



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **COVID-19 Update: Vaccine Maintenance Program, Nursing Home Visitation, Phase 1B Medical Conditions**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **WEATHER DELAYS**

As a result of continued bad weather, vaccine shipments in Ohio and across the country continue to be delayed. Ohioans with vaccine appointments this week should confirm that their appointment has not been canceled before leaving home.

Because of these weather delays, it is expected that providers will give vaccinations over the weekend as shipments arrive.

### **VACCINE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

This morning, Ohio launched its COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Each month, facilities can host a vaccine clinic for residents and staff if there is the need for vaccinations. The program ensures that vaccinations in long-term care facilities continue for new residents and staff or current residents and staff who have now decided to be vaccinated.

### **NURSING HOME VISITATION**

Governor DeWine announced that he has assembled a team of doctors and nurses to develop a plan for safe nursing home visitation. Members of the team are experts in infectious disease control, skilled nursing, and other types of long-term care settings.

Ohio's existing visitation order does allow compassionate care visits. Examples of compassionate care situations could include:

- A resident who was living with their family before recently being admitted to a home, is struggling with the change in environment and lack of physical family support.
- A resident who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family or caregiver(s), is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
- A resident, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently.

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman is available to assist citizens with questions about compassionate care visits. The office can be reached at [OhioOmbudsman@age.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioOmbudsman@age.ohio.gov) or 1-800-282-1206.

### **PHASE 1B MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

This week, vaccine eligibility opened up to Ohioans born with the medical conditions outlined below, or those who were diagnosed in early childhood whose conditions continued into adulthood. Following anecdotal reports of individuals with these conditions being denied vaccination appointments, particularly those with cystic fibrosis, Governor DeWine stressed that vaccine providers should vaccinate those of any age with any of the following conditions.

**Ohio's Vaccination Program**  
**Phase 1B**  
*Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19.*

The following group of Ohioans are included, even though they are not age 65 and older, because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19.

- Sickle cell anemia
- Down syndrome
- Cystic fibrosis
- Muscular dystrophy
- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- People born with severe heart defects requiring regular specialized medical care.
- People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
- Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.
- Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly; and other severe neurological disorders.
- Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.
- People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
- Alpha and beta thalassemia
- Solid organ transplant candidates and recipients.

OHIO TOGETHER **MIKE DEWINE** GOVERNOR OF OHIO **Ohio** Department of Health **coronavirus.ohio.gov**

### **VACCINE DATA COLLECTION**

Governor DeWine again asked vaccine providers to collect and report accurate and complete data on vaccine administrations including race, ethnicity, age, and category of eligibility. This information is critical to understanding uptake rates among specific communities or occupations and also helps inform future policy and allocation decisions. The Ohio Department of Health will continue to reach out to all providers to make sure this critical information is being entered into the system.

### **RICHLAND COUNTY CLINIC**

Today Lt. Governor Jon Husted traveled to Richland Public Health (RPH) in Mansfield to tour their vaccine clinic and thank the staff and healthcare providers for their efforts to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. Most of the 100 Ohioans being vaccinated during the visit today were receiving their second dose.

To date, RPH has vaccinated 2,705 individuals (948 fully vaccinated) at their clinic that runs typically Monday-Friday.

During the press conference, Lt. Governor Husted had the opportunity to look on as two Richland County residents received their shot: Ms. Doris Rheinbolt received her second dose and Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker received his first dose, respectively.

### **CURRENT CASE DATA**

In total, there are 947,389 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 reported in Ohio and 16,611 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 49,061 people have been hospitalized throughout the pandemic, including 7,002 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

# All 88 Ohio Counties Ranked by Highest Occurrence COVID-19 Cases

The 14-day period used for this table covers data from Feb. 02 to Feb. 16. The data were pulled on Feb. 17 and exclude incarcerated individuals. Shaded counties meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention definition of "high incidence" of COVID-19.

COUNTY	Cases Per 100K (12/15 to 02/16)	Peak Period (01/15 to 02/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 100K (12/15 to 02/16)	Peak Period (01/15 to 02/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 100K (12/15 to 02/16)	Peak Period (01/15 to 02/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 100K (12/15 to 02/16)	Peak Period (01/15 to 02/16)	POPULATION
Adams	442.1	583	41,432	Lake	238.9	479	230,148	Butler	238.9	271	37,704	Clark	232.9	272	134,982
Allen	426.9	585	41,286	Lancaster	232.6	174	58,463	Champaign	232.6	38	28,283	Clinton	199.9	192	82,222
Ashtabula	421.7	279	85,227	Lawrence	232.6	402	296,428	Columbiana	232.4	47	26,214	Crawford	199.9	189	82,222
Ashland	397.2	232	38,972	Madison	232.1	1,069	541,222	Cuyahoga	232.4	197	222,222	Franklin	179.9	66	28,422
Baldwin	382.1	192	22,772	Meigs	232.9	489	188,227	Delaware	232.1	50	47,494	Hamilton	177.7	122	14,588
Belmont	382.1	232	45,325	Miami	232.9	482	162,468	Franklin	232.6	91	40,882	Harrison	175.8	238	180,817
Berkeley	382.9	1,241	362,124	Marion	232.9	128	42,128	Greene	232.1	72	32,412	Heald	175.2	122	79,214
Buckeye	348.9	298	88,215	Merger	232.9	88	21,283	Hamilton	232.2	98	38,283	Hocking	168.2	86	18,228
Butler	342.9	247.4	87,272	Monroe	232.9	287	82,287	Licking	232.4	348	428,288	Madison	162.2	122	72,222
Cadiz	342.9	187	41,182	Morgan	232.9	287	82,287	Lorain	232.4	129	18,219	Marion	162.2	122	72,222
Canton	342.1	27	28,225	Muskingum	232.9	472	172,148	Lucas	232.4	129	32,288	Meigs	162.2	24	14,228
Chillicothe	339.7	188	58,227	Noble	232.7	870	172,828	Madison	232.4	58	22,288	Miami	162.2	47	47,172
Clark	329.9	128	38,124	Pickaway	232.9	228	78,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	28	18,222
Clatsop	321.4	75	22,287	Preble	232.9	188	48,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Clinton	271.9	88	22,288	Putnam	232.9	88	22,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Columbiana	262.2	228	228,222	Richmond	232.9	271	128,227	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Crawford	262.2	228	228,222	Scioto	232.7	2,288	1,278,128	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Cuyahoga	257.7	87	28,276	Shelby	232.9	94	38,227	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Darke	257.7	87	28,276	Union	232.9	94	38,227	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
Delaware	257.7	87	28,276	Van Wert	232.9	94	38,227	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
DeWitt	257.7	87	28,276	Washington	232.9	128	48,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
DuRoss	257.7	87	28,276	Wayne	232.9	128	48,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
DuRoss	257.7	87	28,276	Wood	232.9	128	48,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172
DuRoss	257.7	87	28,276	Yonge	232.9	128	48,288	Marion	232.4	28	12,224	Marion	162.2	47	47,172

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language translation, can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's YouTube page](#).  
 For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.



## Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall Medical experts. Community leaders. Professionals.

Save the date for Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls, where your vaccine questions will be answered. Hear from medical experts, community leaders, and public health professionals. More details for how to watch livestreams for the following audiences will be shared in the near future.

- Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. – African American Ohioans
- Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. – Hispanic/Latino Ohioans
- Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. – Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
- Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. – Rural Ohioans

