

DATE: February 6, 2026
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: Agenda for February 10, 2026

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **February 10, 2026** 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 -January 2026

(Motion and Approval)

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -October- December 2025

(Motion and Approval)

EDUCATION-Air Quality-Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Approval of Personnel Appointment-Charm Street, Environmental Health Specialist In Training
(Motion and Approval)
3. 2025 Annual Report

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Medical Director

Director of Nursing

Environmental Health Director

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026 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 Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

January 13, 2026

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on January 13, 2026.

Members Present

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

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent and Excused

Amy Sibcy

ROLL CALL

Ms. Sibcy was absent from the January Board of Health meeting.

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –December 2025

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Baggett to approve the December Board of Health minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-October-December 2025

Ms. Phillips Carter noted that health department revenue exceeded 2025 projections even with the cybersecurity incident.

**EDUCATION-Emergency Preparedness-Chandra Corbin, RN, BSN**

Ms. Corbin provided an emergency preparedness crash course for the Board of Health. Ms. Corbin explained that emergency preparedness began in earnest post 9/11. Public Health emergencies are defined as anything that acutely affects Public Health. The emergency planning is broken down by federal, state, regional, county and local levels and is further broken down by organizational, agency, departmental, divisional and individual.

Emergency plans are considered living documents as the planning never ends and are constantly being updated and revised. Ms. Corbin provided examples of public health emergencies which include, but are not limited to: Epi/pandemics, tornados, earthquakes, power outages, bioterrorism, civil unrest, cyber incidents and snowstorms.

Ms. Corbin explained the Board of Health's role in an emergency response could include: representing CMHD's interest in larger systems, using individual board member's backgrounds and disciplines, and preparation and planning.

Ms. Phillips Carter added that the City of Middletown Fire Chief, Brian Wright, is planning to provide emergency preparedness training to all city employees.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations-None.

2026 Election of President Pro Tem

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to appoint Jeff Bonnell as President Pro Tem.

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

2026 Board of Health Committees

The Finance Committee will be comprised of the following board members: Mayor Slamka, Ms. Sibcy, Ms. Baggett and Mr. Richmond. The Personnel Committee will be comprised of the following board members: Mayor Slamka, Dr. Zollett, Mr. Bonnell, Ms. Lolli and Ms. Miller.

2025 3rd & 4th Quarter Reports

Both the 2025 3rd & 4th Quarter Reports were included in the Board of Health packet along with the 2024 3rd & 4th Quarter Reports for comparison.

Name, Address, Phone, Health History (NAPH) Form Update

The NAPH form was included in the packet. This form is updated annually and maintained on file for emergency medication administration.

Approval of Health Commissioner Job Description

Mayor Slamka thanked the Personnel Committee for all their effort and input on the Health Commissioner job description, noting that Mr. Bonnell's input was especially helpful.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Dr. Zollett to approve the Health Commissioner job description.

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

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she and Ms. Ealy have been working on completing evaluations and the Health Commissioner job description.

The CEO of Atrium, Kevin Harlan, is meeting with the City Manager and Health Commissioner quarterly.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the City of Middletown has a new Communications Manager, Ken Brown, and is looking forward to working with him.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the City is now at about 80-85% recovered from the cybersecurity incident. Board of Health meetings are now able to be taped and uploaded to the city YouTube channel.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the December communicable disease case numbers.

C. auris	1
CPO	1
Chlamydia infection	22
Gonococcal Infection	5
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C-Perinatal Infection	2
Hepatitis C-chronic	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	16
Legionellosis	2
Pertussis	8
Salmonellosis	2
Streptococcal Group A-invasive	1
Syphilis	2

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the Board that she is currently completing the PHEP deliverables. These deliverables were added when the rest of the PHEP money was released.

Ms. Corbin noted that there have been more cases of Legionellosis reported as of late, in part because of additional testing that is being conducted. The current case Ms. Corbin is tracing may have come from a hospitalization.

Ms. Corbin noted that all influenza hospitalizations have been influenza A and have been among unvaccinated patients.

Ms. Phillips Carter added that Atrium CEO confirmed this is the first time since COVID that Atrium has been at capacity.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that one set of plans was received in December, The Press Room. Three food facilities were licensed: PT Alliance, Bismark and Jet's Pizza. Six vending locations were closed. Ms. Ealy noted that many vending locations are being replaced by micro markets. Hardee's, Club Cin Day and The Treat Shop were closed.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that payments for septic businesses are still being collected. Food renewal applications will go out at the end of January and payments for 2026 licenses will begin being accepted on February 1st.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that a job offer for the position of Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian-in-Training has been made. The new hire will hopefully begin the position in mid-February.

Board Member Open Discussion

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Middletown Connect is hoping to stretch into all neighborhoods in Middletown, becoming a strong piece of the community.

Ms. Lolli informed the board that there will be no Walk With a Doc in January.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Discussion, under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to move to executive session at 8:14am.

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



City of Middletown Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 AM. The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2025 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

January 2026 Financial Recap

January 2026

- Vital Stats - \$8,674.24 (839 certificates sold)
- Environmental - \$8,894.00 (41 fees collected)

Indigents Services

- \$3,799.00 spent YTD
- 5 Applications Processed
 - Average age 64
 - 3 Males/2 Females
 - 5 White
- 0 Overdoses (one COD pending)

Funding/Grants/Immunizations

- Workforce Development (WF-23) Active through 11/30/2027 - \$495,000 (Target \$100K/Yr.)
 - \$10K must be spent on Equity specific training-the has been completed
 - \$50K was awarded for Accreditation efforts
 - \$205,577.34 has been deposited to date
 - \$100K target for 2025 has been met
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/25-6/30/25 - \$23,284.55
 - New contract was approved and executed on November 11th
 - \$3,667.36 deposited to date
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC) 1/01/2025-12/31/2025
 - Yearly payments are submitted and awarded quarterly
 - No reimbursements to date
- Smoking Enforcement/Smoke Free Ohio
 - No reimbursements to date
- State Health Subsidy Reimbursements & Vital Statistics Reimbursements
 - State Subsidy OAC 3701-36
 - State Subsidy Accreditation OAC 3701.36
 - Vital Statistics Reimbursement - \$3,718.75
- Immunization Clinic
 - \$3,000.00 SunCoke Energy

City of Middletown Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385

As Of: 1/1/2026 to 1/31/2026

Account Access Group: N/A

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Target Percent:	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND				8.33%		
Revenue							
Intergovernmental							
228.000.43310	TOBACCO 21	\$14,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	12.50%	\$12,250.00	0.00%
228.000.43311	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SY	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$150,000.00	0.00%
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$15,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$15,450.00	0.00%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$100,000.00	0.00%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	\$279,450.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00		\$277,700.00	0.63%
Charges for Service							
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$61,203.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$61,203.00	0.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$100,000.00	\$2,845.52	\$2,845.52	N/A	\$97,154.48	2.85%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	(\$37.35)	(\$37.35)	N/A	\$37.35	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	N/A	\$180.00	10.00%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	N/A	\$0.00	100.00%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$400.00	0.00%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$80,000.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	N/A	\$79,400.00	0.75%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$35,000.00	\$376.00	\$376.00	N/A	\$34,624.00	1.07%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$4,326.00	\$410.00	\$410.00	N/A	\$3,916.00	9.48%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$247.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$247.00	0.00%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$6,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$2,575.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$2,575.00	0.00%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$213.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$213.00	0.00%
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$51,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$51,500.00	0.00%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
228.000.44484	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
	Charges for Service Totals:	\$344,664.00	\$7,214.17	\$7,214.17		\$337,449.83	2.09%

**Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2026 to 1/31/2026**

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc MISCELLANEOUS		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
Reimbursements/Transfers	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.49100 REIMBURSEMENTS		\$9,000.00	(\$90.70)	(\$90.70)	\$9,090.70	-1.01%
228.000.49330 FROM INCOME TAX		\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00	0.00%
228.000.49385 FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:				\$259,090.70	-0.04%
	Revenue Totals:				\$874,240.53	1.00%
228 Total:		<u>\$883,114.00</u>	<u>\$8,873.47</u>	<u>\$8,873.47</u>	<u>\$874,240.53</u>	<u>1.00%</u>
Grand Total:		\$883,114.00	\$8,873.47	\$8,873.47	\$874,240.53	1.00%
					Target Percent:	8.33%

City of Middletown Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200

Account Access Group: N/A

As Of: 1/1/2026 to 1/31/2026

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Include Pre-Encumbrances: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228		HEALTH FUND						
Health Admin								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$738,020.00		\$52,831.73	\$52,831.73	\$685,188.27	\$685,188.27	7.16%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	\$103,323.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,323.00	\$103,323.00	\$0.00	0.00%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$29,521.00	\$0.00	\$29,521.00	\$29,521.00	\$103,703.00	\$103,703.00	100.00%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$103,703.00	\$0.00	\$103,703.00	\$103,703.00	\$103,703.00	\$103,703.00	0.00%
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
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	\$10,701.00	\$734.06	\$734.06	\$9,966.94	\$9,966.94	\$9,966.94	6.86%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,825.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00	0.00%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
Personal Services Totals:		\$987,093.00	\$53,565.79	\$53,565.79	\$933,527.21	\$29,521.00	\$904,006.21	8.42%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$191.80	\$191.80	\$2,808.20	\$2,808.20	\$2,808.20	6.39%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$41.17	\$41.17	\$5,598.83	\$5,598.83	\$5,598.83	0.73%
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	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
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	\$1,312.56	\$1,312.56	\$39,772.44	\$0.00	\$39,772.44	3.19%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$32,144.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,144.95	\$12,144.95	\$20,000.00	37.78%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52483	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TRE	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	0.00%
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	\$12,280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,280.00	\$0.00	\$12,280.00	0.00%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,075.00	\$110.00	\$965.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$965.00	10.23%
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

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2026 to 1/31/2026

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Commodities	Contractual Services Totals:	\$262,724.95		\$1,655.53	\$261,069.42	\$12,144.95	\$248,924.47	5.25%
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$290.46	\$290.46		\$0.00	\$2,209.54	11.62%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	\$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	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
228.450.53310	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53510	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
228.450.53610	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53620	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$700.00	\$0.00	0.00%
228.450.53710	Commodities Totals:	\$3,900.00	\$290.46	\$290.46		\$3,609.54	\$0.00	7.45%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	\$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	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Health Admin Totals:							
228 Total:		\$1,258,517.95	\$55,511.78	\$55,511.78	\$1,203,006.17	\$41,665.95	\$1,161,340.22	7.72%
Grand Total:		\$1,258,517.95	\$55,511.78	\$55,511.78	\$1,203,006.17	\$41,665.95	\$1,161,340.22	7.72%

Target Percent: 8.33%



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Date: 2.10.2026

To: City of Middletown Board of Health

CC: City Manager, Personnel, Director of Finance

From: Jackie Phillips Carter, Health Commissioner

The City of Middletown Board of Health approves the appointment of Charm Street to Environmental Health Specialist in Training as of 2.10.2026.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Recommended Position</u>	<u>Recommended Pay Range</u>
Charm Street	EHSIT	Range 184 Step B Annual Salary \$55,052.40

Elizabeth Slamka

City of Middletown Board of Health President

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community
to Live, Work and Play



City of Middletown Health Department

2025 Annual Report

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Department Overview

The City of Middletown Health Department provides services to all residents of the City of Middletown and surrounding counties. All services are provided in accordance with State of Ohio statutes.

The Vital Statistics Division provides birth and death certificates from anywhere in the State of Ohio.

The Environmental Health Department of the City of Middletown Health Department is dedicated to ensuring a safe and healthy community by regulating and licensing various food-related facilities, including restaurants, grocery stores, vending sites, mobile units and temporary events such as the Ohio Balloon Challenge. We investigate foodborne illness outbreaks within city limits and oversee private water supplies, as well as the installation and inspection of on-site sewage systems. Our responsibilities also include monitoring school environments, inspecting body art and piercing establishments, and ensuring the safety and sanitation of the city jail. Through our Rabies Control Program, we investigate animal bite incidents.

Additionally, we license and inspect public swimming pools at locations such as apartment complexes, health clubs, and hotels. The division actively participates in emergency response planning and training, enforce Ohio's SmokeFree Workplace Program and enforces a local Tobacco-21 (T-21) program, which mandates that all retail establishments selling tobacco products within Middletown obtain a retail tobacco license.

Public Health Accreditation is a national program developed to measure Health Department performance against an established set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. Overseen by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, PHAB modeled its accreditation requirements on the Ten Essential Public Health Services to ensure all applicants meet or exceed an established baseline of quality and services. Although this program is voluntary on a national level, all health departments operating within the State of Ohio are required to gain accreditation status with the

Public Health Accreditation Board. City of Middletown Health Department achieved accreditation on November 4, 2022.

The City of Middletown Board of Health plays an important role in our public health system. They provide oversight and guidance for our health department. They approve public health priorities for our community. By operating at the local level, the board of health is closer to the community whose health they are charged with protecting. Their local nature makes boards of health an integral part of improving and promoting population health. The City of Middletown Board of Health directs our department in many areas such as: governance, policy-making, programmatic reviews, approves budget and much more.

Our Mission

The City of Middletown Health Department's mission is to prevent disease and injury, promote health and wellness, protect the environment and achieve health equity.

Our Vision

A Healthy, safe and thriving community where all people have equitable access to quality health care, food, housing, transportation, education, recreation, employment and community services.

Our Values

Core Values: Community Partnerships, equity, respect, diversity, inclusion, open- mindedness, empathy, innovativeness, dignity and trusted connections.

Our guiding principles provide a framework for staff to conduct their jobs:

Build – We work with partners and stakeholders to meet the needs of our community to promote health equity.

Unity – We show support, courtesy and understanding for all with whom we interact.

Teamwork – We capitalize on our collective differences, strengths and perspectives.

Leadership – We are committed to developing a public health staff that exceeds core competencies and provides outstanding service to the community.

Excellence – We set goals and strive to achieve the highest quality of public health service through innovation and demonstration of outcomes.

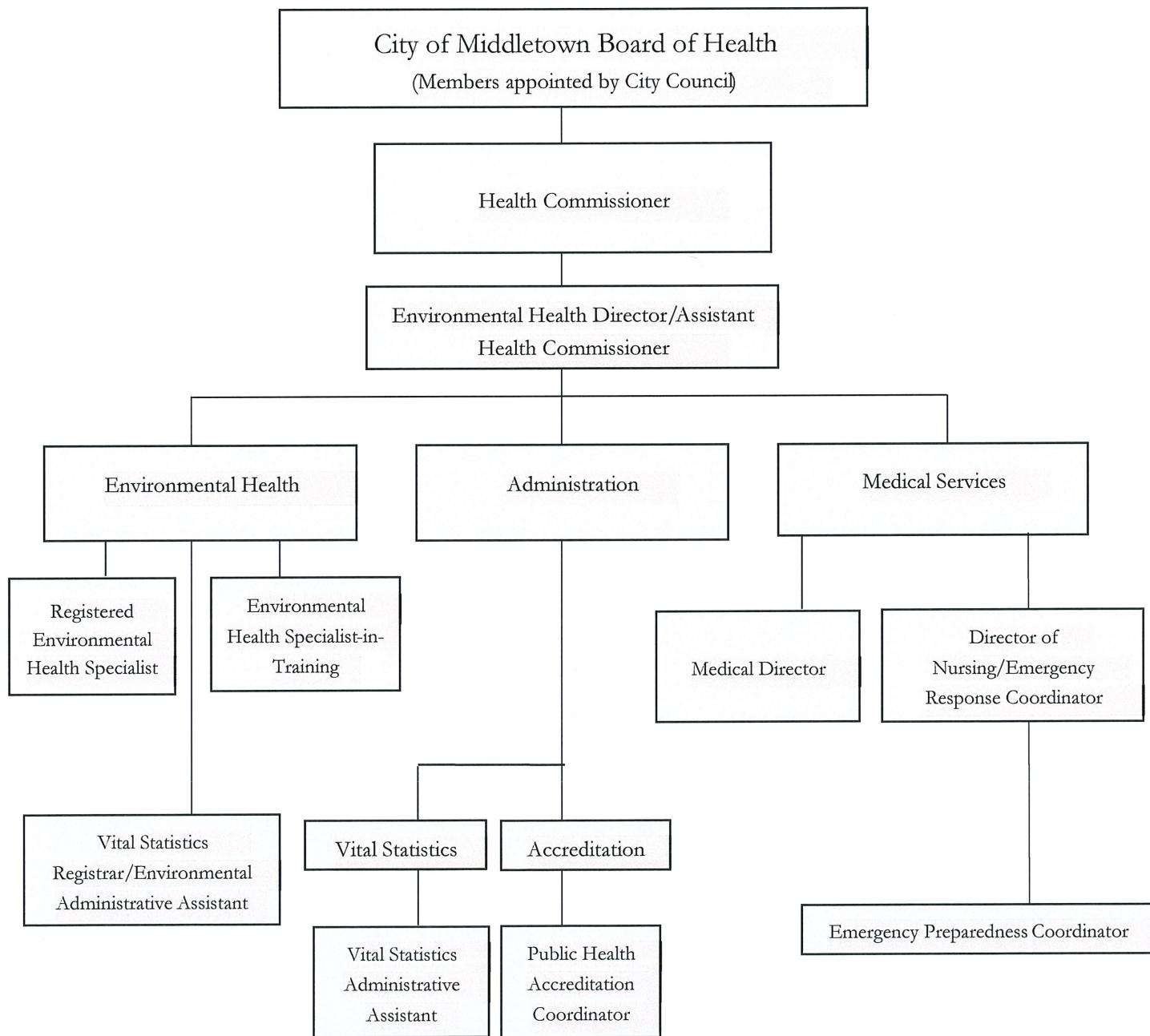
Respect – We respect the diversity of those we serve and value the contributions made by all staff.

Health Commissioner



Mrs. Jackie Phillips Carter is the Health Commissioner for the City of Middletown. She has worked in the healthcare field for over 30 years, joining the Health Department in 1997 in Middletown. She is a current member of the Ohio Public Health Association, the Southwest Ohio Health Commissioners Association, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, YWCA Hamilton, as well as many other boards within the community. Jackie received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Miami University and her Master's in Public Health from Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University.

Organizational Chart 2025



Board of Health Roster 2025

President (Ex-Officio)

Elizabeth Slamka, Mayor

President (Pro-Tem)

Jeff Bonnell

Members

Joseph Richmond, MBA
Wellness Benefits Consultant

Amy Sibcy
Business Owner

Tiffani Baggett
Supervisor of Laundry & Housekeeping,
Long-Term Care Facility

Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Physician

Ruth L. Lolli
Outreach Specialist

Jeff Bonnell
Funeral Director

Emily Miller
Infectious Disease Prevention

Secretary

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Commissioner of Health

Board of Health Meeting Dates 2025

- January 14, 2025
- February 11, 2025
- March 11, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- June 10, 2025
- July 8, 2025
- August 12, 2025
- September 9, 2025
- October 14, 2025
- November 11, 2025
- December 9, 2025

Selected Causes of Death Report *Selected causes of death do not reflect December totals

Selected Causes of Death 2025 Middletown Residents		2024	2025
Category	Included Causes	Total	Total
Coronavirus 2019	COVID-19	4	1
Neoplasms	Cancers	86	55
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	N/A	0	0
Endocrine	Nutritional & Metabolic Deficiency	11	6
	Kidney disease/Failure	11	5
Aging	Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease	24	12
	Failure to Thrive	53	48
Nervous System	Meningitis, MS, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's	1	5
Circulatory System	Hypertensive Heart Disease	8	9
	Ischemic Heart Disease	1	2
	Acute Myocardial Infarction	72	61
	Other Forms of Heart Disease	85	71
	CVA, Hemorrhage, Embolism	14	10
	Atherosclerosis	14	12
Pneumonia	N/A	7	2
Respiratory System	Respiratory Arrest, Lung DS, Bronchitis, COPD	82	68
Septicemia	N/A	17	18
Complications of Pregnancy	Childbirth, Puerperium	0	0
Stillbirth	N/A	5	6
Mortality in Infancy	Prematurity, SIDS, Co-Sleeping	2	1
Homicide	N/A	2	4
Suicide	N/A	6	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	N/A	6	4
Accidents due to falls	N/A	3	6
Drug Overdoses	N/A	21	18
Fire	N/A	0	0

Maternal Child Health Services

Atrium Medical Center	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Live Births	930	884	856	916	862	862	932
Stillbirths	4	9	3	6	6	5	6
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Deaths	6	2	5	1	2	2	1

Reportable Communicable Diseases 2025

Disease	1 st QTR	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR	2025 YTD	2024 YTD
COVID-19	412	110	287	0	809	1464
Candida auris	3	3	3	3	12	14
Campylobacteriosis	3	1	3	2	9	6
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	0	1	1
Haemophilus influenza (<i>Invasive Disease</i>)	0	0	0	1	1	1
Hepatitis A	0	2	2	0	4	1
Hepatitis B-Acute/Chronic	5	8	8	6	27	18
Hepatitis C-Acute/Chronic	17	15	12	6	50	73
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	106	0	1	16	123	68
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	0	4	5	3
Lyme Disease	0	3	1	0	4	1
Meningitis-bacterial (<i>Not N. Meningitidis</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	2	5	5	3	15	5
Streptococcal-Group A-Invasive	1	2	1	2	6	11
Streptococcus Pneumoniae-Invasive	1	4	2	1	8	4
Tuberculosis	2	3	1	0	6	0
Meningitis Aseptic/Viral	1	0	1	0	2	3
Pertussis	0	4	2	25	31	26
Varicella	0	2	0	2	4	2
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (<i>STEC</i>)	0	0	0	1	1	3
Giardiasis	0	0	1	0	1	2
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shigellosis	0	2	0	0	2	1
HIV	1	0	0	0	1	11
Sexually Transmitted Infections	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	2025 YTD	2024 YTD
Chlamydia Infection	65	62	70	65	262	290
Gonococcal Infection	17	12	24	18	71	113
Syphilis	1	8	5	7	21	14

PROFORMA PROJECTIONS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND

	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	BUDGET 2025	BUDGET 2026
BEGINNING BALANCE: 1/1	796,597	682,463	539,728	244,047
PROJECTED REVENUES				
STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	29,430	28,679	15,000	9,096
ADMIN FEES				
COVID EO, CO & VN GRANTS	153,541		0	
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	88,178	67,146	100,000	100,000
OTHER GRANTS	0		0	
CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (CMH)	0		0	0
VITAL STATISTICS	96,576	96,503	100,000	101,000
PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	240	180	200	202
VENDING LICENSE	735	1,221	750	758
ENV. FOOD SERVICE OPERATION (FSO)	74,141	70,045	80,000	80,800
ENV. RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT (RFE)	30,650	30,514	35,000	35,350
ENV. RESIDENTIAL SEWAGE	4,299	23,982	4,200	4,242
ENV. FOOD SAFETY ED.	240	61	240	0
ENV. SWIMMING POOLS & SPAS	5,500	4,490	6,000	6,060
ENV. TATTOOS & BODY ART	2,563	3,175	2,500	2,525
ENV. CAMP GROUNDS	163	213	200	202
ALLOTRAC MAC BILLING	50,750	47,140	50,000	20,000
IMMUNIZATIONS	3,000	30	3,000	3,000
FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	0			
MISC. (PHEP, SMOKING, INDIGENTS)	105,871		0	44,000
Subtotal	646,075	375,380	397,090	407,235
		-41.9%	5.8%	2.6%
WATER & SEWER FUND ADMIN FEES	54,942	56,590	59,420	61,103
Reimbursements		84,382		
TRANSFER FROM CITY INCOME TAX	0	200,000	250,000	250,000
TOTAL REVENUES	701,017	716,351	706,510	718,437
	-9.7%	2.2%	-1.4%	1.7%
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES				
	110.0%	153.0%	195.6%	199.0%
PERSONAL SERVICES	770,787	790,015	892,911	932,127
OTHER	88,222	61,621	100,980	101,990
GARAGE CHARGES	3,357	2,771	3,500	3,800
AUTOS & TRUCK DEPR.	4,796	4,800	4,800	4,800
Budget Savings				
ENCUMBRANCES				
TOTAL HEALTH ENVIRONMENT/ADM.	867,162	859,207	1,002,191	1,042,717
	4%	-1%	17%	4%
REVENUES OVER(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(166,145)	(142,856)	(295,681)	(324,280)
UNEXPENDED BALANCE	630,452	539,608	244,047	(80,233)
UNENCUMBERED ENDING BALANCE: 12/31	630,452	539,608	244,047	(80,233)

2025 Department Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS	2024 YTD	2025 YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	862	932	Food Service Operations (FSO)	471	507
Birth Certificates Issued	4041	4454	Retail Food Establishments (RFE)	225	205
Death Certificates Issued	3954	3992	Sewage	9	494
Indigent Cremations Services	33	22	Schools	42	40
*Death certificates filed is currently unavailable as OVRS reporting is being updated.			Vending Locations	28	20
			Temporary FSO/RFE	30	45
DEATHS			Mobile FSO/RFE	28	22
Accident			Complaints	48	52
□ Drug Overdose	21	18	Smoking	5	4
□ Falls	3	6	Swimming Pools	99	97
□ Motor Vehicle	6	4	Tattoo	16	11
Homicide	2	2	Temp Park/Camp	7	3
Suicide	6	5	Jail Inspection	1	1
Could Not Be Determined	3	3			
COVID 19 Related Deaths	4	1			
Pending Investigation	5	0	ANIMAL BITES		
			Dog	72	64
FOOD SAFETY TRAINING			Cat	7	8
Number of Attendees	3	14	Raccoon/Groundhog/Bat	3	3



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

January of 2026

Josh Melegari, MPH
Josh.melegari@bcohio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 291
- Most Frequently Reported: Chlamydia, Influenza Hospitalizations, Gonococcal Infection, Hep C, Hep B

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, January 2026 (excluding Chlamydia infection, gonorrhea, COVID and RSV Hosp.)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	5904	51.7	-	-
Butler County	160	41.0	0.79	(0.677-0.927)

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 21% less likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (January 2026)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	166	60.2	↓4.6% from December 2025 (n=174)
Middletown City Health Department	67	131.3	↑4.7% from December 2025 (n=64)
City of Hamilton Health Department	58	91.5	↓30.1% from December 2025 (n=83)
Butler County (all inclusive)	291	74.5	↓9.3% from December 2025 (n=321)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (January 2026)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	26	↓3.7% from December 2025 (n=27)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	137	↑4.6% from December 2025 (n=131)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	14	↑7.7% from December 2025 (n=13)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	97	↓23.6% from December 2025 (n=127)

*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, or COVID and RSV Hospitalization due to lack of ODRS data. 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.

Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of January 1 – 31, 2026, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of January. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 2/04/2026.

Table 4. *Diseases Reported in Butler County (January 2026)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	City of Hamilton Health Department	Middletown City Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
Babesiosis	0	1	0	1
C. auris	4	1	0	5
COVID-19 Hospitalizations				22
CPO	3	0	0	3
Campylobacteriosis	3	0	1	4
Chlamydia infection	66	15	23	104
Cryptosporidiosis	2	0	0	2
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	1	0	0	1
Giardiasis	2	1	0	3
Gonococcal infection	14	7	7	28
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	0	1	0	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	4	1	1	6
Hepatitis B - Perinatal Infection	0	2	0	2
Hepatitis C - chronic	10	3	5	18
Influenza-associated hospitalization	38	23	23	84
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	0	0	1
Pertussis	3	0	3	6
RSV Hospitalizations				7
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	1
Shigellosis	1	0	0	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)	0	1	0	1
Strep Pneumoniae - invasive	0	2	3	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	4	0	0	4
Syphilis	4	0	1	5
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	2
Varicella	1	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	1	0	0	1
Total	166	58	67	291

Table 5.* Butler County January Outbreaks

Outbreak Type	Causative Agent	Classification Status	Investigation Status
Healthcare-Associated	Influenza	Suspected	Open
Healthcare-Associated	COVID-19	Confirmed	Open
Healthcare-Associated	COVID-19	Confirmed	Open

*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, or COVID and RSV Hospitalization due to lack of ODRS data. 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.

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Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2021 through 2026 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 (2021–2026)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	5 Year Avg.	Up to 1/31/2026
Anaplasmosis- Anaplasma phagocytophilum	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Botulism- wound	0	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	2	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	1	13	37	57	53	32.2	5
Campylobacteriosis	35	48	49	42	55	45.8	4
Chlamydia infection	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,208	1,170	1292.8	106
COVID-19 Hospitalization (not reportable prior to Oct 2025)	0	0	0	0	37	7.4	22
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	11	12	93	58	61	47.0	4
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	1	0	0	1	<1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	5	7	7	12	7	7.6	2
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	3	1	0	1.0	0
Dengue	1	1	0	1	1	<1	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	15	17	17	12	10	14.2	1
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	14	7	13	5	5	8.8	2
Gonococcal Infection	480	473	413	369	293	405.6	28
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	6	11	18	14	6	11.0	1
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	1	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	2	0	0	0.6	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	85	78	82	69	60	74.8	5
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	434	390	280	234	215	310.6	19
HIV	58	38	35	44		43.8	
Hansen's disease	0	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	18	306	70	333	512	247.8	98
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	10	15	12	14	22	14.6	1
Listeriosis	0	1	2	0	0	<1	0
Lyme Disease	0	2	2	5	6	3.0	0
Malaria	1	3	4	3	1	2.4	0
Measles – imported outside Ohio	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	11	10	11	4	7.8	1
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	3	0	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	15	7	1	0	0	4.6	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	4	0	0	0	1.0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Pertussis	3	3	5	65	85	32.2	3
RSV Hospitalization (not reportable prior to Oct 2025)	0	0	0	0	9	1.8	7
Salmonellosis	26	34	54	36	39	37.8	1
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	2	0	1	2	0	1.0	0
Shigellosis	3	6	7	12	14	8.4	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	24	34	39	31	20	29.6	3
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	1	1	0	3	<1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	33	40	43	40	50	41.2	6
Syphilis (all stages)	23	45	66	55	56	49.0	0
Tuberculosis (active)	7	8	7	13	17	10.4	0
Varicella	5	8	19	11	5	9.6	1
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	2	2	3	2	3	2.4	0
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	1	0	1	<1	0
Yersiniosis	1	2	4	4	5	3.2	1

*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, or COVID and RSV Hospitalization due to lack of ODRS data. 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.

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Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for January 2026

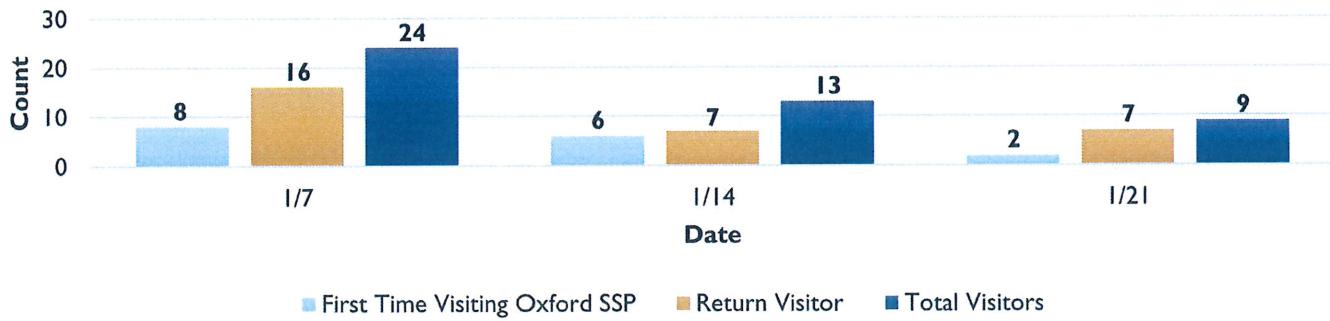


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2025 and 2026

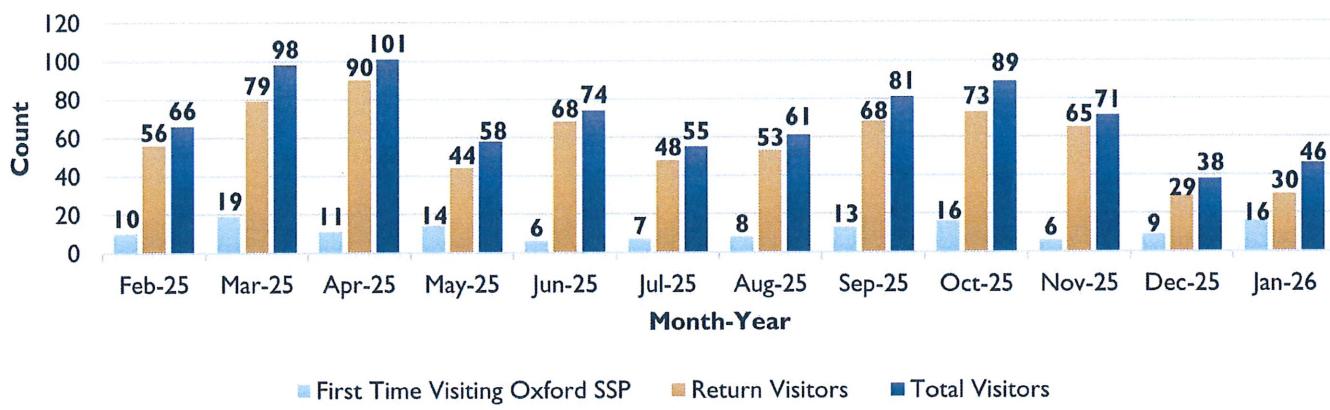


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2025 and 2026

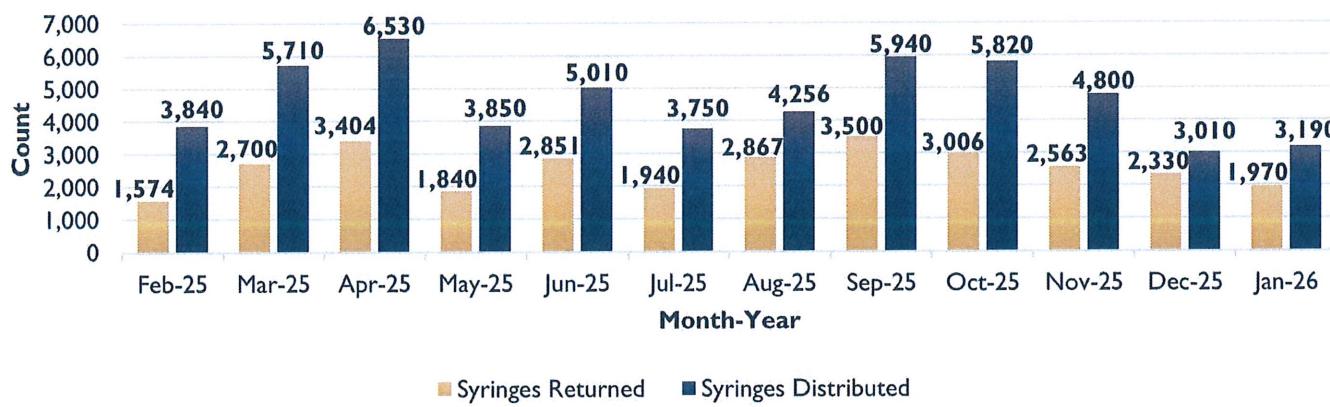
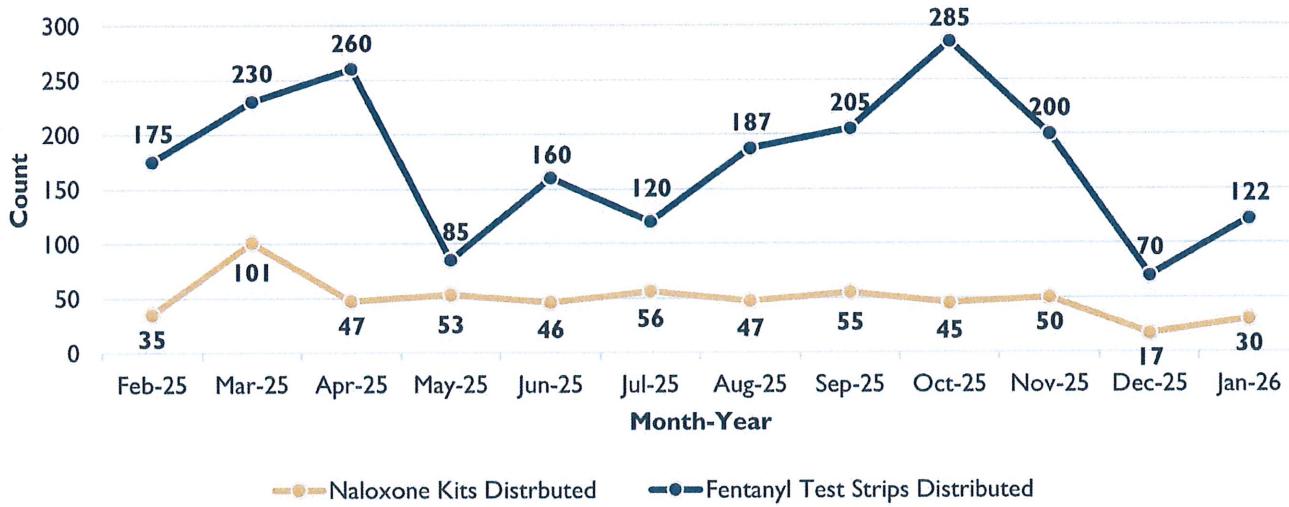




Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City or County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for January 2026

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	400	840	47.62%
45013	400	720	55.56%
45015	200	240	83.33%
Hamilton Total	1,000	1,800	55.56%
45044 - Middletown	200	320	62.50%
45056 - Oxford	770	990	77.78%
Hamilton County	0	80	0.00%
Total	1,970	3,190	61.76%

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Oxford SSP Site for 2025 and 2026



Source: Butler County General Health District – Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained February 2, 2026, Data is provisional and subject to change



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department



Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2025 and 2026



Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2025 and 2026

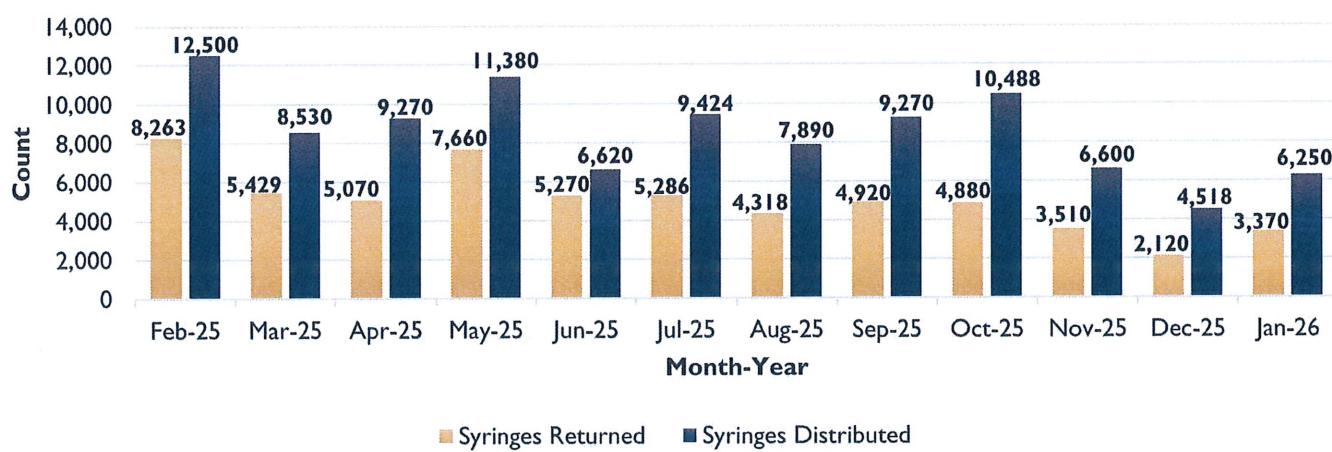


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for January 2026

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	3,000	5,600	53.57%
Hamilton County, OH	270	430	62.79%
Montgomery County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Warren County, OH	100	180	55.56%
Total	3,370	6,250	53.92%

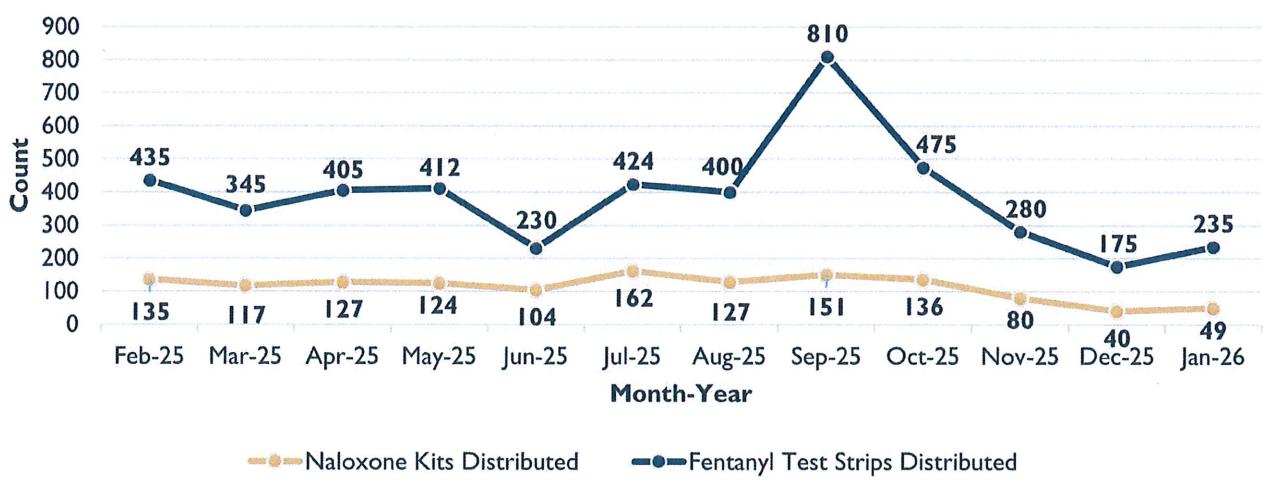




Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Fairfield SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for January 2026

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	1,260	2,200	57.27%
45013	1,040	1,720	60.47%
45015	600	820	73.17%
Hamilton Total	2,900	4,740	61.18%
Middletown			
45042	0	120	0.00%
45044	0	120	0.00%
Middletown Total	0	240	0.00%
45014 - Fairfield	0	520	0.00%
45050 - Monroe	100	100	100.00%
Butler County Total	3,000	5,600	53.57%

Figure 3: Total Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Fairfield SSP Site for 2025 and 2026



Source: Butler County General Health District – Fairfield Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained February 2, 2026, Data is provisional and subject to change



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department



Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For January 2025

Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (60 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1 Figleaf Brewing	1/8/26	X							Investigation was conducted on 1/22/2026.
2									
3									
Notes:									

City of Middletown Health Department

January 2026

Vital Statistics	Monthly	YTD	Environmental Inspections	Monthly	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	88	88	Food Service Operations (FSO)	22	22
Death Certificates Filed	95	95	Retail Food Establishments	28	28
Birth Certificates Issued	288	288	Prelicense/Consultations	15	15
15Death Certificates Issued	453	453	Sewage Inspections	3	3
Ind33igent Cremation Services	4	4	School Inspections	0	0
			Vending Locations	0	0
			Temporary FSO/RFE	0	0
			Mobile FSO/RFE	0	0
			Complaints	7	7
Deaths Filed			Smoking Complaint Inspections	1	1
Accidental			Swimming Pools	0	0
Drug Overdose	0	0	Tattoo	0	0
Falls	2	2	Temp Park/Park Camp	0	0
Motor Vehicle	0	0	Jail Inspection	0	0
Exposure to Elements	0	0	Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Choking	0	0	T21 Inspections	0	0
Fire	0	0	Well Sealing Permits	0	0
Homicide	0	0	Septic Abandonment	0	0
Suicide	0	0	Plans Received	1	1
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0			
Could Not Be Determined	0	0			
Pending Investigation	0	0			

** Totals reflect decedents that expired within City of Middletown city limits

Level 1 Certification Training		Animal Bites
Number of Attendees	0	Dog 2 Cat 0 Bat 1

Complaint Information from Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency for Middletown for 2025

Date	FACILITY	POLLUTANT	locality	COUNTY	STREET
12/27/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln
12/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln
12/18/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Pershing Ave
12/18/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrews St
12/8/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
12/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Morgan Dr
12/8/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Sutton Brooke Ct
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
12/7/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
12/7/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ambergreen
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
12/7/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	East Brooke Dr
12/7/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Churchill Manor Ct
11/24/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St
11/12/2025	Butler County Sewer and Water	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hawthorne St
11/8/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Todhunter Rd
11/5/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St.
10/29/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Mohawk St



10/27/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Lane
10/27/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/26/2025	Middletown Coke	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Carol Ann Ln
10/26/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Carol Ann Ln
10/26/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Bendel Dr
10/26/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Willowbrook Dr
10/25/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Granny Smith Ln
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Bridgewater Ln
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Riley Ln
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Dorothy Ln
10/25/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Old St
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Wicklow Lane
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Brandon Dr
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/25/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hanford Ln
10/25/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ohio Ave
10/25/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	S Main St
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	East Brooke Dr
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Kameron Pl
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Beckwourth Dr
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Thomas Pointe Ct
10/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Carol Ann Ln
10/24/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Rosedale Rd

10/24/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hanford Ln
10/21/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State Rd
10/16/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln
10/15/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
10/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/14/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hamilton Middletown Rd
10/14/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Northbrook Ln
10/14/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/14/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/13/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Harbor Cove Ct
10/13/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Michelle Ln
10/13/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Buckeye Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Michelle Ln
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Morgan Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollybrook Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	East Ave
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/12/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Morgan Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Shanda Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Scarlet Oak Dr
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Thomas Pointe Ct
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Brandon Dr



10/12/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Michelle Ln
10/12/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Blue Springs Dr
10/12/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke or Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Nettleton Ct
10/12/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Kameron Pl
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Canterbury Ct
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Amity Ln
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Babbling Brooke Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Churchill Manor
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Distribution Rd
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Roden Park Dr
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Bridgewater Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hanford Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Amity Ln

10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ambergreen
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Scarlet Oak Dr
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Todhunter Rd
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Amity Ln
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Britton Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Amity Ln
10/11/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Kelsey Tr
10/11/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Spencer Terrace
10/11/2025	3764 Dorothy Ln	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	Dorothy Ln
10/10/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodland Ct
10/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Brittony Woods
10/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Bendel Dr
10/10/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Harbor Cove Ct
10/9/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Heritage Trail Dr
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke/Todhunter Term	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Meadowlark Lane
10/9/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrews St

10/9/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Davis Dr
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Dorothy Ln
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Thomas Pointe Ct
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Amity Ln
10/9/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Rufus St
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown/Monroe	Butler	Forest Pond Dr
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Michelle Ln
10/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/8/2025	Unknown	Odor	Monroe/Middletown	Butler	
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Churchill Manor Ct
10/8/2025	Cliffs/ Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
10/8/2025	Kroger/ Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke/Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ambergreen Ct
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
10/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Forest Pond Dr
10/7/2025	1822 Tytus Ave	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	-
10/3/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St

10/2/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
10/1/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Todhunter
10/1/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Lane
10/1/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/1/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
10/1/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Forest Pond Drive
9/30/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
9/30/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Church Hill Manner
9/30/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
9/29/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	
9/29/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State
9/29/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander
9/29/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	South Main
9/29/2025	Cliffs, Middletown Coke, Stein	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Cottonwood Run
9/27/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca St
9/20/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca St
9/18/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Carol Ann Ln
9/18/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
9/15/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
9/12/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
9/7/2025	2304 Linden Ave	Asbestos	Middletown	Butler	N/A
9/5/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	
9/1/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander
9/1/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca
8/31/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca
8/30/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca

8/29/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St
8/28/2025	Cliffs and Stein	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State Rd.
8/21/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Forest Pond Dr.
8/21/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
8/21/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Ln
8/21/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree
8/20/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
8/20/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St
8/19/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Brentwood St
8/15/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St
8/14/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State Road
8/13/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State Rd
8/8/2025	Cliffs/Middletown Coke	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St.
8/6/2025	3764 Dorothy Ln	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	-
8/5/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct
8/3/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St.
8/1/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St.
8/1/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Lane
7/31/2025	Inside complainant's residence	Other	Middletown	Butler	Mallard Court
7/31/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
7/31/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Lane
7/31/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Lane
7/31/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Court
7/31/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Court
7/30/2025	Kroger / Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge
7/30/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	NA

7/29/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Alameda Circle
7/19/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew St.
7/10/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Seneca
7/7/2025	Stein / TMS	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State
6/30/2025	Unknown	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
6/23/2025	Stein/ TMS	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State
6/18/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew St.
6/17/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew St.
6/11/2025	City of Middletown	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	6th Avenue
5/30/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Oxford State Road
5/26/2025	Unknown	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa St
5/8/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr.
5/8/2025	Cleveland Cliffs or MCC	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Park Drive
4/30/2025	408 Franklin St	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	
4/24/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew St
4/18/2025	Bertha Ave	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	Bertha Ave
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
4/15/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-

4/14/2025	N/A	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	-
4/12/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Court
4/11/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Other	Middletown	Butler	Saybrook
4/11/2025	Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Ottawa
4/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Yankee Rd.
4/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Sutton Brooke Ct.
4/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollybrook Dr
4/10/2025	N/A	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Drive
4/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Stone Ridge Lane
4/10/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct.
4/7/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Hollytree Dr
4/6/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Woodgate Ct.
4/3/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew Street
3/28/2025	6991 Riverview Ave	Fugitive Dust	Middletown	Butler	N/A
3/18/2025	Adam Dwyer Funeral Trade	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Manchester Avenue
3/12/2025	3018 Yankee Rd	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	-
3/12/2025	5992 Serena Way	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	-
3/12/2025	Tri-State Landscaping	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Bendel Drive
2/26/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln.
2/23/2025	Middletown Coke	Odor	Middletown	Butler	N/A
2/15/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln.
2/11/2025	700 Granada Ave	Open Burning	Middletown	Butler	NA
2/10/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Niederlander Ln.
2/7/2025	Ohio Power	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Pleasant
2/6/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	NA
2/5/2025	Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	NA



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

2/5/2025	Cliffs	Particulate	Middletown	Butler	Grand Ave
1/23/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	Odor	Middletown	Butler	-
1/23/2025	Graphic Packaging	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Jefferson Ave.
1/22/2025	Middletown Coke Company	Odor	Middletown	Butler	Andrew St

2025 Nov's for Middletown

NOV, WL, FOV Letter Date	Name	Premise Number	Locality
1/14/2025	Middletown Coke Company	1409011031	Middletown
1/16/2025	Steven Harman	Open burning	Middletown
5/15/2025	Middletown Coke Company	1409011031	Middletown
8/29/2025	Cleveland Cliffs	1409010006	Middletown
11/17/2025	KIC Jefferson Avenue LTD (Cohen)	1409011026	Middletown
11/21/2025	Maggs Tree Service	Open burning	Middletown

Hospital stays for flu quickly rising in Ohio

Health officials: New strain from Australia may be contributing to increasing number of hospitalizations.



Flu-related hospitalizations in the Dayton area and nationally have surged in part due to a new strain of influenza A that entered the U.S. from Australia over the summer. The new strain appears to circumvent this season's flu vaccine. AP

BY MICHAEL KURTZ STAFF WRITER

Hospitalizations due to flu in the region and nationally are climbing rapidly and in some cases doubling or tripling historical averages, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

For the week ending Dec. 27, 1,465 Ohioans were hospitalized due to the flu, up from 745 the prior week and more than double the historical average of 665.

A 16-year-old Beavercreek girl was the state's first pediatric flu-related death of the season, ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff reported on Dec. 31.

Ohio typically has between 1 and 7 pediatric flu-related deaths per year according to the state.

Greene County had 30 people hospitalized for the flu during the week ending Dec. 27, more than triple the 9 from the prior week.

Regionally, Montgomery County reported the most flu-related hospitalizations with 194, more than double the 86 from the week prior and well ahead of the 35 historical average.

Butler (72), Clark (14), Miami (14) and Warren (16) counties all saw increases in flu-related hospitalizations.

The uptick in respiratory illnesses including the flu prompted the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) last week to implement temporary visitor restrictions at area hospitals.

No visitation is allowed by:

- Anyone who is ill with any respiratory symptoms including coughing, fever, chills, headache, vomiting, sore throat, muscle aches or diarrhea.
- Anyone under age 14 even if they have received the seasonal influenza vaccine or receive the appropriate vaccine when it becomes available.

Those restrictions remain in place.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nationwide,

the number of people hospitalized with influenza nearly doubled over the two-week span, to 19,000 from 10,000.

Surging rates are being attributed to a new strain of the influenza A virus that came from Australia over the summer, according to the CDC.

The strain is not believed to be more severe or contagious than previous years, but has changes that allow it to circumvent immune defenses and this season's flu vaccine, which was formulated in February.

The CDC estimates about 7.5 million Americans have been sickened by the flu this season and more than 3,100 people have died.

Flu season goes from October to May, with cases peaking December through February.

Contact this reporter at michael.kurtz@coxinc.com.

Atmosphere, menu, music make The Swire Inn a mainstay

FOOD & DINING



The Swire Inn on Main Street in Middletown has a variety of English pub style food, wine, beer and cocktails. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



The Swire Inn's most talked-about menu items is its deviled egg appetizer. These eggs are anything but traditional, rotating through inventive flavors such as Pad Thai, Skyline chili and hot honey peach. NINA WEIERMAN / CONTRIBUTED



Nina Weierman

“I strive to make people feel welcome and comfortable, because that's how I would want to feel walking into a restaurant.”

For General Manager Shelbi Hamilton, that belief sets the tone at The Swire Inn, a community-focused restaurant in downtown Middletown.

Here, hospitality feels natural rather than performative. Regulars are greeted by name, and the dining room carries an easy sense of

familiarity.

Though the building has served many purposes over the years, The Swire Inn remains a late 19th-century house at heart, with a front porch and an entry that feel like crossing the threshold into someone's home. That feeling is reinforced by the people who return week after week.

"We have regulars who fill the bar every Tuesday and Wednesday night, and they've been coming in for years," Hamilton said. "Over time, those connections grow.

These aren't just customers anymore. They feel like family, and this place feels like my second home."

Hamilton started working at The Swire Inn six years ago as a part-time server and has since risen through the ranks.

While many restaurants talk about personalized service, at The Swire Inn it shows up in small, repeat moments, remembered preferences and conversations that continue week after week. As the pace in the kitchen allows, Head Chef Corey Estes can often be found in the dining room, stopping at tables to ask how meals are landing and what guests are enjoying.

Estes takes that feedback seriously and uses it to shape his menu and choices for specials.

Recently, a regular guest called ahead with a request for ham and bean soup. Because the ingredients were already in the kitchen, Estes made it the evening's special.

"I like knowing what the guests like. I try my hardest to see what people enjoy and what they don't, and I make changes based on their feedback," Estes said.

Specials are not limited to the kitchen. Hamilton also creates the

cocktail menus at The Swire Inn, updating them seasonally and paying close attention to what guests are gravitating toward. Social media plays a role in that process, she said, especially when certain drinks or flavors gain momentum. "Social media is such a big thing," Hamilton said.

"When the espresso martinis went viral, we were doing things like that. If something is peaking and people want to see it right away, we'll hop on it and make it a cocktail of the week."

Those rotating cocktails often draw new guests through the door, while giving regulars something new to try alongside familiar favorites such as the Swire Burger or the Reuben. One of The Swire Inn's most talked-about menu items is its deviled egg appetizer. Move over paprika, because these eggs are anything but traditional, rotating through inventive flavors such as Pad Thai, Skyline chili and hot honey peach.

Estes changes the deviled egg flavors a few times a week, often based on what ingredients are available and what guests are responding to. The rotating approach allows him to experiment without straying too far from what diners recognize.

"With the eggs, I just take what people expect and kind of just upscale it a little bit," Estes said.

That willingness to experiment has also led to unexpected favorites, including the Ugly Donut Burger, a special that paired a burger with a glazed donut from longtime Middletown donut shop Central Pastry Shop.

What began as a limited idea quickly gained attention and eventually earned a place on the menu, reflecting both the restaurant's creativity and its commitment to supporting local businesses.

"Growing up in this area, and living here my entire life, I've always felt a connection to the companies around us. I've been going to Central Pastry Shop since I was a kid. I am so glad we have this partnership," Estes said.

That sense of community carries through the rest of the experience at The Swire Inn. Live music is featured throughout much of the year, with performances on the patio during warmer months and inside when the weather turns cooler.

An upstairs banquet space hosts events ranging from reunions to showers, most recently a Middletown High School class reunion.

Reflecting on the warmth and comfort guests experience at The Swire Inn, Hamilton said.

"I don't know if it's the original brick, the fact that it's a house or just all the history that's here," Hamilton said. "This building has been around since the 1800s, and you feel that. I love this place, and I love the people who come here. Over time, those customers really do become friends."

Nina Weierman is a freelance writer and mother living in Centerville, Ohio. More about her projects and writing can be found at linktr.ee/ninaweierman.

HOW TO GO

What: The Swire Inn

Where: 64 S Main St., Middletown

Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.- 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Online: [facebook.com/ theswireinn](https://facebook.com/theswireinn)

Middletown PD corrections officers, others get raises

Records clerks, dispatchers will also receive increase in pay.



Middletown has approved new, three-year collective bargaining agreements for police records clerks, corrections officers and dispatchers, which will raise wages.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Middletown Police records clerks, corrections officers and dispatchers have received pay raises due to the approval of a new contract that began Jan. 1.

The contract, recently approved by city council, the Fraternal Order of Police and Ohio Labor Council Inc., gives the employees a 13.5% pay increase over three years.

Middletown Police Chief Earl Nelson, who represented the city and the police department during negotiations, said the new contracts represent a commitment to employee retention.

"The city recognizes that in order for us to continue retention for good employees, we needed to stay competitive with other cities and municipalities with pay," Nelson said. "Pay was the focal point of this negotiation."

Through communications, Nelson said employees are satisfied with the contract terms, which were agreed upon before the previous contract expired on Dec. 31, 2025.

"Sometimes that doesn't happen," Nelson said. "Contract negotiations can drag on a little bit because both sides can't come to an agreement. But this time ... both sides did a really good job."

Following a 5% pay increase in 2026, records clerks, corrections officers and dispatchers will receive a 4.5% raise in 2027 and 4% in 2028.

For police civilian employees, or records clerks, here are the other key changes:

- Probationary period for new employees will be extended from six months to 12 months
- A longevity payment of 0.75% will be provided for employees at years seven through nine

- There will be a one-time \$2,000 bonus in 2026
- Employees reviewing and redacting body-worn camera video for public records requests will receive \$3 per hour premium pay
- Employees will receive 16 hours of comp time per calendar year if assigned to work the job of another employee Corrections officers will also receive a one-time \$2,000 bonus in 2026 and an additional \$1 per hour worked for prisoner transports when the corrections officer is Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy firearms qualified.

For dispatchers, a \$2.50 wage adjustment will be made to each pay step before the 5% increase in 2026 takes effect.

Dispatchers will also receive a \$750 bonus in January 2026, a \$750 bonus in January 2027 and \$500 in January 2028.

The drug testing provisions of each agreement were modified to include recreational marijuana, according to the contract.

The recently approved 2026 city budget included anticipated 4.5% wage increases for police civilian employees, corrections officers and dispatchers. The additional 0.5% increase and bonuses for each department will require appropriations later in 2026:

- Police civilian employees: \$14,900.03
- Corrections officers: \$30,180.83
- Dispatchers: \$87,404.49

Starting salaries for records clerks is now \$41,841.28, corrections officers \$48,716.72, and dispatchers \$51,195.46, according to the contract.

Council previously approved raises in March 2025 for police officers, sergeants and lieutenants, making them some of the highest paid in the county.

The cost of the raises increased the city's 2025 budget by \$645,000 — \$400,000 for the patrol officers and \$245,000 for the supervisors, according to the contracts.

The contract increased patrol officer wages by approximately 8.8% in the first year. The wage increases will also increase pension, Bureau of Workers' Compensation premium, and other wage-driven personnel expenses.

After decades of working side by side, Marie Edwards succeeds Verlena Stewart as CBI leader

MIDDLETOWN



Verlena Stewart (left) former CBI executive director, and Marie Edwards, new CBI executive director, sit on steps in the new expansion of Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center in Middletown. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

At the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center in Middletown, two women have long represented the Community Building Institute, or CBI,

the center's anchor tenant.

Verlena Stewart and Marie Edwards both visited the community center when they were young, worked for the city of Middletown in the 2000s and joined the CBI staff in the early the 2010s.

"We kind of grew up here," Stewart said.

Now, Edwards has taken the reins as CBI executive director following Stewart's retirement at the end of 2025.

Edwards has inherited an expanded and renovated community center, about 15 full- and part-time employees and over 200 students who attend in-house or school programs.

Edwards, who was at first unsure if she ready for the position, said when it came down to it, she knew it was right.

"It was all about timing," she said.

CBI was formed in 2009, and Stewart joined in 2010 as manager of the parent resource center, which had just been launched.

"I knew nothing about early education, babies and all that but I thought the building of a program would be fun and exciting," she said.

Stewart, 66, retired at the end of 2025 after taking on the executive director role in 2023. This was her second retirement, her first being from the city of Middletown in 2008 after working there since she was 16.

Stewart and Edwards, 48, first met when Edwards was hired as Stewart's admin at the city in 2006.

From the beginning, Stewart saw Edwards' potential.

"I remember hiring her thinking at the time that she would come in and

take my place," Stewart said. "It's kind of full circle because it's happened again."

Edwards joined CBI in 2012, meaning her and Stewart have worked side by side for the better part of the last 20 years.

Edwards sees Stewart as a mentor in the same way Stewart sees Marva Sampson — a local volunteer and community leader who became the first Black woman to serve as a city department head in 1970 — as a mentor.

"Verlena would talk about how Marva helped to shape her, and she poured into her, and I think the same thing when I think about (Verlena)," Edwards said.

"When she left, I was like ...

'I was with you at the city, I followed you to CBI, I can't follow you home.' So, I got to stay here and ... do the work."

Edwards said Stewart has taught her fiscal responsibility, maintaining a healthy team culture and building relationships "even when it's uncomfortable."

Stewart is proud of Edwards coming into the role, and she says it was a "very natural transition."

"It made sense," she said.

Stewart's retirement came at the heels of a year-long, \$6.7 million renovation of the 83-year-old community center on Lafayette Avenue.

"I really do feel like I left CBI in the best possible position it could be in, but the work is still hard. We're always chasing dollars," Stewart said.

"There's never enough money and growing and building is tough because nobody really sees it other than the person who's holding the vision.

"You might not have all the answers, or know what the future might bring ... but CBI is positioned for success. The community center is positioned for success.

Is it going to be hard? Absolutely."

Edwards' next steps are to get CBI's family center up and running, generate some revenue from renting out the new gym and work on a model less reliant on federal funding by tapping into corporate funding.

"We're open now, full swing," Edwards said. "I want the community to meet us here ... meet us at the center."

Middletown redevelopment may be infused with \$15M

Portion of funds may be used for demolition of Manchester Inn building.



The Manchester Inn building may be demolished to clear the way for a new mixed-use development. FILE

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A proposed partnership between the county, Middletown, the community foundation and finance authority is a “once in a lifetime” chance to begin remaking Middletown’s downtown landmark with \$15 million.

Butler County Commissioner Don Dixon told the Journal-News he has been working with city officials, the Middletown Community Foundation and Butler County Finance Authority to jumpstart the Manchester Inn redevelopment project. He announced the county, city and community foundation are in for \$5 million apiece on Tuesday.

"I think there's a good chance that it could be a new beginning," he said. "I mean really a once-in-a-lifetime deal to get this done. Where can you walk in and have a baseline to start with of \$15 million."

The parties are still finalizing the details, but Dixon said he believes at least part of the county's contribution will go toward demolishing the historic Manchester Inn building to clear the way for a new mixed-use development.

CMC Properties was the lone developer to submit plans — nothing has been approved yet — for the site of the historic Manchester Inn building and the adjacent Sonshine building. The 103-year-old former hotel has been vacant for years, and the developer proposes replacing it with a development similar to the Marcum and its sister project, Rossville Flats, in Hamilton.

Manchester continued from A1 It is another CMC development that features market-rate apartments and retail space and opened in late 2023.

The Middletown project, called "The Manchester," would have between 100 to 125 "market rate" apartments and 10,000-to-15,000- square feet of retail space.

A proposed timeline for the development has construction starting in 2027 and finishing in 2028.

Middletown officials wouldn't say too much about the new partnership, since the deal hasn't yet been sealed. Community foundation officials did not return calls and emails.

"This is an exciting opportunity to help drive businesses and people into the heart of Middletown," City Manager Ashley Combs said. "While the terms of this agreement are still being worked out, we're hopeful this exciting project will help our city continue to rise up."

Housing developments have not been high on the county commissioners' priority list because residential properties generate property tax, but no sales or income tax, and residents require more services.

They denied a request to create a community authority for a proposed \$353 million mega housing development in Ross Twp. several years ago and have complained about all the apartments going in around Liberty Center.

The county and Liberty Twp. forged a complicated development deal with the original Liberty Center developer that included \$49 million in taxpayer-backed bonds and loans.

Dixon told the Journal-News that Middletown is different — there are plenty of rentals in the city but nothing new and "market rate" that will bring people downtown.

"That's the nucleus of the whole thing," he said.

"It's kind of like the chicken and the egg, you want people to come in and move downtown but to get them downtown you have to build apartments," he said. "They've got plenty of apartments, they just don't have the right kind of apartments in the right place. Put that with the retail, and one brings the other."

The Butler County Finance Authority is also a partner in this venture, not with direct funding, but President and Chief Executive Officer Joshua Smith assisted the city with identifying a developer. He said if asked, the Middletown Port Authority — which is managed by BCFA — will provide typical port authority services such as capital leases, revolving loans and bond funding.

He said the \$15 million investment is “critical” to Middletown’s rebirth.

“Their investments will provide the catalyst needed to move downtown redevelopment efforts forward in a meaningful and accelerated way,” he said. “Without their leadership and willingness to invest, there is no realistic scenario in which this level of progress could be achieved on the current timeline.”

County commissioners haven’t voted on the county’s contribution yet, but Commissioner TC Rogers told the Journal-News he supports the investment because of the master plan for the area.

“The proposal by the developer looks good,” he said. “The activity is on the way and they’re doing the skating park across the street, so I think from all the talk over the last few years it’s being put together in a wellthought-out manner.”

This isn’t the first time the county has invested in Middletown redevelopment.

When the county was awarded nearly \$75 million in federal pandemic relief, it decided to share the windfall countywide and gave the city \$3 million to demolish and clean up the old Middletown Paperboard site.

Measles outbreak reported in 3 unvaccinated Ohio children

Contagious disease spreads through coughing, sneezing.



A care provider preps a measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in Andrews, Texas, on April 8, 2025. Three Cuyahoga County children are infected with measles. ANNIE RICE / AP

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW STAFF WRITER

There have been three cases of unvaccinated children in Ohio contracting measles, according to the Ohio Department of Health in an announcement about the state's first measles outbreak of 2026.

The three infected children are from one household in Cuyahoga County. One had an illness onset date at the end of 2025, and the other two had onsets this month, according to ODH.

The children were unvaccinated at the time they were exposed. They traveled to an area in the U.S. with an ongoing measles outbreak, according to ODH.

Health officials are working with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to follow up on potential exposures and to promote opportunities for vaccination.

"The fact that we again have measles cases in Ohio underlines the importance of being fully vaccinated," said Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, ODH director.

"This disease can be very serious, but it is also preventable. I strongly encourage you to protect yourselves and your children by getting vaccinated."

Measles is very contagious and can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.

The measles vaccine – called MMR, as it protects against measles, mumps and rubella – is safe and effective at preventing measles, according to health professionals.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine is 97% effective against measles. For people up to date on measles vaccine, the risk of getting sick is very low.

Ohio had 45 cases of measles in 2025 – including the one case mentioned above – and seven cases in 2024.

The state had one measles case in 2023 and 90 cases in 2022, when an outbreak in central Ohio totaled 85 cases.

In 2025, a total of 2,144 confirmed measles cases was reported across 44 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control. About 93% of those cases were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status.

Ohio joins North Carolina and South Carolina in a handful of cases in 2026 so far.

Butler Tech Aviation Center is economic boon

Students to begin using space Jan. 20; public open house is March 18.



In March, next to an airstrip at Middletown Regional Airport, Butler Tech is scheduled to open its first, free-standing Aviation Education Center for high school students from the career school's 11 local school districts it serves. The aviation school is one of three major Butler Tech facilities scheduled to open in the first half of 2026. CONTRIBUTED

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

As Butler Tech's Aviation Center is set to open to students before the end of the month, its economic impact is already on track to outpace Middletown's investment.

Based on the hiring of 160 workers in Butler County, the center's construction has generated \$450,000 of new economic activity in the Middletown area as of November 2025, according to Adam Snoddy, the center's principal.

"Knowing that has continued over the last two months ... if you take those numbers and just ballpark ... it means the economic activity is a little over \$500,000 that's been generated," Snoddy said at Tuesday's Middletown City Council meeting.

"We're pleased with that because we think that's a really good down payment for something that then long term is going to have a durable impact in the community," Snoddy said.

The center was an investment by several local and state entities.

City council committed \$500,000 to the \$15 million project, \$7 million came from Butler County, \$6.5 million from Butler Tech and an additional \$1 million grant was made by the JobsOhio Site Inventory Program in partnership with REDI Cincinnati.

Long term, at least 11 permanent Butler Tech jobs based out of the Aviation Center have been added and more than 100 new students will be going through the building on a regular basis, according to Snoddy.

Newly elected Councilman Joe Mulligan said he was "very excited" about the center's progress and said Butler Tech is a "great" partner to the city. Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said seeing the project come to fruition is "very

exciting."

"Even at the groundbreaking, talking to the commissioners, everybody that came together to make this project happen ... it's very exciting," she said.

The center, which broke ground in October 2024, is situated by an airstrip at Middletown Regional Airport. It will open to students on Jan. 20, according to Snoddy.

The official ribbon cutting is scheduled for March 16 with a community open house scheduled for March 18.

The 30,000-square-foot facility was designed specifically for aviation training and includes state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and dedicated hangar space for hands-on aircraft work.

Students from the career school's 11 local school districts it serves begin the pathway in 10th grade and combine academic coursework with immersive aviation labs and industry experience.

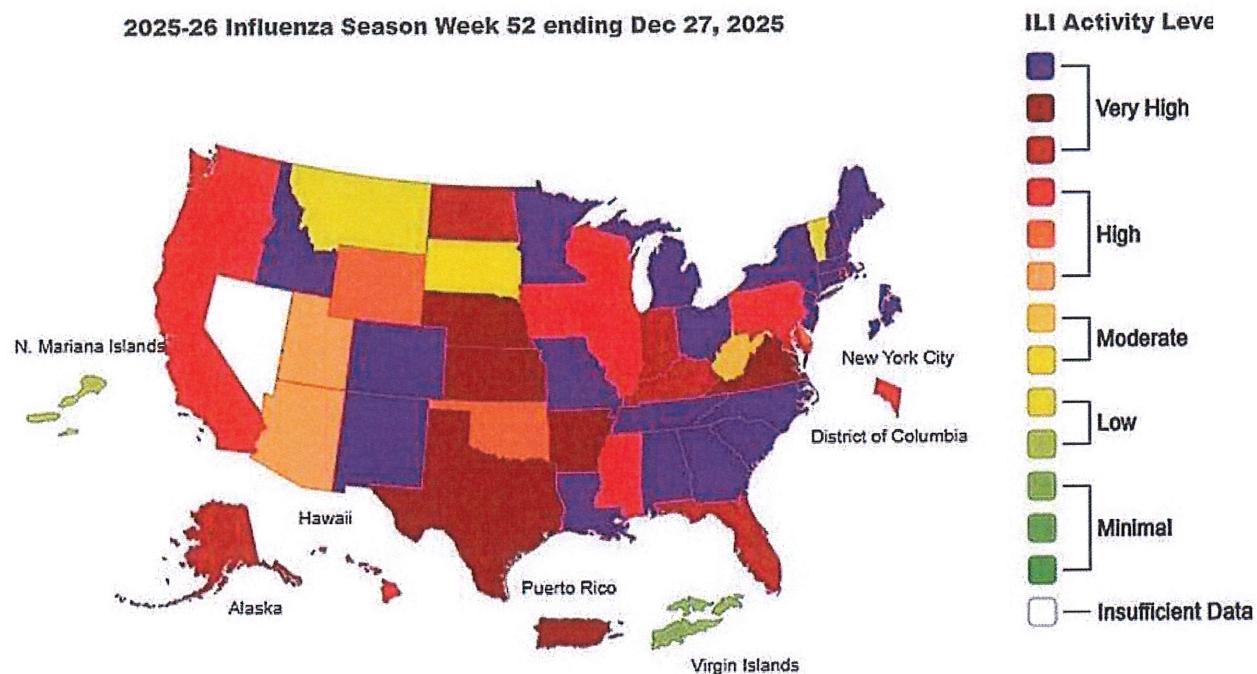
According to Butler Tech officials, the program prepares students for FAA-recognized certifications, including Private Pilot, Remote Pilot (Part 107) and Airframe & Powerplant, while also offering college credit opportunities and personalized capstone projects connected to workforce partners.

The Aviation Center represents a regional workforce development hub made possible through public-private partnerships with Butler County, the City of Middletown, JobsOhio, and industry partners including Magellan Aerospace, StandardAero, CTL Aerospace and Middletown Regional Airport FBO.

Writer Michael D. Clark contributed to this report.

‘Super flu’ worsens influenza season, says ODH director

Ohioans more vulnerable to new strain, but vaccines still help, says doctor.



This is the weekly Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity map from the CDC for the week ending Dec. 27, 2025.



A certified medical assistant holds a syringe for a flu vaccine at a clinic in Seattle on Sept. 10, 2025. LINDSEY WASSON / AP

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW STAFF WRITER

A new strain of influenza is causing Ohio flu cases and related hospitalizations, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

"We've heard a lot about this new strain of the flu that many have

dubbed the 'super flu,'" ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff said. "It is in fact responsible for this uptick that we're seeing."

A(H3N2) subclade K variant — the 'super flu' virus — may not necessarily be more powerful, it's just that fewer people have immunities against it, according to Vanderhoff.

"Most Ohioans are coming into this flu season without much in the way of protection against this strain of the flu," Vanderhoff said. "We have very little background immunity as a population, and this lack of immunity is allowing this strain of the flu to spread quickly."

Children under 11 years old and adults 65 and older are most at risk for getting very sick, Vanderhoff said.

A 16-year-old Beavercreek girl was the state's first pediatric flu-related death of the season, Vanderhoff reported on Dec. 31.

"Our hearts go out to that family," Vanderhoff said Wednesday. "In Ohio, unfortunately, we typically see between one and eight pediatric flu deaths each year."

Nationwide, there have been nine total pediatric deaths this season, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The rate of flu-related hospitalizations nationwide is 28.1 hospitalizations per 100,000 people, according to the CDC, with 33,301 flu patients admitted to the hospital across the U.S. during the week ending Dec. 27, the most recent week of national data available.

In Ohio, there were 1,936 people hospitalized due to the flu for the week ending Jan. 3, the most recent week of state data available.

Additionally, 845 people were hospitalized due to COVID-19 and 314 due to RSV for the week ending Jan. 3.

Locally, for the week ending Jan. 3:

- Butler County had 81 flu hospitalizations, along with 17 due to COVID-19 and 15 due to RSV
- Clark County had 19 flu hospitalizations, along with 6 due to COVID-19
- Greene County had 25 flu hospitalizations, along with 16 due to COVID-19 and 2 due to RSV
- Miami County had 20 flu hospitalizations, along with 6 due to COVID-19 and 1 due to RSV
- Montgomery County had 161 flu hospitalizations, along with 68 due to COVID-19 and 19 due to RSV
- Warren County had 23 flu hospitalizations, along with 14 due to COVID-19 and 4 due to RSV A spike in cases this time of year is not unusual, Vanderhoff said.

“The issue really is that we simply have more people coming down with the flu, more people vulnerable to the flu, and with more people overall coming down with the flu, more people are proportionately ending up in the hospital,” he said.

Vanderhoff addressed the effectiveness of this year’s flu vaccine, saying it still protects against severe illness that could lead to hospitalizations or death.

“Now, it’s not very good at protecting us necessarily from contracting the flu in the first place. But it appears, nevertheless, to still be good at helping to prevent your flu illness from becoming very severe and potentially landing you in the hospital,” Vanderhoff said.

People interested in getting the flu vaccine can call their doctor, a retail pharmacy or local health department.

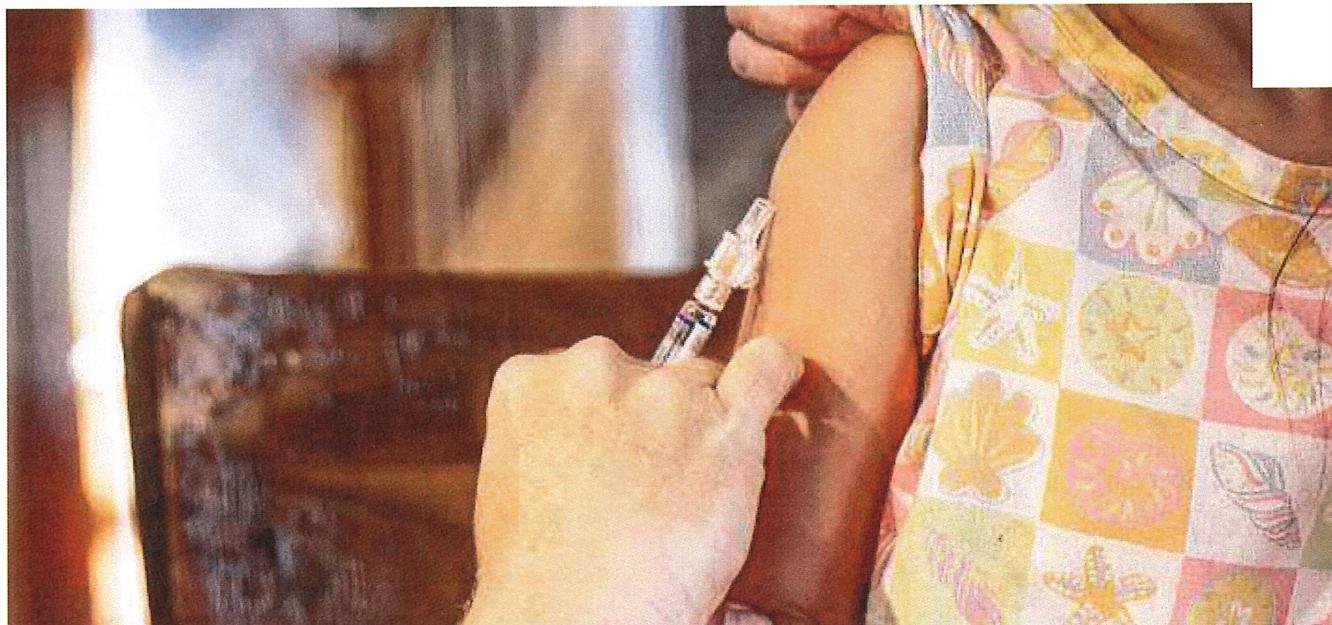
Washing hands frequently, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers and

covering coughs and sneezes can help prevent the flu from spreading. People should also avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

For more information on the flu, visit [odh.ohio.gov/ know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza](http://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza).

Area doctors decry vaccine schedule changes

CDC guidelines cut recommended pediatric shots to 11.



A child receives a vaccine in Mountain Lakes, N.J., on Sept. 16, 2025. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention upended the childhood vaccine schedule Jan. 5, reducing the number of vaccines recommended for all children, a change largely criticized by pediatricians and public health experts. LAILA STEVENS / THE NEW YORK TIMES

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control last week cut the number of vaccines it recommends for every child — a move that is concerning to local public health experts who worry this will create confusion for parents or lead to fewer children getting vaccinated.

"This was disappointing and unprecedented," said Dr. Becky Thomas,

medical director for Public Health–Dayton & Montgomery County.

The CDC decreased the number of routine vaccines recommended for children from 17 to 11 and increased or recategorized the other vaccines on the vaccine schedule to be given on a case-by-case basis, Thomas said.

“The new recommendations don’t reflect the careful deliberation and evidence-based approach that has characterized the development of the vaccine schedule in the past over the past six decades that we’ve had a vaccine schedule for children in the United States,” Thomas said.

What’s different

The change is effective immediately, meaning that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will now recommend that all children get vaccinated against 11 diseases.

What’s no longer broadly recommended is protection against flu, rotavirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, some forms of meningitis and RSV. Instead, protections against those diseases are only recommended for certain groups deemed high risk, or when doctors recommend them in what’s called “shared decision-making,” according to the Associated Press.

“It’s greatly concerning because this is a high-stakes shift in how we provide protection to our kids and weakening the childhood vaccine schedule in this way by making some of them not routine, risk lowering our vaccination rates and increasing the likelihood of an outbreak of preventable and sometimes deadly diseases,” Thomas said.

Ohio started off this new year with a new measles outbreak following three children, who were not vaccinated, contracting the illness, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

“We know that it can be confusing when things like this happen for parents to sort through conflicting recommendations,” Thomas said.

“Parents deserve to have accurate, credible information in order to make choices that keep their children healthy, and our priority is to ensure that families have clear information and continue to have access to vaccines.”

What led to this

“They were not changes that were based on new evidence, and we continue to have good evidence of safety and effectiveness of our vaccines,” Thomas said.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said the overhaul was in response to a request from President Donald Trump in December. Trump asked the agency to review how peer nations approach vaccine recommendations and consider revising U.S. guidance accordingly.

When this new schedule was adopted and brought forth by the CDC, it was done so in comparison with the vaccination schedule of Denmark, Thomas said.

“Denmark has a lot fewer barriers to care,” Thomas said. “They have universal health care access. They have parental leave for the first year of a child’s life. They have records that maintain connection between providers and parents and care received at various different facilities.”

Health care in the U.S. is more fragmented, she said, and parents are up against more obstacles compared to families in countries like Denmark.

“It is very difficult for parents to find time to take off work to take their children to receive care. We know a lot of parents are normally having difficulty with figuring out how to make that happen,” Thomas said.

Reducing the number of recommended vaccinations could lead to confusion or to parents believing certain vaccinations are not as important, she said.

"That is just not the case. All of these vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective," Thomas said.

ODH: Parents should consult with pediatricians

ODH suggested last week that there were no great changes in the recommendations.

"Key portions of the new CDC vaccine schedule have, in fact, remained essentially unchanged," said Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, ODH director.

"... It's a list that interestingly aligns pretty well with the longstanding list of vaccines that are required for school here in Ohio."

Ohio revised code requires students to be fully protected against 10 vaccine-preventable diseases, including diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, meningitis, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella, tetanus and varicella.

The CDC's recommendations don't change what the Ohio revised code requires, but differences in what Ohio requires and what the CDC recommends mainly for high-risk patients or through shared clinical decision-making include hepatitis B and meningitis.

"I want to underline that no one is saying that your child can't get any of these vaccines, nor that these are not good vaccines. They are good vaccines, and pediatricians will almost certainly will continue to recommend these vaccines to their patients, and insurance companies are still required to cover them without cost-sharing," Vanderhoff said.

Parents should look to their child's doctor to decide which vaccines their child should get, he said.

"All the controversy swirling around this issue has unfortunately obscured a very, very important point around which I believe there's a pretty broad consensus, and namely that the pediatric vaccinations have always been intended, and therefore should always occur, in the context

of an informed parental decision," Vanderhoff said.

Parents should understand the protective benefits of vaccinations, along with their potential side effects, he said.

"Your child's doctor knows your child's individual health care needs the best and is well situated to help you and guide you in making the best decision for your child," Vanderhoff said.

Parents can get their children vaccinated at a number of locations, such as at their pediatrician's office, local pharmacies like Walgreens or CVS, community health clinics, public health departments and specialized clinics with options for uninsured/underinsured families through programs like the federal Vaccines for Children program.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

MLK Jr. events focus on health of the community

MIDDLETOWN



Middletown's NAACP chapter and other community organizations are hosting a slate of events this Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, including a youth oratorical contest, resource fair and free breakfast Monday. CONTRIBUTED

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

This Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, events in Middletown will focus on Dr. King's ideas, specifically his vision of the "beloved community."

"We're actively trying to engage our community relationship building," Celeste Didlick-Davis, president of Middletown's NAACP No. 3194

chapter, told Journal-News.

"That's how you create the beloved community. With so much going on, we cannot afford not to talk to one another."

In Didlick-Davis' words, Dr. King's beloved community is a vision of a global society based on justice, equity and love, where all people live in harmony, free from poverty, hate and oppression, resolving conflicts nonviolently through mutual understanding and shared humanity.

This year, a MLK Oratorical Contest will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at New Era Baptist Church, 1120 Yankee Road, put on by 3R Development, the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance and NAACP No. 3194.

Students can write, rap, draw, mime, dance or have any other creative expression on the topics of "What has happened to Dr. King's beloved community?" and "Current events through Dr. King's eyes."

On Saturday, a resource fair put on by the Ministerial Alliance will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Faith United Church (9 Baltimore St.).

Following that, volunteers will assist seniors with home maintenance and make and distribute hygiene kits and indoor planters through a day of service starting at 1 p.m. also at Faith United Church.

This event is put by 3R Development and NAACP No. 3194.

"This was the opportunity for us to do something different," Didlick-Davis said.

Several years ago, she said the group cleaned up a few yards and volunteered at food pantries, but she learned hygiene items were not something covered by SNAP benefits.

"We realized that the majority of people who are receiving benefits of some sort are working," she said.

"They're not just poor, lazy people and by now we really ought to know that."

Sunday, there will be a MLK Worship conducted by the Ministerial Alliance at 5 p.m. at New Era Baptist Church with Dr. Joel Goza out of Louisville, Kentucky, as the speaker.

Finally, on Monday, which is the official MLK Jr. Day, there will be a free breakfast sponsored by NAACP No. 3194 at the Woodside Community Room at 9:30 a.m.

The keynote speaker Norman Spence, president of Kettering Health Hamilton, will discuss the state of the local Black community.

"Don't come and sit with the people that you know," Didlick-Davis said. "Nothing wrong with that, but this is an opportunity to sit with someone else."

\$10M Middletown schools bus center nearly complete

Funding shortfall for facility 'resolved,' say school officials.



A major Middletown City School District construction project, which was stalled in the summer by the unexpected cut of \$6.3 million in federal funding, is nearing completion after the funding shortfall was recently resolved, said school officials.
MICHAEL D. CLARK / CONTRIBUTED

BY MICHAEL D. CLARK CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A major Middletown City Schools construction project, which was stalled in the summer by the unexpected cut of \$6.3 million in federal funding, is now nearing completion after the funding shortfall was recently resolved, said school officials.

In May, city school officials said an unanticipated cut in federal education spending – including \$6.3 million for Middletown Schools – would be “potentially devastating” to the district and its then-partially constructed bus and maintenance center project costing \$10 million.

Among 17 Ohio school districts also losing funding, Middletown school officials were surprised in May after being told federal education officials were withdrawing their previously approved allotment of \$6.3 million for construction of a new Transportation and Maintenance facility at 2951 Cincinnati-Dayton Road.

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, which was created by the federal and state joint funding program soon after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 to help local schools offset operation costs caused by extra expenditures, was temporarily slashed in May 2025.

But the stoppage of federal funds – and related state funds – was recently resolved, and final stages of the \$10 million construction project are now continuing, said school officials.

Randy Bertram, treasurer for Middletown Schools, said the \$10 million project cost, which included demolition of the previous building and construction of the new facility, included \$3.7 million from the district's existing permanent improvement fund.

The new bus and maintenance facility, said Bertram, is being built without general fund dollars.

“We are grateful for the partnership between our state and federal governments in ensuring the timely release of ESSER funds to our district,” he said.

Middletown Schools Superintendent Deborah Houser told the Journal-News the project is key for the nearly 6,000-student school system.

"This new maintenance and transportation facility is a big win for our bus drivers and maintenance team – the people who keep Middletown City Schools moving every day," said Houser.

"The new building includes expanded service bays, a modern bus wash, secure parking for our fleet, updated break areas, training and meeting spaces, and improved storage for parts and equipment."

"More than that, it's a comfortable home base where our transportation and maintenance teams can connect, recharge and take pride in the essential work they do for our students," she said.

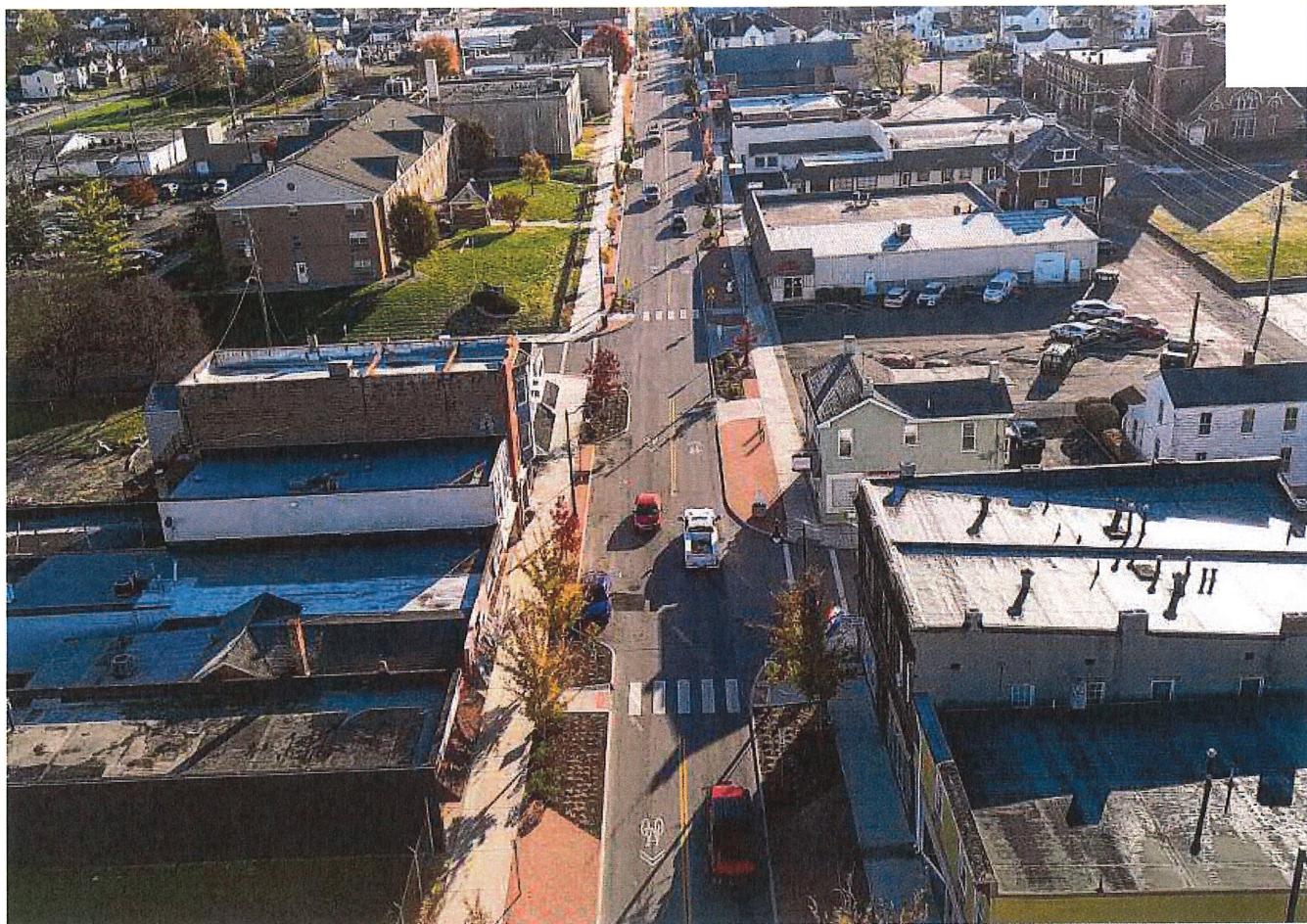
Eric Sotzing, director of business operations, said "we're waiting for spring weather to complete the parking lot paving, (but) the facility itself is up and running."

"With the completion of our new Transportation and Maintenance Facility, our teams have officially moved in and are now fully operating in the new space.

With transportation on one side and maintenance on the other, we're now consolidated under one roof, which is already creating smoother workflows and more efficient operations," said Sotzing.

\$15M pledged to 'reignite' downtown Middletown

'We're really looking to drive (residential) density,' says official.



The city of Middletown, Butler County commissioners and the Middletown Community Foundation will each chip in \$5 million to a shared "incentivization pot" that will be used to support revitalization of the city's downtown. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Ideas for the funds include real estate development, incentivizing new businesses and developers, and adding upper-floor residential spaces, according to Jacob Schulte, acting and assistant director for the city's department of community and economic development. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Downtown Middletown development could see a new spark with the infusion of \$15 million from three local entities.

The city of Middletown, Butler County commissioners and the Middletown Community Foundation will each chip in \$5 million to a shared “incentivization pot” through a memo of understanding.

The Butler County Finance Authority is not contributing financially but will solicit additional private and institutional contributions to the fund, identify and apply for grants, identify and evaluate potential projects, perform due diligence and recommend projects for funding.

“What we’re trying to accomplish in Middletown is assembling funds that will reignite the downtown development,” Joshua Smith, BCFA president and CEO, said in a Butler County Commissioners meeting this week. “The Manchester site is ... ground zero for that. We’re really looking to drive

(residential) density that has not existed there for a long time."

The MOU outlines a framework of how the funds will be used and "what the overall aspirations are for that utilization," according to Jacob Schulte, acting and assistant director for the city's department of community and economic development.

Ideas for the funds include real estate development, incentivizing new businesses and developers, and adding upper-floor residential spaces, according to Schulte.

"However we can best create that live, work, play dynamic in our downtown is really our focal point in what we're driving to do," he said.

Here are some of the details in the MOU:

- A dedicated fund, coined the "Downtown Middletown Revitalization Fund" has been established by MCF
- MCF will contribute \$5 million to the fund on or before Feb. 15
- In recognition of MCF's \$5 million contribution, the downtown park to be constructed atop the new CSO basin will be named Middletown Community Foundation Park
- The city will provide evidence of the \$2.35 million expended in 2025 toward the completion of Middletown Community Foundation Park
- \$2.65 million of general funds from the city will be deposited to MCF
- The county will contribute \$5 million to the fund on or before Feb. 15
MCF has not officially voted on the MOU; MCF's Board of Trustees Chair Beth Yauch will bring it to the board Tuesday for approval.

While she could not say whether the board would approve the MOU or not, she did say the board has on two occasions directed Yauch to move forward through negotiations.

MCF, which has just entered its 50th anniversary year, has a mission to help with the city and bring economic development to the area.

"How else would that happen if we don't participate?" Yauch said.

"There's so much that we can do with downtown but it all takes building blocks. One step at a time."

Initial disbursements include but are not limited to:

- Up to \$2.65 million for the completion of Middletown Community Foundation Park
- Up to \$4 million for redevelopment activities of the former Manchester Inn and Sonshine building
- Up to \$5M million for improvements to the First National Bank Building, Goetz Tower and former Cincinnati State building,
- Up to \$1 million for supportive development activities and public improvements

"This investment reflects a strong partnership and shared commitment to the betterment of the city," Ashley Combs, Middletown city manager, said in a city press release. "The heartbeat of our urban core will only grow stronger thanks to the support we've received from the (commissioners) today."

Butler County Commissioner Cindy Carpenter told Journal-News she was "really happy" the commissioners chipped in \$5 million.

"We heard the city leaders say that they have ... three buildings empty on one corner in the downtown area, so that's unfortunate, and it just needs to be revitalized," she said.

She added she is "excited"

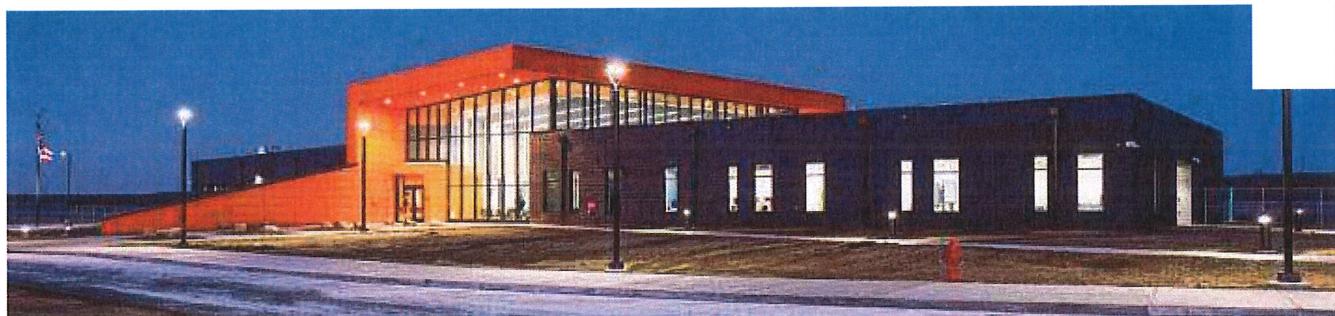
Middletown is working with Smith to reach out to other parts of the county and solicit investments.

"He's got the expertise, and they have a model with what they've done in

Hamilton," Carpenter said. "Hopefully that can be imported (in Middletown), and we'll see some vibrancy come back to the downtown area again."

New aviation school welcomes first students

MIDDLETOWN



Butler Tech's new aviation school opens at Middletown Regional Airport Tuesday in Middletown. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. CLARK CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Southwest Ohio's most advanced high school aviation school took off early Tuesday morning as Butler Tech classes began in a \$15 million, newly constructed learning center and airplane hangar next to one of Middletown Regional Airport's airstrips.

The breaking dawn saw dozens of Butler County high school students walking into their new aviation career training school with wide eyes and beaming smiles as they discovered their new classrooms, labs and an adjacent hangar dedicated solely to their aviation industry instructional sessions.

Butler Tech officials said the \$15 million Aviation Center, which is unique for high school career training in the region, will provide early aviation industry job training to teens from the career schools' 11-member public

school systems in the county and northern Hamilton County.

“We could not be more excited about today,” said Adam Snoddy, principal of the Aviation Center. “And seeing all the students come in with their enthusiasm ... it’s the first time all of our aviation students have been under one roof all at the same time.”

In recent years, Butler Tech’s fast-growing aviation program has been taught out of cramped, makeshift classroom in one of the airport’s hangars and at the school system’s D. Russel Lee campus in Fairfield Twp.

But now the 30,000- square-foot learning center and hangar, located at 2301 Wedekind Drive in the northern portion of the airport grounds, will offer specialized programs designed to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the aviation industry.

The new, colorful and angular designed school, which is shaped to visually suggest sections of an airplane’s wings, fuselage and tail, is “substantially better on all fronts” than the program’s previous learning spaces, he said.

“It’s a larger space and more modern. And it allows us to have more students in the program and more learning opportunities — including airplane maintenance, engineering along with pilot and drone pilot (career) pathways,” said Snoddy.

Currently the student enrollment from area high schools is about 80 students, with projections to grow to more than 150 students by next school year.

Future enrollment plans also call for the eventual addition of adult students joining the career programs in separate career learning tracks, he said.

The new school is designed to provide a pipeline of high school

graduates with aviation and professional certifications ready to join the workforces at airports in Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Greater Dayton areas or further study aviation-related fields at area colleges.

Middletown's centralized location in southwest Ohio – within easy distance from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky's CVG International Airport, Dayton International Airport and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base – provides an ideal site for local high school students learning careers in aviation, said school officials.

The career school system, which serves Butler County districts and Northwest Schools in northern Hamilton County, is in a partnership for the aviation school with the Butler County Commissioners, who invested \$7 million – along with financial backers at the city of Middletown, JobsOhio and REDI (Regional Economic Development Initiative) of Cincinnati.

A.J. Huff, spokeswoman for Butler Tech, described the opening day of classes in the Aviation Center as "a transformation" for the program.

"This building is unique in southwest Ohio," said Huff.

Butler Tech student Michael Herr, whose home school is Lakota East High School, said he and his classmates were more than eager to be part of the pioneer class of learners at the new school.

"It's breathtaking," said Herr who is a junior studying for a career as a commercial airline pilot. "I never thought I'd be learning in a place like this."

"We have some pretty nice stuff here and we are all very excited."

Butler Tech aviation classmate Ava Jestice echoed Herr's take on seeing her new school for the first time.

"This place is just crazy," said Jestice. "If you look at where we came

from (old, rented hangar space) to where we are now, it's just a huge jump."

"This is going to make so many more opportunities and options for (students) who want to come into the school. I'm just so excited to see what we will do in this new building."

Triple Moon Coffee Co.'s app has online ordering, rewards



Triple Moon Coffee Company at 1100 Central Ave. launched its app on Jan. 19 for easy ordering and rewards collection. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

A popular Middletown coffee shop launched its own app.

Triple Moon Coffee Company owner Heather Gibson said she had the idea for the app around the time she came back to working in the coffee shop in April 2025 after suffering from a stroke in 2023.

"Ever since I've been back, I've been thinking about what we could do to take it to the next level," Gibson said.

The coffee shop at 1100 Central Ave. celebrated 10 years of business in 2015, and the app was built with the “community in mind.”

Gibson’s main goal with the app is to make ordering easier for current customers who may have a time crunch at lunch or on the way to work in the morning.

“We’ve got to get with the times,” she said.

Shelves behind the creamer and sugar area will be used for the pickup area for food and drink.

A drive-thru window open during the COVID-19 pandemic has since closed, but in the future, Gibson hopes to reopen the window and offer pickup through the drive-thru.

Customers who download the app can order ahead, skip the wait and earn rewards with Moon Miles Points Rewards. For every 50 points earned, customers will receive a \$5 off coupon.

For every 75 points, customers will get a free medium drink.

Physical rewards cards will still be available for customers, which are for free drinks only.

Customers will receive 20% off their first in-app order, as well.

The app, called Triple Moon Coffee Company, is available to download on the App Store or Google Play.

The coffee shop serves handcrafted iced and hot coffees, teas and specialty drinks, and lunch and breakfast items. Triple Moon also has ample space for dates, meetings and get togethers.

Record weekend snowfall followed by arctic freeze

Wind chills dropping below zero causing danger of frostbite.



A Butler County Engineer's Office truck plows snow from Elk Creek Road Sunday morning in Madison Twp. By 10 a.m., the region had experienced nearly 12 inches of snow, with more on the way. Visit Journal-News.com for the latest snow coverage. NICK GRAHAM /STAFF



Snow falls Saturday night in downtown Middletown. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY AIMEE HANCOCK STAFF WRITER

After a winter storm covered the region with historic levels of snow Saturday and Sunday, a “major, prolonged arctic outbreak” has settled in this week, according to the National Weather Service in Wilmington.

Extended periods of wind chill values below zero will evolve during this stretch, with daily temperatures only reaching into the teens and overnight lows near or below zero through the foreseeable future, according to the National Weather Service.

Wind chills as low as minus 20 degrees can cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes.

Those who must go outside should dress in layers, including a winter hat, face mask and gloves.

Also, keep pets indoors as much as possible and make sure animals outdoors have a warm, dry shelter, food and unfrozen water.

Champaign, Montgomery, Preble, Butler, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami and Warren counties began the week under varying levels of snow emergency due to hazardous driving conditions, with officials urging residents to limit travel as much as possible.

Most schools, businesses, and agencies were closed Monday, including the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Public Health — Dayton & Montgomery County, and all Montgomery County facilities.

Rumpke Waste & Recycling suspended trash and recycling collection for Monday, with plans to operate on a one-day delay for the remainder of the week, as road conditions and weather allow.

“We don’t take the decision to suspend services lightly,” said Kevyn Vasquez, operations manager for Rumpke. “However, we must put the safety of our team members, our customers and the motoring public first. Our plan is to collect Monday customers today, and today’s customers on Wednesday, and so on, with Friday customers collected on Saturday.”

Customers can visit Rumpke.com for service updates in their area.

The winter storm brought record-breaking accumulations of snow in places, with some areas reporting 12 to 16 inches of snow.

Totals reached a reported 14.4 inches in Beavercreek and 16 inches in Middletown, the NWS and local agencies reported Sunday.

The NWS said Sunday that a record daily maximum snowfall measurement was set at Dayton, with a total of 12.4 inches.

City and county road crews and the Ohio Department of Transportation worked around the clock Saturday into Sunday to keep up with road-clearing efforts, as about an inch of snow per hour was falling.

Flights continued to arrive and depart at the Dayton International Airport

Monday following historic snow this weekend, but some delays and cancellations were reported.

People can continue to check flight statuses at flydayton.com or on their airline's app.

Doctors offices close; hospitals open

Hospitals in the region are continuing to monitor the winter weather, advising patients that emergency services are still available, but some medical appointments might be getting rescheduled due to the inclement weather.

Due to inclement weather, several Premier Health outpatient offices and services delayed openings on Monday to ensure the safety of its patients and caregivers, according to the hospital system.

Premier Health patients whose appointments are impacted will be contacted with updated dates and times. Patients are also encouraged to contact their health care provider to confirm appointment details.

Emergency services at Premier Health hospitals and standalone emergency departments remain open.

Due to severe weather across southwest Ohio, Kettering Health postponed nonemergency services until at least noon on Monday.

“This includes elective surgeries at our hospitals, along with testing, imaging, physician office appointments and clinic visits at any of our outpatient locations,” a statement from Kettering Health reads.

If patients have specific questions about scheduled procedures or visits, Kettering Health is advising them to check MyChart or contact the doctor's office or provider directly.

“If you are unable to reach the location where your appointment is scheduled, please assume your visit will be postponed and you will be

contacted to reschedule," the statement from Kettering Health reads.

Much of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was closed Monday to all but essential personnel. Child-care operations for base families were consolidated to Wright Field North Child Development Center on the base's Area B.

Staff writers Jen Balduf, Holly Souther and Tom Gnau contributed to this report.

Winter storm's wrath continues with arctic air

National Weather Service advises limiting time outside to prevent frostbite, hypothermia.



Jeff Cornwell plays in the snow with his rescued three-legged German shepherd, Wolfie, on Monday at Marcum Park in Hamilton. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

STAFF REPORT

Last weekend's record-breaking snow storm ushered in dangerously cold temperatures through the weekend and caused serious problems.

Upcoming weather

According to the National Weather Service in Wilmington, freezing cold is likely to stay into next week as an arctic airmass followed the snowstorm and settles into the region. The NWS predicted highs in the teens and lows near or slightly below zero degrees through the weekend.

In addition, any winds will make it feel much colder, with wind chill values into negative numbers.

During such dangerous conditions, hypothermia and frostbite can happen quickly, so residents are advised to limit time spent outside and if they must do so to wear multiple layers of clothing including a winter hat, gloves and a face mask.

Clearing roads

Road crews worked around the clock to remove the more than a foot of snow that fell over the weekend. However, once the initial snowfall was removed, the challenge became keeping the roads clear during high winds and low temperatures.

Jurisdictions immediately after the storm asked for patience while snow crews worked to first clear high priority roadways like highways and the areas around hospitals before they could move on to residential streets.

Suspended services

The snow delayed some essential services, including trash collection and U.S. mail delivery.

Rumpke Waste & Recycling pushed back its waste collection schedule by a day, resuming services on Tuesday as conditions allowed.

Mail delivery also tentatively started up again Tuesday where it was safe to deliver.

School closures

Most Butler and Warren county schools were closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday because of the heavy snow that fell over the weekend, and won't be melting for a while.

Three days after the last flakes fell with the snow system that struck Saturday and Sunday, leaders were still seeing sidewalks that weren't clear enough for students who walk or ride bicycles to their school buildings.

Some cited that as the reason for closures.

"The biggest factors are side streets and walkways, which are hard for our buses/students to travel," wrote Hamilton Schools Superintendent Andrea Blevins in a Facebook post on Tuesday.

"Help us get our kids back by clearing sidewalks to give a safe spot to stand for bus riders and/or walkers."

Calamity day use

Most area schools are not at risk of having to schedule extra days at the end of the year due to snow days or other days called off for emergencies.

Meggie Bierkan, communications administrator for Middletown City Schools, told Journal-News the hour threshold varies by school.

For example, if one of Middletown's seven elementary buildings, closed for a water main break or HVAC issue, the threshold would then be different for that building.

"At this point, we are closely monitoring the days we have used for weatherrelated closures and will continue to assess our hours of instructional time based on the state requirements," Bierkan said.

"We will share updates with the community if and when any changes to the calendar become necessary."

Reporters Eileen McClory, Samantha Wildow, Bryn Dippold and Danny Susco contributed to this report.

FOUR-DAY FORECAST

Thursday: High is 19, low is 3 degrees

Friday: High is 20, low is 3 degrees

Saturday: High is 18, low is 3 degrees

Sunday: High is 20 degrees, low is 7 degrees

SOURCE: WCPO-9/STORM SHIELD

Snowstorm broke 2 area records but was far less severe than '78 blizzard

NWS: Type of snow, lack of wind spared region from worse conditions.



A city of Troy truck clears snow on Meadowpoint Drive on Sunday. About 8 inches had fallen in Troy as of 1 p.m. that day. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

BY DANIEL SUSCO STAFF WRITER

The snow storm that dropped a thick blanket of snow across the region this week broke records and disrupted lives, but depended on multiple factors before and during the event to reach its high snow totals.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Andy Hatzos discussed the statistics of the storm with the Journal-News, as well as the various factors that went into its deep snow drifts.

Records broken

The winter storm that dropped a thick blanket of snow over the weekend broke two records.

The first record was the most local snowfall for Jan. 25, with 12.4 inches of snow crushing the prior record of 5 inches of snow on Jan. 25, 2023.

The more impressive record, though, is that this is the single most snow to fall in this area in one day ever recorded.

Before this weekend, the most snow to fall in a single day happened during the blizzard of 1978, when 12.2 inches of snow fell on Jan. 26.

Hatzos also said the combined total of 14 inches of snow for the two days of the storm is the fourth highest total, for two-day snowfall; the highest total was Feb.

16-17 in 1910, when 18 inches of snowfall was recorded.

Before the storm

One factor that went into having so much snow had to do with conditions before the storm arrived, Hatzos said.

Cold temperatures before the snow fell meant that the flakes didn't melt when they touched the ground, and instead started piling up.

During the storm

A few factors about the storm led to high snow totals.

One was the kind of snow that fell, which was light and fluffy, stacking up easily as it fell.

On a similar note, most of the area had very little sleet or rain mixed in, which Hatzos said did happen in far southern Ohio and Cincinnati, which saw some sleet along with the snowfall.

Another was the size of the storm system, which Hatzos said from beginning to end reached from New Mexico in the Southwest through Texas and more of the deep South, up through Ohio and Tennessee and off the East Coast.

Finally, the snow storm didn't come with very high winds, which sets it apart from the blizzard of 1978.

During the storm in the 1970s, high winds dropped visibility to zero, leaving vehicles stranded, including emergency vehicles and snow plows.

Measuring up

After the snowfall, the NWS in Wilmington received snow measurements from across the region, which Hatzos said come from a few different sources.

Sources include trained weather spotters; special weather observers that track statistics; volunteer members of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network; and various government partners in each county that also deal with the effects of precipitation, such as emergency management agencies.

The NWS encouraged residents to measure the snow-fall themselves.

Hatzos said the most important things are that you measure on a flat surface away from any obstruction like houses or vehicles.

He said one good method is to lay out a piece of plywood, then use a ruler or yardstick to measure straight up and down.

If you don't have plywood or another flat surface to measure on, though, Hatzos said a good method is to measure a few places, making sure to stay away from obstructions and snow drifts, then take the average of those measurements.

Staying safe

As the cold temperatures continue, Hatzos encouraged people to check on their neighbors and loved ones, as well as to bring pets inside.

"It's not going to get a whole lot warmer in the next week or so," he said, and extended cold temperatures can be dangerous.