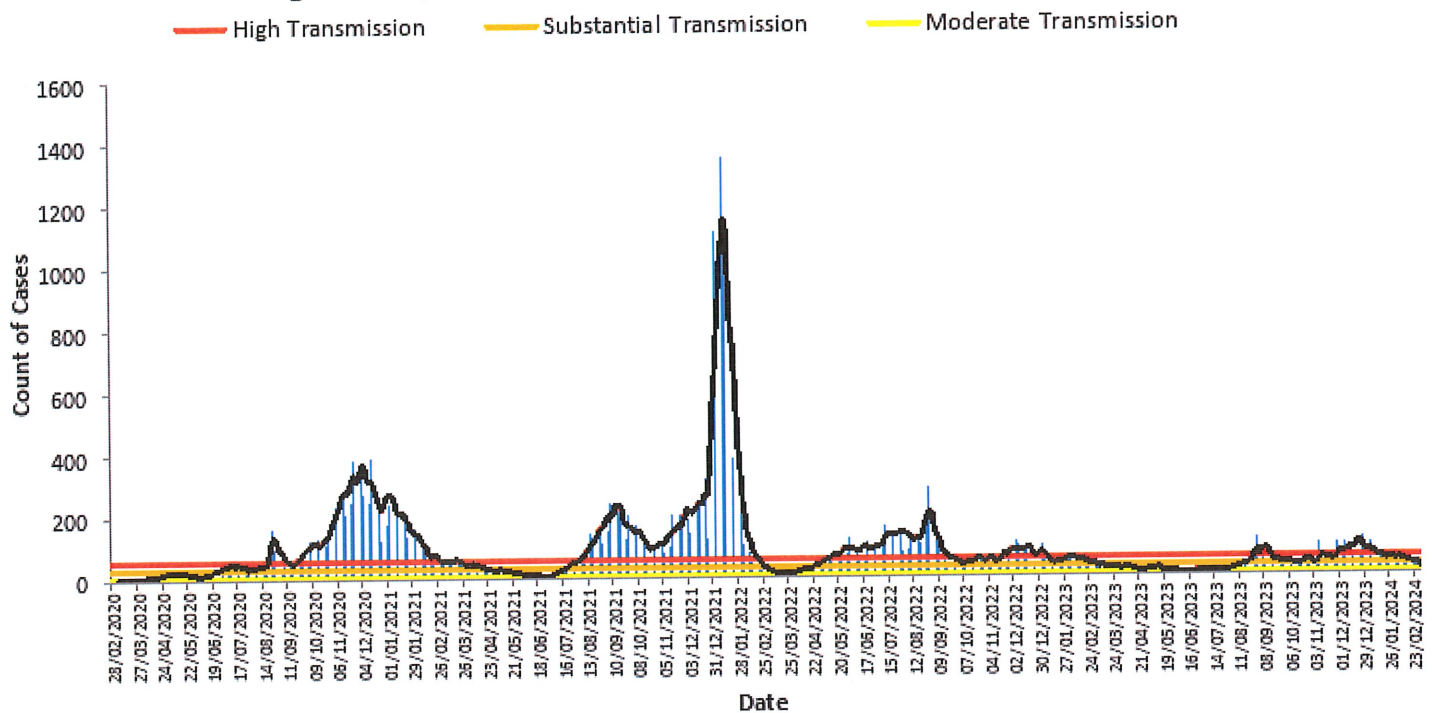
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.
 *COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of March 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 4/5/2024.

Table 4.* Diseases Reported in Butler County (March 2024)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	2	0	0	2
Campylobacteriosis	6	0	0	6
Chlamydia infection	49	23	28	100
COVID-19	286	74	72	432
CPO	4	2	0	6
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	1	2
Gonococcal infection	13	4	9	26
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3	0	0	3
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	1
Hepatitis B	7	1	3	11
Hepatitis C	9	6	5	20
HIV	3	1	2	6
Influenza-associated hospitalization	49	25	19	93
Lyme Disease	2	1	0	3
Measles	1	0	0	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	0	1
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	0	0	1
Mumps	1	1	0	2
Pertussis	3	1	0	4
Salmonellosis	2	0	0	2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	2	1	0	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae	5	0	1	6
Syphilis	2	2	3	7
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	2
Varicella	3	0	1	4
Total	458	143	144	745

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.
 *COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of March 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 4/5/2024.

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2024*



Butler County Reportable Disease Surveillance

Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2019 through 2024 and provides a 5-year average column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6.* Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2019–2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Avg.	Up to 3/31/2024
Amebiasis	1	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	2	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	0	1	13	37	10.2	8
Campylobacteriosis	45	30	35	48	49	41.4	7
Chlamydia infection	1,631	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,445.8	342
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	31,864	3,138
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	4	10	11	12	93	26	12
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	5	7	7	5.8	1
Cyclosporiasis	2	0	0	1	3	1.2	0
Dengue	1	0	1	1	0	<1	1
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	11	14	15	17	17	14.8	2
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	1	1	1	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	4	14	7	13	10	1
Gonococcal Infection	732	651	480	473	413	549.8	90
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	10	7	6	11	18	10.4	8
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	1	0	1	<1	0
Hepatitis A	104	2	1	0	2	21.8	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	109	67	85	78	82	84.2	16
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	552	486	434	390	280	428.4	61
HIV	24	17	58	38	35	34.4	11

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of March 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 4/5/2024.

Influenza-associated Hospitalization	325	266	18	306	70	197	270
Legionellosis – Legionnaires’ Disease	17	10	9	15	1	10.4	0
Hansen’s disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	2	<1	0
Lyme Disease	3	2	0	2	2	1.8	2
Malaria	2	2	1	3	4	2.4	2
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	25	9	14	10	10	13.6	4
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	4	3	3	11	10	6.2	5
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	15	7	1	7.7	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	4	0	2	0
Mumps	1	0	0	0	0	<1	1
Pertussis	38	13	3	3	5	12.4	12
Salmonellosis	32	20	26	34	54	33.2	10
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	1
Shigellosis	7	8	3	6	7	6.2	5
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	2	0	1	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	24	27	24	34	39	29.6	13
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	1	0	1	1	<1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	59	31	33	40	43	41.2	15
Syphilis (all stages)	11	17	23	45	66	32.4	17
Tuberculosis (active)	8	6	7	8	7	7.2	4
Varicella	14	1	5	8	19	9.4	9
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	1	0	2	2	3	1.6	0
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Yersiniosis	1	0	1	2	4	1.6	0

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

^aCOVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of March 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 4/5/2024.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County General Health District

Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for March 2024

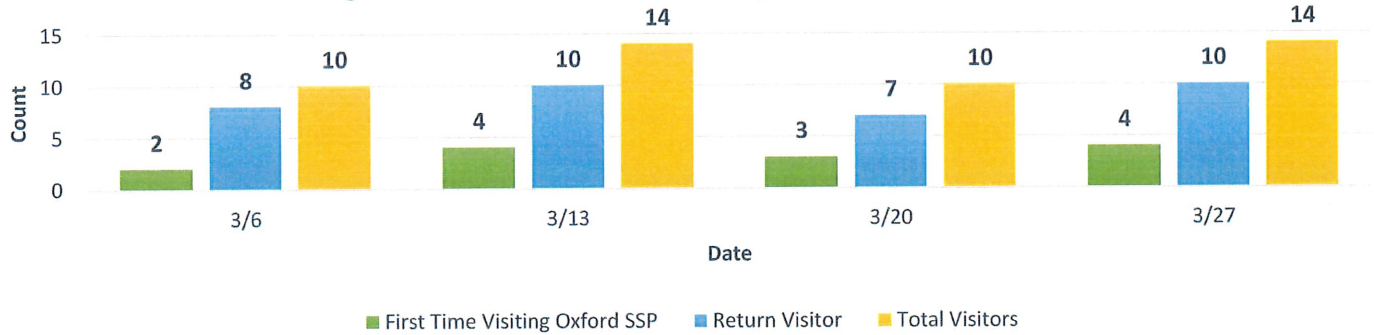


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024

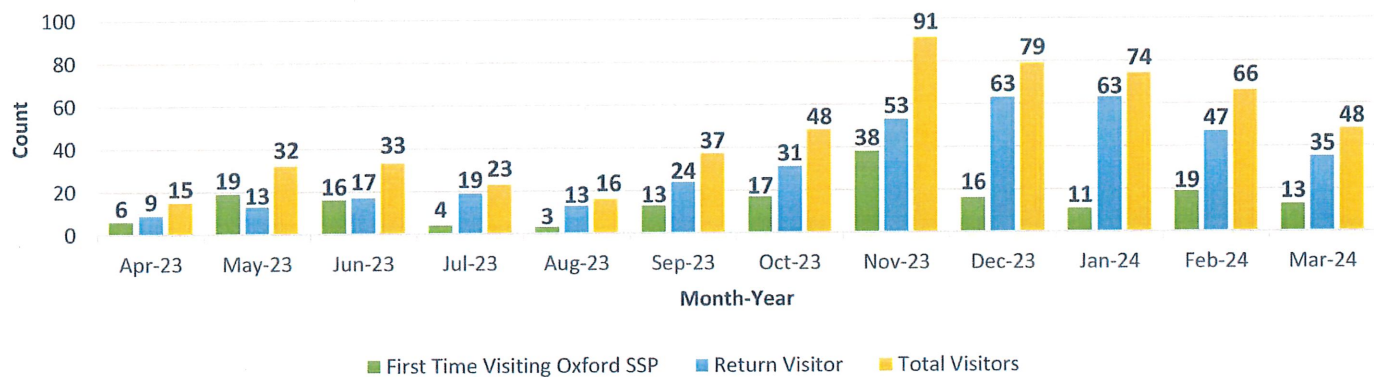
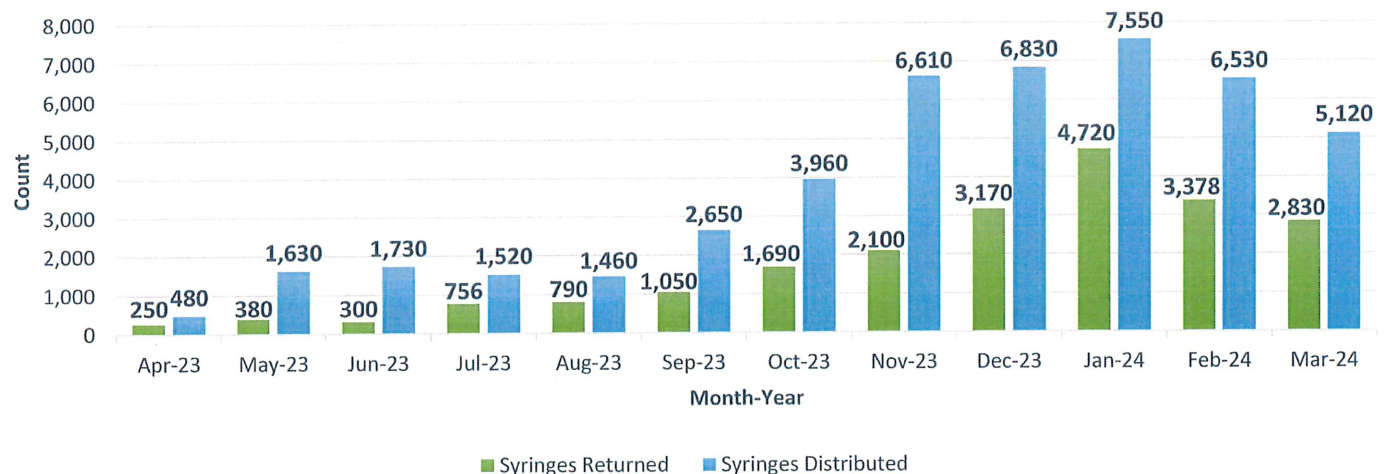


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024





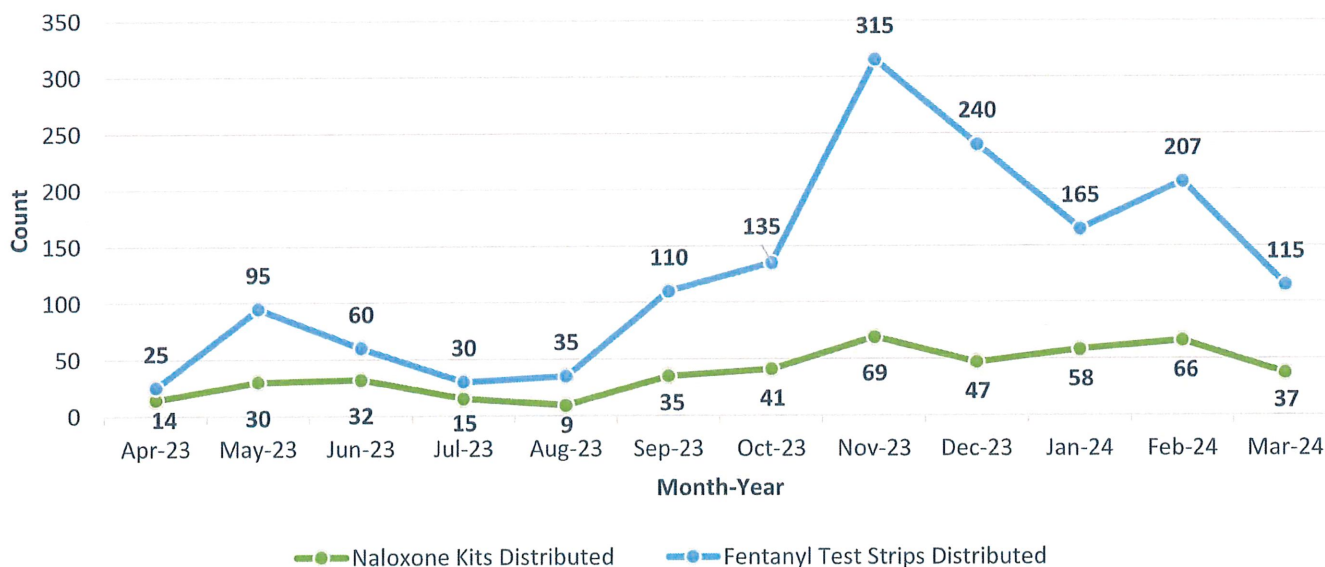
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County General Health District

Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City or County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for March 2024

Zip Code – City, County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	790	2,000	39.50%
45013	310	470	65.96%
45015	200	240	83.33%
Hamilton Total	1,300	2,710	47.97%
Middletown			
45042	350	350	100.00%
45044	0	160	0.00%
Middletown Total	350	510	68.63%
45014 - Fairfield	0	40	0.00%
45056 - Oxford	1,180	1,820	64.84%
Hamilton County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Total	2,830	5,120	55.27%

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County General Health District

Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024

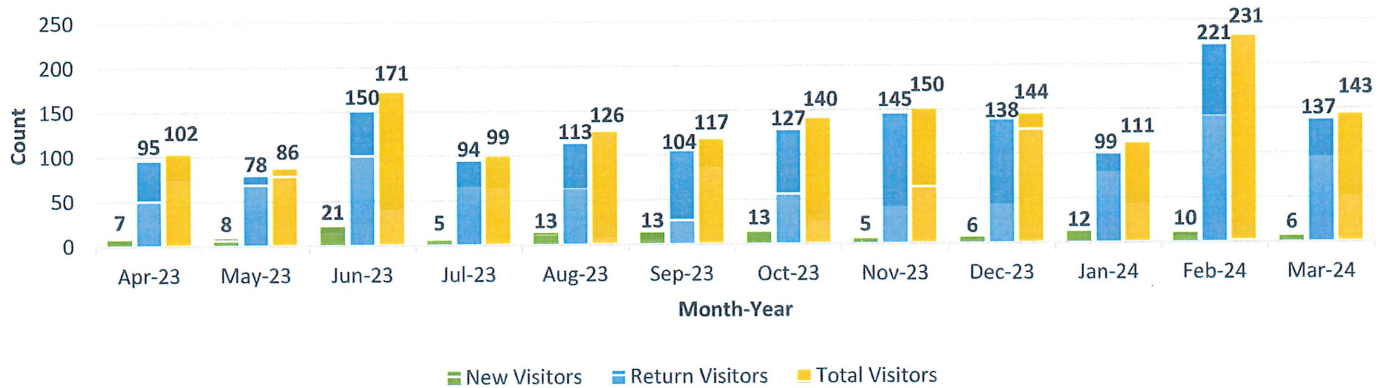


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024

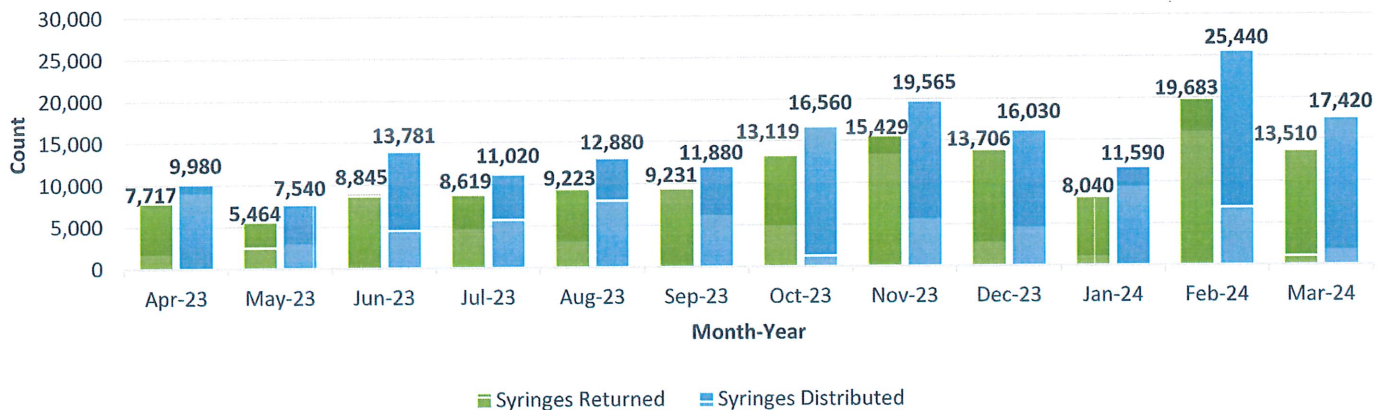


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for March 2024

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	10,800	14,440	74.79%
Clermont County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Hamilton County, OH	480	620	77.42%
Miami County, OH	300	300	100.00%
Montgomery County, OH	230	280	82.14%
Warren County, OH	1,700	1,740	97.70%
Total	13,510	17,420	77.55%



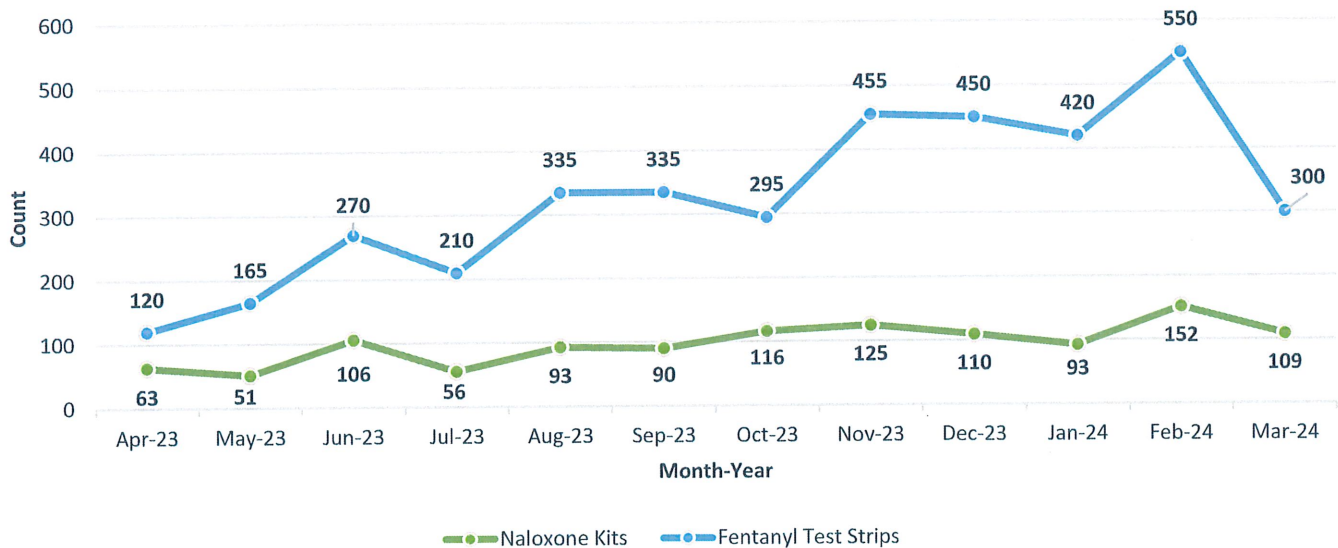
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County General Health District

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Fairfield SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for March 2024

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	3,010	4,770	63.10%
45013	4,460	5,380	82.90%
45015	880	1,200	73.33%
Hamilton Total	8,350	11,350	73.57%
Middletown			
45042	780	940	82.98%
45044	600	800	75.00%
Middletown Total	1,380	1,740	79.31%
45014 - Fairfield	1,070	1,270	84.25%
45050 - Monroe	0	80	0.00%
Butler County Total	10,800	14,440	74.79%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Source: Butler County General Health District – Fairfield Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained April 1, 2024, Data is provisional and subject to change

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet									
For March 2024									
Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1 City Tavern	1/25/2024			X					Sent Notice of Violation letter 3/5/2024
2 City Tavern	3/10 & 3/26/2024	X							
3 One Way Farm	3/21/2024	X							
Notes: Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid. Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid.									
This facility is closed for business and is for sale.									

City of Middletown Health Department

March 2024

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	67	207
Death Certificates Filed	82	292
Birth Certificates Issued	366	991
Death Certificates Issued	336	1081
Indigent Cremation Services	0	11

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	1	1
Falls	1	1
Motor Vehicle	0	1
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	0
Suicide	2	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	4
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	0	0

**Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that died inside of city limits only

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	22	88
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	11	26
Prelicense/Consultations	5	18
Sewage Inspections	0	1
School Inspections	8	11
Vending Locations	0	1
Temporary FSO/RFE	1	2
Mobile FSO/RFE	6	8
Complaints	1	8
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	1
Swimming Pools	5	12
Tattoo	1	2
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	0
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	0	3
---------------------	---	---

Animal Bite Events

Dog	7	13
Cat	1	2
Bat	0	0
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	0	0

Middletown students grow, learn about fresh food

\$2K grant awarded to Rosa Parks Elementary for hands-on program.



Students at Middletown's Rosa Parks Elementary School show off seeds they'll plant. Middletown Elks Lodge No. 257 provided tools and materials and constructed a classroom "food lab" for a new gardening and cooking program.
CONTRIBUTED



Students at Middletown's Rosa Parks Elementary School plant seedlings to learn about gardening and the importance of healthy food.
CONTRIBUTED

BY MICHAEL D. CLARK - CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — A grant from a national charity group has students at an elementary school here growing their minds through growing some food.

Students at Middletown's Rosa Parks Elementary School are planting seedlings inside a specially designed classroom space to learn about gardening and the importance of healthy food.

The new program sprouts from a \$2,000 grant from the Elks National Foundation designed to enhance students' nutritional instruction in largely urban school districts through hands-on agricultural lessons.

According to Middletown City Schools officials, the foundation's Beacon Grant was given to Rosa Parks, on Minnesota Street across from Barnitz Stadium on the city's south side, "because the school sits in what's

known as a food desert, meaning there are no grocery stores or fresh food stores within walking distance.”

Officials said members of the Middletown Elks Lodge No. 257 purchased all the materials needed for the gardening project, including seeds, dirt, fertilizer, hot plates, lights, pans, cooking utensils and storage racks.

Members of the lodge also hand-delivered the materials and assembled the entire food lab.

“It’s so amazing to see an idea like this come to life,” said Rosa Parks teacher Courtnie Puckett.

“This project will be able to expose students at Rosa Parks Elementary to an opportunity they might have never been able to experience,” said Puckett.

Under federal guidelines for free and reduced-cost school meals program, enough of Middletown’s 6,000 students qualify as coming from low-income families that 100% of the district’s enrollment is eligible for the program.

Thanks to the grant, a section of Puckett’s classroom has been transformed into a miniature food lab as students plant and tend to a variety of edible plants.

Through guided lessons and interactive sessions, students are learning about agriculture, sustainability, nutrition, environmental stewardship and responsibility, officials said.

They said through the food lab, students will also be able to ultimately reap the rewards of their labor by learning how to cook healthy recipes.

Middletown students visit schools, businesses

Experiential Learning Day helps teens explore career opportunities.



Seniors from Middletown High School learn about many job and training opportunities, including police academy and paramedic certification, during Experiential Learning Day at Butler Tech on Tuesday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

GOOD NEWS

While juniors were nervously taking the ACT, Middletown High School freshmen, sophomores and seniors learned lessons outside the classroom during Experiential Learning Day.

More than 350 freshmen traveled Tuesday to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, where they applied what they had learned from their World Studies class.

Sophomores embarked on college visits at Miami University Regionals Middletown and Hamilton campuses, Sinclair Community College, Cincinnati State and Northern Kentucky University.

More than 100 seniors visited six of the district's Ready Now 100 business partners. Those companies included Deceuninck, Lahlou, Emery Federal Credit Union, Butler Tech's Public Safety Education Complex, Ohio Living and Majestic Care.

At Butler Tech's Public Safety Education Complex in Liberty Twp., Middletown seniors learned about the police and fire academies, emergency medical services and truck driving school.

Nina Haynes, 17, an MHS senior who is considering a career in nursing, emergency medical services or cosmetology, said she thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Butler Tech and was impressed by the facilities and curriculum.

She said the one-year programs at Butler Tech prepare students quicker for their careers.

"It's a nice school," she said. "They have a lot to offer."

Adult Education Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Kelly Poole told the seniors the goal at Butler Tech is to teach students a desired skill, get them certified and then employed. She said employment is much different than having a job.

Commander Joel Seibert, in charge of the police academy, said Butler

Tech offers several academies every year, and each class includes about 20 students.

He prefers students at least 20 years old, because officers must be at least 21 to be hired.

Butler Tech has two identical firing ranges that offer targets all the way back to 75 feet, though most police shootings with suspects are between 7 to 14 feet, he said.

He also showed the students the academy's matted room where self-defense and fitness are taught. Of the 740 hours required to graduate from the police academy, 140 are spent in that room, he said.

Carlisle Fire Chief Jeremy Lane, who also serves as Paramedic Program Coordinator with Butler Tech, said the EMT program includes 180-190 hours of classroom and clinical study. He said paramedic certification includes 500 classroom and 500 clinical hours.

EMTs earning \$20 to \$22 an hour to start, while paramedics start at \$25 to \$30, he said.

He said local public safety departments are suffering "labor-poor environments" and departments from Cincinnati to Dayton are hiring.

SHARE GOOD NEWS WITH US

If you have a story idea for a "Good News" feature in the Journal-News, send it to contributing writer Rick McCrabb at rmccrabb1@gmail.com.

Flu hospitalizations in Ohio exceed five-year average

COVID-19 cases and deaths are trending down in country.



Hospitalizations for the flu are up about a third across the state from the same time last year, according to the Ohio Department of Health, and flu-like symptoms account for about 8% of outpatient visits. In the region, Montgomery County has the highest total number of flu-related hospitalizations for this flu season with 475, according to ODH. Clark County has had 85 flu-related hospitalizations this season, while Greene and Miami counties have had 71 and 70 flu-related hospitalizations.

NAM Y. HUH / AP

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

PUBLIC HEALTH

Influenza activity is “very high” in Ohio, the most recent state data shows, and flu-related hospitalizations are exceeding previous years.

“Hospitalizations are higher than the five-year average, and we’re still in the middle of the cold and flu season,” said Dan Suffoletto, public information manager at Public Health - Dayton and Montgomery County.

There were 726 flu-related hospitalizations in Ohio in the most recent week of data, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

This is almost a 15% increase over the previous week.

Approximately 8% of outpatient visits in the state were due to flu-like symptoms, ODH said.

The five-year average for flu-related hospitalizations in Ohio at this time of the year is 543 hospitalizations.

“It’s still not too late to get your flu shot,” Suffoletto said.

In the Dayton region, Montgomery County has the highest total number of flu-related hospitalizations for this flu season with 475 hospitalizations, or 8% of all flu-related hospitalizations in the state, according to ODH.

Montgomery County is followed by Butler and Warren counties with 194 and 108 hospitalizations, respectively. Greene and Miami counties have had 71 and 70 flu-related hospitalizations.

The Clark County Combined Health District reported 13 hospitalized flu cases last week in Clark County and 85 flu-related hospitalizations this season in its latest report.

While flu-related illness and hospitalizations are increasing, COVID-related visits to the emergency room, hospitalizations, and deaths are trending down nationally.

ER visits for COVID are down 14.6% in the most recent week, according to the Centers for Disease Control. COVID hospitalizations and deaths are down 10.3% and 8.7%, respectively.

Adults ages 65 years and older now qualify to receive an additional updated 2023-2024 COVID- 19 vaccine dose, the CDC says.

This is due to the increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 in older adults, along with the currently available data on vaccine effectiveness.

“Most COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations last year were among people 65 years and older.

An additional vaccine dose can provide added protection that may have decreased over time for those at highest risk,” said Dr. Mandy Cohen, CDC director.

The CDC recently updated its recommendations when people have a respiratory illness, lifting COVID isolation guidelines. When people get sick with a respiratory virus, the updated guidance recommends they stay home and away from others. The recommendations for people with COVID or the flu suggest returning to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication.

“We still must use the commonsense solutions we know work to protect ourselves and others from serious illness from respiratory viruses—this includes vaccination, treatment, and staying home when we get sick,” Cohen said.

For people with COVID and the flu, treatment is available and can lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness.

While people no longer have to isolate for five days, the CDC still recommends five additional days of interventions, including masking,

testing, distancing, improved air quality and hygiene, to reduce harm during later stages of illness, especially to protect people at higher risk of severe illness.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

State to distribute opioid funds

OneOhio accepting proposals; Montgomery County will allocate \$10M in settlement money.



Ohio will soon begin distributing millions of dollars in opioid settlement money to community and government organizations.

PATRICK SISON / AP 2017

BY SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON - ASSOCIATED PRESS AND JOSH SWEIGART - STAFF WRITER

COLUMBUS — Ohio is ready to begin doling out millions of dollars in opioid settlement money to community and government organizations, an influx eagerly anticipated since the first sums were secured in 2021.

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, which has been tasked with distributing over \$860 million in settlements reached with drugmakers

and pharmaceutical companies for their roles in the national opioid crisis, released its formal request for proposals Monday.

Drugmakers, wholesalers, pharmacies and other companies have agreed to settlements that will pay state, local and Native American tribal governments more than \$50 billion. Under the agreements, most of the money is to be used to address the overdose epidemic.

The foundation will allocate up to \$51 million in its 2024 grant cycle for Ohio-based nonprofits, for-profits and government entities that are “on the frontlines of Ohio’s opioid battle.” The program is the first of its kind in the United States.

“This has been a long road,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge, the county’s representative to the state foundation and director of OneOhio Recovery Foundation’s Region 8, in a release Tuesday.

“Opioids have had a devastating effect on our community, and I’m thankful that we are getting the support we need to overcome this tragedy,” Dodge said.

Those applying must still follow certain parameters outlined by OneOhio, including that all programs and services proposed must be “evidence-based, forward-looking strategies for prevention, treatment, (and) recovery support services.”

Eligible projects may span one, two or three years and must be regionally focused.

Applications are due by May 3.

Alisha Nelson, executive director of OneOhio, said in a press release that the foundation understands the urgent need to disperse the settlement money as the state continues to feel the impact of the opioid epidemic.

“After months of carefully developing this first-ever program, we look

forward to seeing the innovative ideas presented to combat the epidemic in every corner of the state,” Nelson said.

The foundation is registered as a private nonprofit organization, though it was launched by Republican Gov. Mike DeWine and GOP Attorney General Dave Yost in 2021. It’s governed by a 29-member statewide board, many members of which are state lawmakers and appointees of state officials, but which also includes addiction experts from across Ohio.

It has previously faced scrutiny, as well as a lawsuit, over lacking transparency.

Montgomery County commissioners last week announced the county received \$10 million from the local government portion of the settlement. Commissioners say they will spend \$8 million on improving treatment options for inmates in the county jail and \$2 million to help expand addiction prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

Organizations can apply for state grants through the OneOhio Grant Portal, and for county funds through the county website.

Middletown tables funding for new public safety director

Councilmembers say they want more police officers, firefighters on streets instead.



Middletown City Council member Steve West (left) and Vice Mayor Zack Ferrell said they favor more officers or firefighters over a new safety director.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Middletown City Council tabled an ordinance that would have established a placeholder in the budget to hire a public safety director to mentor expected new, younger leadership in the police department.

That happened Tuesday night at the same meeting where a separation agreement was approved for former police chief David Birk, a 26-year veteran of the force.

Council members cited the need for more officers on the streets rather than an additional administrator with a salary and benefits for about \$170,000 annually.

City Manager Paul Lolli said council was considering passage of the new position as an amendment to the pay and benefits ordinance. In the future, council would still have to give final approval for the budgeting and hiring of the candidate.

Lolli said because of retirements and resignation “we are in a situation” where the police department will have “people moving up from sergeant immediately to executive police positions.

Bringing in a public safety director may be of benefit, especially in the police division.”

He pointed to 2015, when he was became fire chief and Rodney Muterspaw was made police chief on the same day. Former police Chief David VanArsdale was hired as a public safety director for a two-year period.

“It benefited me greatly,” Lolli said, adding that going from the street to administrative duties can be challenging.

“I have the utmost confidence in those coming through the ranks,” Lolli said, but he said in recent years the department’s budget has been lean, which accounts for a lack of police executive training programs.

Councilman Steve West said the feedback he has gotten from citizens is a “no” to hiring a public safety director.

“At this time, I can’t support it,” West said. “I am elected to represent the voices in the community, and I am going with what I am hearing from the community.”

Councilman Zack Ferrell said nearly two additional police officers or firefighters could be hired for the salary and benefits of a public safety director.

“We are a city right now of need and not a city of want.

If this becomes a need, I am willing to approve this and put it in ... but the higher want is to get more people in the street,” Ferrell said.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka agreed.

“People are not necessarily wanting this, and I do have to say it does seem that what we need right now are officers on the streets, and I think the is the priority for me personally,” Slamka said.

This week the department’s one lieutenant and six of its 10 sergeants were to begin a two-week testing process for the position of deputy chief. Acting police Chief Eric Crank, who was a deputy chief until Birk was placed on leave in December, will retire April 19. The testing is for that open deputy chief position.

Lolli said Andy Warrick, now deputy chief, will become acting chief when Crank departs until testing for the new position is completed.

Contact this reporter at 513- 543-9227 or email lauren.pack@coxinc.com.

Middletown landmark set for redevelopment

Demolition progresses at former Middletown Paperboard site destroyed by fire 4 years ago and long considered an eyesore.



Demolition of the former Middletown Paperboard building continues in Middletown on Friday. The city is spending \$2.27 million in ARPA grant funds to pay for the demolition work.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

STAFF REPORT

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Demolition crews have made significant progress removing the remnants of the fire-damaged former Middletown Paperboard site, a project in the works for years that city officials have said opens up “possibilities and potential.”

The 14-acre site on Verity Parkway, described by city officials for years as “an eyesore” at the city’s southern gateway, will present an opportunity for redevelopment.

In January, as heavy equipment started knocking down structures, Middletown Mayor Elizabeth Slamka told the Journal-News she saw the site as full of “possibilities and potential,” and that she looks forward to its future.

In October last year, Middletown City Council authorized City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into an agreement with Renascent Inc. to provide professional demolition services at a cost of \$2.27 million. The work is covered by a \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act grant the city received from the Butler County Commissioners.

Bids for the work varied widely, from \$2.27 million to \$5.49 million, according to city records.

The city’s Volunteer Action Program manager, Burgess and Niple Inc., assisted city staff in the bidding process.

On Jan. 1, 2020, a homeless man staying inside the building lit a fire to stay warm. Joshua Lamb, then 38, reportedly left to get more wood for the fire, which spread to his bedding, he told police. Lamb, who had multiple arrest warrants, fled the scene.

Multiple fire departments responded to the scene to provide mutual aid, and smoke could be seen from miles away.

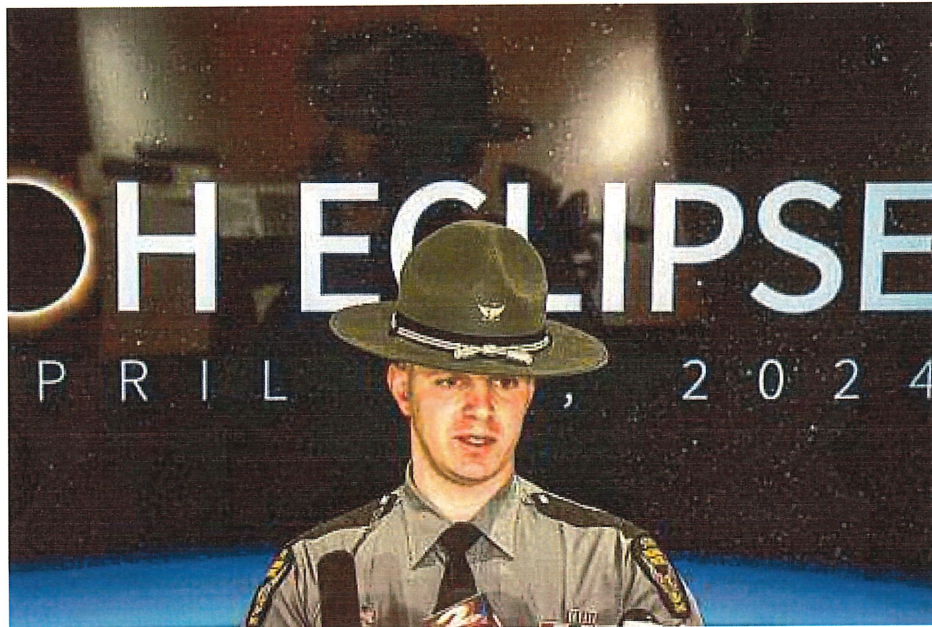
Officials called it one of the city's most extensive and expensive fires.

Lamb was arrested a day later on charges of arson, a fourth-degree felony, and aggravated arson, a second-degree felony. Lamb pleaded guilty to arson, and he was sentenced to five years of community control. The aggravated arson charge was dismissed.

The plant had been closed for about 20 years before the fire.

Agencies: 'Pack your patience' for eclipse

Officials expect as many as 500K visitors to Ohio on April 8.



Sgt. Tyler Ross talks about road safety during the eclipse.

"If you miss it, you miss it," Ross said. "I know it's a rare event, but it's not worth your life."

JIM NOELKER PHOTOS / STAFF



ODOT regional public information officer Mandi Dillon talks about public safety during the April 8 eclipse, at the OSP Moraine Outpost on Dryden Road on Wednesday.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

SPECIAL COVERAGE

It's all hands on deck for safety concerns when it comes to the April 8 solar eclipse, Ohio agencies say. They're urging preparation, patience, and caution when it comes time.

"Don't call 911 because you are stuck in traffic," said Phil Clayton, regional supervisor of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Anywhere from 125,000 to more than 500,000 people are expected to visit Ohio on April 8.

Because of this influx, including many who will hit the road after the solar eclipse ends, motorists should anticipate traffic delays, particularly in the areas of totality.

People should select and map out their viewing destinations before leaving home, Clayton said, and they should have a plan in place in case dangerous weather occurs.

The total eclipse in the Dayton area will begin at about 3:08 p.m. and last two minutes and 42 seconds on April 8, according to Public Health — Dayton and Montgomery County.

“Always pack your patience,” Clayton said.

In addition to a full tank, Ohioans and visitors to the region should be prepared with emergency kits and snacks in their vehicle if they’re traveling the day of the solar eclipse and get stopped in a traffic jam.

It’s possible there will be traffic jams that last for up to 13 hours after the eclipse, according to Public Health.

“We are trying to remind those who will be traveling and also those in the area to expect a very busy roadway that day and long delays,” said Mandi Dillon, public information officer for the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Department of Transportation plans to minimize construction areas as much as possible on April 8 to improve traffic conditions, she said.

One of the best things people can do is come early and stay late, she said. Local agencies have tallied up approximately 460 community events happening in the region on April 8.

Internet and cellular service outages may occur on eclipse day due to the large number of people expected to visit. Sgt. Tyler Ross of the Ohio State Highway Patrol recommended people have paper maps on hand.

“Don’t rely on electronics,” Ross said.

The next total solar eclipse visible in Ohio won’t take place until 2099,

but that's not an excuse for distracted driving or stopping on the side of the highway, the patrol says.

"If you miss it, you miss it," Ross said. "I know it's a rare event, but it's not worth your life."

In the last five years, Ohio has had more than 1,600 crashes related to distracted driving that caused a fatality or serious injury, Ross said.

Stopping on the side of the highway or exit ramps is prohibited, he said, unless it is an emergency.

"It is not safe," Ross said.

Troopers will be highly visible on April 8, he said, enforcing all traffic laws and ready to assist. People can call #677 to report any dangerous driving or stranded motorists.

If drivers see stranded motorists or crews or law enforcement working on the sides of the highway, they should slow down and move over to give the workers space, these state agencies said.

With the larger crowds come a number of unknowns, Dillon said.

The weather may impact where those crowds of people end up viewing the eclipse.

"If it does call for clouds, we expect travelers to push south, so then it will affect Butler County, Hamilton County, get down into Warren County," Ross said.

Because of the unknown weather, Ross said everyone, including those away from main roadways and highways, should be prepared for traffic congestion on April 8.

"We're doing the best we can to plan for it," Ross said.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

CDC: RSV shot 90% effective in preventing infant hospitalization

PUBLIC HEALTH

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

Nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody product, was 90% effective in preventing infants from being hospitalized due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) between October 2023 and February 2024, a new report from the Centers for Disease Control claims.

RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants in the U.S., the CDC says. Between 58,000 and 80,000 children under 5 years of age, mostly infants, are hospitalized each year nationwide due to an RSV.

An estimated 100 to 300 children younger than 5 years old die due to RSV each year, according to the CDC.

Due to these risks, the CDC recommends infants get the nirsevimab shot in their first RSV season if the mother did not receive the maternal RSV vaccine during pregnancy.

Nirsevimab isn't a vaccine, doctors say. A vaccine stimulates the body's immune system to develop antibodies against a specific infection, but monoclonal antibodies, like in nirsevimab, provide passive immunity.

Nirsevimab is also preferred over palivizumab, the American Academy of Pediatrics says, because the immunity provided by nirsevimab lasts longer.

"We are optimistic that more widespread use in the coming years will

result in decreased severity of illness and hospital rates associated with RSV infection in infants,” said Dr. Jon Woltmann, infectious disease provider at Dayton Children’s Hospital.

The most recent RSV season was a more typical of pre-COVID season compared to the season post-COVID, he said.

“Infants still required hospitalization for treatment on occasion, but rates of illness and hospitalization were not outrageous,” Woltmann said.

In addition to this, the season appeared to have returned to its usual winter-based pattern.

Middletown seeks grant for additional firefighters

New stations will help attract recruits — and keep them — leaders say.



Construction of the new Middletown Division of Fire headquarters at Yankee Road and Cherry Street.

The city is building four new stations to better serve a shifted population.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Construction of the new Middletown Division of Fire headquarters continues at Yankee Road and Cherry Street.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

With an ongoing construction schedule to replace Middletown's decades-old fire stations, city leaders are hopeful to have a robust staff with an additional seven firefighters in place to serve them.

City council authorized staff last week to apply for a Department of Homeland Security Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant to add seven additional firefighters to the fire division.

The grant is totally funded by the Department of Homeland Security for three years, then the city will have pay salaries and benefits for the additional staff.

City Manager Paul Lolli said the city's annual estimated cost at the end of the grant is \$785,000.

He said the staff feels confident in the financial plan that the city will be able to absorb the cost once the grant runs out.

The city will request \$1.95 million for seven firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics for the three-year period. It is just one of many grant applications all over the country asking for a piece of the DHS-allocated total of \$360 million. DHS officials anticipate making 300 awards beginning at the end of July.

Lolli said the fire division is staffed with 19 on duty per day.

"This will allow the fire department to staff the fire department at 21 firefighters on duty per day," Lolli said.

"What that means is (with the additional staff), each station will have an engine company and medic unit staffed in it," Lolli said. "This will take us back to 92 firefighters authorized strength, which was the number we were at the day I was hired in 1989."

Both Lolli, who is the former fire chief, and current Middletown Fire Chief Tom Snively are hopeful, but they know it is not a done deal.

"The last time we applied, we did not get it," Snively said. "But over the years, we have been successful at least two other times. They are very competitive. Although \$360 million sounds like a lot of money, when you spread it across the country it's not. So there's no guarantee."

Snively said if the city gets the grant, they will have 180 days to bring on the new hires. And that, too, is a competitive process with lots for area departments hiring.

He noted not as many people are going into the profession or to the trade schools, so now there is not a large of a pool of people.

Snively said the construction of new firehouses will be a retention tool for keeping firefighters and attracting them to the city.

In September, construction began on four fire stations to be built through 2025.

City and fire officials said building the four stations was needed to better serve the communities that have experienced population shifts and growth. The oldest station in the city is 70 years old.

The construction of the new headquarters and Station 82 is expected to be completed by November 2024. Stations 81 and 85 will begin construction in August and are expected to be completed by June 2025.

The projected cost for the construction of the four new stations is estimated to be \$26.8 million.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF BUILDING FOUR FIRE STATIONS

■ New fire headquarters location replacing the 1.38-acre site on Roosevelt Boulevard: A 3.6-acre site at Yankee Road and Cherry Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of Garfield school. Size: 24,300 square feet. Total cost: \$10.5 million.

■ Station No. 81 location replacing 0.28-acre site on Clinton Street: A 2.85-acre site at Henry Avenue and Charles Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of the Jefferson school. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.

■ Station No. 85 location replacing 0.86-acre site at Central Avenue and Breiel Boulevard: A 2-acre parcel at Sophie Avenue and Stolz Drive

encompassing the undeveloped, southern portion of Dowling Park owned by the city. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.

■ No. 82 location replacing 0.88-acre site on Dixie Highway: A 2.7-acre site at Ohio 122 and Atrium Boulevard acquired from Premier Health/Atrium Medical Center. Size: 11,800 square feet.

Cost: \$5.9 million.

SOURCE: CITY OF MIDDLETOWN/APP ARCHITECTURE

Middletown Works getting up to \$500M to slash emissions

Investment will secure 2,500 jobs at Cleveland-Cliffs plant.



Cleveland-Cliffs plans to overhaul the ironmaking systems at its Middletown Works and eliminate 1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - CONTRIBUTING WRITER

NEW DETAILS

MIDDLETOWN — Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works is expected to

receive a major investment up to \$500 million to overhaul the ironmaking systems and install a new environmentally friendly system.

The 100% hydrogen-ready, flex-fuel direct reduction plant will be directly coupled to two electric melting furnaces to produce iron with nearly zero greenhouse gas emissions, according to U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) office.

He said this partnership will ensure union steelworkers in Middletown remain "at the forefront of the global steel industry.

The Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works plant will support growing industries in Ohio while creating good-paying jobs, and ensuring that Ohio remains a national leader in manufacturing and innovation."

This investment will secure 2,500 jobs at Middletown Works, where the unionized workforce is represented by the International Association of Machinists. The flex-fuel DRI plant and EMFs will require 170 additional jobs. The project will result in 1,200 building trades jobs during peak construction, according to the company. Messages have been left for Shawn Coffey, union president.

In Middletown, the plant will retire one blast furnace, install two electric furnaces, and use hydrogen-based ironmaking technology.

The cutting-edge technology will preserve domestic iron and steel production capabilities and continue to create and support union jobs, Brown said in a release. In addition to emissions reduction in high-quality iron and steel making, the byproduct of the electric melting furnaces can be used as a Portland cement substitute, resulting in significant reductions in emissions, energy usage, and consumption of raw materials associated with cement manufacturing.

That's why legislators passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, Brown said.

The Department of Energy awarded the grant through the Industrial

Demonstrations Program, and Brown urged the Department of Energy to support this project.

Hilary Lewis, steel director for Industrious Labs, called the hydrogen plant “a crucial step toward revitalizing American manufacturing, fostering healthier communities and creating future-proof jobs. With this investment, the Biden administration has notched its first win in the global transition to green steel.”

On Monday, the Biden administration announced \$6 billion in funding for projects that will slash emissions from the industrial sector — the largest-ever U.S. investment to decarbonize domestic industry to fight climate change.

The industrial sector is responsible for roughly 25% of all the nation’s emissions, and has proven difficult to decarbonize due to its energy-intensive, large-scale operations.

Iron, steel, aluminum, food and beverage, concrete and cement facilities are some of those involved in this initiative.

Recipients of the funding include 33 demonstration projects in more than 20 states.

In Middletown, the plant will retire one blast furnace, install two electric furnaces, and use hydrogen-based ironmaking technology.

The project aims to eliminate 1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year from the largest supplier of steel to the U.S. automotive industry.

Two Cleveland-Cliffs projects were selected for award negotiations for up to \$575 million in total funding from the United States Department of Energy to pursue two decarbonization investments at Middletown Works and Butler Works in Pennsylvania.

If awarded the grant, the company would replace its existing blast

furnace at Middletown Works with a 2.5mtpa Hydrogen-Ready Direct Reduced Iron Plant and two 120 MW Electric Melting Furnaces to feed molten iron to the existing infrastructure already on site, including the BOF, Caster, Hot Strip Mill and various finishing facilities, the company said.

Middletown will maintain its existing raw steel production capacity of approximately 3 million net tons per year and will no longer use coke for iron production, the company said.

The process will dramatically reduce carbon emissions intensity, and will consolidate Middletown Works as the most advanced, lowest GHG emitting integrated iron and steel facility in the world, according to the company.

The facility will have the flexibility to be fueled by natural gas, which would reduce current ironmaking carbon intensity by over 50%; a mix of natural gas and clean Hydrogen; or clean Hydrogen, which would reduce current ironmaking carbon intensity by over 90%, the company said.

The net capital outlay for Cliffs will be approximately \$1.3 billion, net of capital avoidance on the existing blast furnace and coke plants, over a 5-year period primarily starting in 2025 and expected to conclude by 2029, the company said. Cliffs' portion will be funded using liquidity on hand and its own free cash flow generation.

The Middletown site offers enough available space to construct the new facility without encumbering the existing processes, effectively eliminating interference risks during the construction and commissioning phase, it announced.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Middletown plans cleanup event as part of revitalization

City to use \$800K in federal funds for Trash Bash, with more programs in the works.



Middletown's Trash Bash is planned for April 20, when residents can drop off trash and furniture at four sites in the city. Appliances will only be accepted at Middletown High School.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Got trash? Middletown wants to help you clean up it with the inaugural event of the city's neighborhood revitalization program.

The Trash Bash is planned for April 20 at four locations in the city. Organized by the city's development services department, it is the first in a series of "programs and events to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Devra Wells, Middletown development services director.

Last week, Middletown City Council appropriated \$800,000 of ARPA funds to initiate the first program and those in the future.

"It is just a drop in the bucket of what is needed," said Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli.

He said he is confident in the development of programs to assist neighborhoods throughout the city.

"These programs are kind of testing the waters to see what people in Middletown want to see," Lolli said.

From 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 20, four drop-off locations will be available for the communitywide cleanup.

Dumpsters will be placed at all locations during the Trash Bash.

The locations are Lefferson Park, 2145 S. Breiel Blvd.; Middletown Transit Station, 55 S. Broad St.; Douglass Park, 1821 Minnesota St.; and Middletown High School, 601 N. Breiel Blvd.

Trash and furniture will be accepted at all locations.

However, all appliances, including those with Freon, and tires will only be accepted at the high school.

The cleanup is for Middletown residents only and for residential waste only.

Participants should be prepared to show identification to verify address.

The city is working with Zollet Waste and Recycling, which will provide the containers and handle the removal and replacement of the Dumpsters on the day of the event. Zollet will collaborate with Cohen to recycle the appliances collected during the event.

Future projects that could include home repairs, power-washing and painting are still in the design phases, and they might coordinate with May National Home Improvement month.

Contact this reporter at 513-543-9227 or email lauren.pack@coxinc.com.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED DURING TRASH BASH

- Yard waste (limbs, brush, stumps, grass and leaves)
- Any liquids (gas, oil and paint)
- Building materials (concrete, bricks, blocks gravel, sand and drywall)
- Extra large items (piano, hot tub, pool table)
- Propane or gas tanks
- Lawnmowers
- Any commercial dumping