

PREVENT DISEASE AND INJURY. PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS. PROTECT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

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Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Approved

In September, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization for the Moderna and Pfizer bivalent ("updated") COVID-19 vaccine. The updated boosters target the original coronavirus strain and the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. Right now, the BA.4 and BA.5 strains of the virus are causing the most cases and are predicted to continue to circulate in the winter. This update to the booster will help to restore the protection that has waned since the virus has evolved. Now, anyone who has completed their initial series and gets a booster will receive the updated booster to provide greater protection. See if you are eligible for the booster by using the criteria below.

Age (years)	Booster Type	Time Since Last Dose (after completing primary series)
12+	Pfizer	at least 2 months
18+	Moderna	at least 2 months

Answering Your Child's Tough Questions

Source: SAMHSA

As your child becomes curious about alcohol and other drugs, he or she may turn to you for answers and advice. Use this opportunity to start an open, honest conversation about drinking and drug use, and to establish or reinforce your rules and the behavior you expect. Because some questions can be difficult to answer, it is important to be prepared. The following are some common questions and answers about underage drinking and other drugs.

"I got invited to a party. Can I go?"

Ask your child if an adult will be present at the party or if he or she thinks kids will be drinking or using drugs. Remind your child that just being at a party where there is substance use leads to trouble. Use this time to reinforce your rules about alcohol and drug use and remind your children of the behavior you expect. Let them know they can say "no" or text a family member a code word if in a situation that makes them uncomfortable.

"What if my friends ask me to try drugs or alcohol?"

Talk with your children about having an "exit plan" if they are offered drugs or alcohol. Peer pressure can be powerful among teens and having a plan to avoid substance use can help them make smart choices. Talk with your children about what they would do if faced with a decision about drugs or alcohol, such as texting a code word to a family member or practicing saying "no" in a safe environment. Work with your child to think of a way to handle this situation, whether it is simply saying, "No, I don't smoke," or "I have a game tomorrow," or "I have to go to work tomorrow."

For more information on how to encourage drug-free behaviors and guide good choices, visit the Williams County ECHO Coalition website at echocoalition-wc.com or call 419-485-3141.



What's the Purpose of Restaurant Inspections?

Most people have heard about food inspections that take place at businesses that serve or sell food to the public. While food inspections are often depicted as a nuisance, they are a powerful tool to both keep the public safe from foodborne illness and educate food service operators on how to keep their customers safe. Food vendors (ex. restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, mobile food operations) are required to follow Ohio Revised Code 3717 and Ohio Administrative Code 3701 concerning the construction, renovation, operation and sanitation of food service operations and retail food establishments. These codes are in place to protect the public's health.

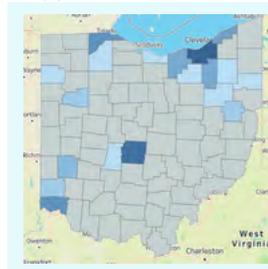
Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) at the Williams County Health Department utilize food code knowledge, science, and safe food preparation education to ensure that food borne illnesses are not spread in the community. During inspections, Environmental Health Specialists use food thermometers to ensure proper storage and cooking of food, use sanitizer testing strips to ensure cleaning supplies are properly made and used, and look to ensure that food storage and contact surfaces are up to code to prevent illness. The goal of our Environmental Health Specialists is not to get local food services businesses in trouble, but to build relationships that foster food safety education and compliance to keep our entire community safe. Through partnerships between the Williams County Health Department and local businesses, community health is able to thrive.



Monkeypox Dashboard

Source: ODH

The Ohio Department of Health put together a dashboard that reviews reported information about monkeypox. The dashboard is updated every Thursday. The dashboard shows the total number of cases across the state, the number of cases per county, the age range of people affected by monkeypox, the percentage of cases by sex, and outcomes, including any hospitalizations and deaths. As of 9/8/22, there are 0 cases of monkeypox in Williams County.



Monkeypox Dashboard:
bit.ly/3AYqXg8

Grief Support Group

The Williams County Health Department is offering an 8-week grief support group with a certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist. This support group offers a safe, evidence-based environment for griever to take effective and lasting action, no matter the type of loss experienced. There is no cost to participate in these group support sessions. Registration is required.

Register here:
bit.ly/Griefsupportgroup

For questions about the group, call Brittany at 419-485-3141 ext.123 or email brittany.spotts@williamscountyhealth.org.



Location: WC Public Library - Bryan Branch,
107 E. High St. Bryan, OH 43506

Time: 6-8pm
 Dates: Sept. 26 Oct. 24 (all Mondays)
 Oct. 3 Oct. 31
 Oct. 10 Nov. 7
 Oct. 17 Oct. 14

2022 Community Health Assessment Data

The Williams County Health Partners released the 2022 Community Health Assessment. To view the full report and learn more about Williams County through numbers, visit the following website: <http://www.williamscountyhealth.org/administration/community-health-assessment/>

Flu Season Source: CDC

Flu season takes place in the fall and winter. Cases typically start to increase in October, peaking between December and late February. It is recommended that everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine. Flu vaccination is especially important for people who are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications, like those with certain chronic health conditions and people 65 years and older.

This flu season is projected to have greater spread than the last 2 years, but the vaccine is proving to be effective. While ideally it's recommended to get vaccinated by the end of October, vaccination after October can still provide protection during the peak of flu season. Need a COVID-19 vaccine too? You can get your flu shot and COVID-19 shot at the same time.

Track flu cases on the CDC's website here: <https://bit.ly/3LcSWfu>

WC Community Health Improvement Plan Feedback

Williams County Health Partners would like to get your input. What priorities would you like to focus on in the 2023-2025 Williams County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)?

During the CHIP process, our coalition will have meetings to select the priorities for Williams County, discuss the opportunities available, and make an actionable plan to improve the health of Williams County.

Use the link to sign up to get involved in the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan for Williams County: bit.ly/JoinCHIP. You can also use the QR code below.

Get involved!

Share your input as we develop the new Williams County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)



Select priorities.
Discuss opportunities.
Make a plan.
Improve Williams County.

Sign up to get involved or invited to future meetings or events:

bit.ly/JoinCHIP

Or email Victoria Smith at victoria.smith@williamscountyhealth.org



WCHD Community Talking Points are published on a monthly basis and posted on our website and social media. If you would you like to receive the community talking points directly, sign up by completing this form: bit.ly/WCCommunityTalkingPoints

For more information on WCHD programs and services, visit: williamscountyhealth.org

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