

# Board of Health Quarterly Review



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Zanesville-Muskingum County

**Fall 2021**

## Resolutions/Contracts/Agreements

The Board of Health approved the following:

- Plumbing Services Agreement with Perry County Health Department
- Be Well Dietetic Internship Affiliation Agreement
- ODH Agreement Amendment for Help Me Grow Home Visiting Services
- ODH Subsidy Agreement for Injury Prevention and Drug Overdose Program Services
- Spectrum Agreement with State Contract Pricing
- OSU Subward Amendment, Extension for
- Contact Tracing
  - West Muskingum Schools Nursing Services Contract
  - COTS Southeast/Southeast Central Ohio Region Local Level Healthcare Coalition Coordination Agreement
  - Cribs for Kids & Safe Sleep Gant ODH Policy Acknowledgement
  - ODH Tobacco Enforcement Smoke Free Investigations Provider Agreement
  - Action Total Staffing Contract—Renewed with ODH Budget Update
  - Lactation Consultant Services Agreement
- ‘ODH Help Me Grow Home Visitor Provider Agreement
- 2nd Reading & Public Hearing of Resolution 21-09-03 Food Service License Fees



### PREVENT FLU:

- Everyone 6 months & older should receive a yearly flu vaccine, especially people at higher risk.
- People 65 years and older and adults with chronic health conditions are at higher risk of developing serious complications from flu.
- Call ZMCHD at 740-454-9741 or one of our community partners to make an appointment.

### In this issue:

<i>Incident Command</i>	2
<i>Unified Command</i>	2
<i>COVID-19 Vaccine</i>	2
<i>At Home COVID-19 Test Kits</i>	3
<i>Accreditation Update</i>	3
<i>Personnel Update</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

## Professional Development

Dr. Jack Butterfield, Medical Director presented education on COVID-19 including a vaccine update.

In September, Muskingum County was ranked 5th in comparison to other counties in Ohio for

the highest occurrence of COVID-19 cases.

The Muskingum County COVID-19 Dashboard was presented. It is available online at [www.zmchd.org/covid-19](http://www.zmchd.org/covid-19).

The COVID-19 current

hospitalizations and positive encounters dashboard was presented. It is available online at [www.genesishcs.org/patients/covid-19](http://www.genesishcs.org/patients/covid-19).

This presentation has been shared with the community.

## ZMCHD Incident Command

In June, our COVID-19 numbers showed that we were moving into a more endemic phase of this disease. Our emergency response ramped down and we demobilized our mass immunization site at the Fairgrounds.

COVID-19 cases started to rise again in July. By the end of July we more than doubled the number of cases we saw in June. The Delta variant presented in our community. We had concerns about the return to school and more and more indoor activities this fall. We worked hard to help our community prepare.

In August, due to substantial COVID-19 community spread, the CDC strong-

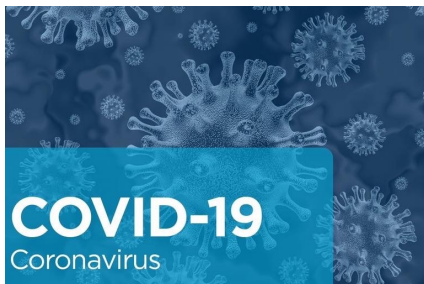
ly recommended masks for everyone in indoor settings and crowded areas. ZMCHD required masks indoors on August 4th. On August 9th, ZMCHD issued a mask advisory for Muskingum County.

By mid-August we were experiencing another surge in COVID cases locally. Just in time for the Muskingum County Fair and Return to School. This surge, attributed to the Delta variant, was much worse than what we experienced last fall and winter. This variant is much more infectious and has impacted younger people at this time. We continued to encourage vaccination as the best protection against COVID.

Since there were no state mandates this year, and seemingly no interest or political will to issue local mandates, we continued to issue advisories with the very best science-based prevention protocols to urge our community to take action to stop the spread of COVID-19.

COVID-19 cases continued to climb the first 3 weeks of September and we were busier than our busiest time last fall/winter. Finally, in the last week of the month we saw numbers decrease slightly. We worked closely with the hospital to push out messaging alerting the community to the fast spread of the Delta variant and the disconcerting hospitalization numbers.

## Muskingum County COVID-19 Unified Command



On June 2, 2021, our COVID numbers were so low the Unified Command demobilized. The drop in cases was due to effective mitigation efforts (masking and distancing) by our community businesses and workplaces, outdoor activities effectively increasing natural distancing, and vaccinations.

By the end of July, cases surged.

On August 10, Unified Command presented a COVID-19 Update for the

first time since June 2nd due to the resurgence of COVID-19.

On August 25, the Unified Command group began to meet again this time on Wednesdays in response to the pandemic.

In September, safety messages were issued to inform the public the variant was outpacing the surge from last fall the record number of patients seen by Genesis Healthcare System, and COVID-19 deaths increasing again.

## COVID –19 Vaccination

June brought a downward trend in our vaccination numbers to 233 from 530 doses given in May.

Vaccination numbers continued to decrease in July with only 132 doses given. We promoted COVID-19 vaccine along with back to school vaccines for 12-year-olds and up.

In August, we gave 192 vaccinations. We dispelled COVID-19 vaccine myths and promoted a long list of vaccine

providers in Muskingum County. In mid-August the CDC approved a third dose of Pfizer for people who are immunocompromised.

The demand for vaccinations started to increase in September. We administered 269 doses of vaccine. Late September, the CDC approved a booster dose of Pfizer for certain populations. Our total doses administered June-September reached 826.



## At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

We continue to partner with the Muskingum County Library System to make Abbot Binax NOW Rapid COVID-19 tests available at all library branches free of charge to community members.

The test kits are to be used in conjunction with a tele-med app.

Access to a smartphone or tablet or a computer with an internet connection is required.

NOTE: The app must be downloaded and used to take the test. We cannot provide quarantine letters if we do not have this documentation through the app.

The library has free high-speed wifi available in all outdoor spaces.

If technology assistance is needed, please email [tech-help@muskingumlibrary.org](mailto:tech-help@muskingumlibrary.org) to set up a free virtual technology help session.

ALL MCLS locations are currently open Monday-Thursday 10AM-7 PM, Friday 10AM-6 PM, and Saturday 10 AM-4 PM.

Tests are free to the public and given through curbside services. When you arrive, park and call the library and a staff member will bring the test kit to you. Please do not enter the library to get a test kit.



Muskingum County Library System

## Accreditation Update

As the COVID-19 numbers began to decline in June, more time was focused on our accreditation journey.

After a meeting with the directors, a submission deadline of April 1, 2022 was set.

There are 19 measures out of the 100 that need to be addressed.

Staff is working one on one with each other to address each measure.

Some measures require minor changes while other measures require agency-wide or community change.

These measures will take more time and effort.

Staff is also working with other health departments to find resources and share ideas.



*Helping raise the standard  
for public health.*

## Personnel Update

### Resignations

Rebecca Hollingshead, RN  
Public Health Nurse

Amanda Frenier  
Help Me Grow Home Visitor

Megan Jones  
Social Worker

Alisha Hughes, RN  
Public Health Nurse

Lisa Sheer  
WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator

### ZMCHD welcomed the following employees:

Jacob Wilson  
Contact Tracer

Kathy Kushnir, RN  
Contact Tracer

Kaili Shaffer  
Epidemiologist

Deidre Miller  
Help Me Grow Home Visitor

Stefanie Kahle  
Service Coordinator

Tina Gundelfinger, RN  
Public Health Nurse

Melinda Moeller  
Administrative Assistant

Kayla Smith  
Service Coordinator



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Zanesville-Muskingum County

Health Department  
205 N. 7th Street  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
Phone: 740-454-9741  
Fax: 740-455-6723  
Email: [help@zmchd.org](mailto:help@zmchd.org)

**Mission:**

*Prevent. Promote. Protect. Public Health is Our Passion!*

**Vision:**

*For Our Agency: One team, striving for excellence, educating and empowering with every encounter.*

*For Our Community: Muskingum County is the healthiest place to live, learn, work and play.*

**Values:**

***Work Together:*** We engage with our community to establish common goals and achieve desired results.

***Help Others:*** We are helpful, adaptive, and take pride in providing excellent service.

***Do the Right Thing:*** We are fair, honest, ethical, and accountable.

***Improve:*** We continually look for ways to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

***Respect:*** We accept diversity and practice

## Upcoming Events



### **November Events**

**Nov 2:** Election Day

**Nov 7:** Daylight Saving Time ends

**Nov 11:** Closed Veterans Day

**Nov 18:** Board of Health Meeting, 6:00pm/Virtual Board of Health Meeting, Google Meet

**Nov 22:** Public Health Thank You Day

**Nov 25-26:** Closed Thanksgiving Day

### **December Events**

**Dec 7:** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**Dec 16:** Board of Health Meeting, 6:00pm/Virtual Board of Health Meeting, Google Meet

**Dec 25:** Closed Christmas Day

**Jan 1:** Closed New Year's Day

### **Have a Healthy Holiday Season**

- Wash hands often to help prevent the spread of germs.
- Bundle up to stay dry and warm.
- Manage stress.
- Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.
- Be smoke-free.
- Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.
- Get your vaccinations.
- Prepare food safely.

