

Infection Control and Public Health Weekly Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022; 12:30 – 1:05 pm

COVID-19 and Public Health Updates (Health Commissioners)

- Region Six ... 188 COVID-19 hospitalized (8%) / 44 ICU (22%) / 35 vents
- COVID-19 inpatients peaked at 1,033 (39%) and 200 ICU (Jan 14)
- 3.1% positive test rate (2,026 tests) – 14 county (peak 34%)
- Clermont County reported 12,780 cases in January and 1,536 in February (total 11,511 in 2020 and 17,064 in 2021).
- ODH vaccination focus – booster doses
- School reporting to health department discontinued. ODH dashboards move to weekly.

Increased HIV Cases in Butler County (Dr. Burch)

- There were 15 new HIV cases in 2020 and 59 in 2021 (36 attributed to injection drug use). So far in 2022, there have been 8 new HIV cases (4 w/ IDU).
- Butler County Public Health is operating Syringe Exchanges in Fairfield and Middletown that includes HIV testing and referral to treatment in partnership with Caracole (figures at end of notes)
- Increased HIV testing, especially PWID (persons who inject drugs) in emergency departments recommended.

Hamilton County had a similar increase in HIV amongst PWID:

- 2016 – 9% (12/137) PWID
- 2017 – 20% (37/190) PWID
- 2018 – 32% (61/189) PWID

2021 Butler County cases:

- 21 engaged in care and prescribed meds (some have already fallen out of care)
- 4 attended ID appt, but not on meds
- 6 have had scheduled appointments but never attended appt
- 5 lost to follow-up

Diagnosing facilities for Butler County 2021:

- 9 Caracole
- 4 HCPH
- 4 Ft Hamilton
- 3 Bethesda Butler
- 2 Kettering and Premier
- 1 UC West Chester, Miami Valley, and Trihealth
- 9 treatment facilities

2022 Butler Diagnosis

- 4 PWID diagnosed out of 8 total
- 2 of which engaged in ID care

Increased Active Tuberculosis Cases in Hamilton County (Martha Walter)

- UC medical student video on LTBI and active TB (2 mins)
- Cephiad PCR testing for Mycobacterium species, INH and rifampin resistant gene
- MMWR: 4-Month Rifapentine-Moxifloxacin Regimen for the Treatment of Drug-Susceptible Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Health System COVID-19 Protocols

- Expanding visitors (most at 2 visitors)
- Masks optional in non-clinical areas
- Discontinuing universal pre-op testing in favor of risk-based testing
- Eye protection for Non-COVID-19 inpatient care
- Evaluating testing of vaccine exempted employees

Availability of Outpatient COVID-19 Treatment

- Doses of sotrovimab and bebtelovimab available at infusion centers
- Courses of Paxlovid and Molnupiravir available at hospital retail pharmacies
- FDA increased *Evusheld* pre-exposure prophylaxis from 150 mg to 300 mg, patients who received 150 mg called back

“Test to Treat” at Pharmacy Based Clinic Sites

- Rapid (antigen) testing and clinical evaluation by clinician with “prescribing authority”
- Treatment with oral Paxlovid or Molnupiravir (age ≥ 12 , 40 kg) dispensed by pharmacist
- HHS test-to-treat website with locations participating in the program (mid-March)
- Does this include FQHCs? HealthSource ordering Paxlovid.

What will happen once the national Covid-19 emergency ends?

- Estimates that 15 million people could be disenrolled from Medicaid (and 7 million children)
- Covid-19 vaccines, treatments, and medical supplies authorized by FDA only for emergency use rescinded (HHS can make a separate declaration). FDA proposed a six-month warning before ending an EUA.
- Emergency-era provisions allowed Medicare to expand telehealth coverage
- Federal funding for hospitals by 20% to pay for Covid-19 admissions and CMS waivers related to workforce flexibilities and home care programs.

Clinical Cyber Emergency Action Teams

- Previously information at risk, now ransomware attack risk (held off during the pandemic)
- Clinical care recovery during Cyber emergency can last months
- Device triage checklist and playbook (priority plan for patients dependent on devices)

Anticipated Supply Chain Shortages (Kevin Connor)

- Increased cost of fuel / transportation
- More Abbott baby formula recalls

Blood Specimen Collection Tube Shortage

- Plasma separator tubes (PST) used for chemistries, troponin expect shortage to last until the summer 2022 (blue, lavender, and now plasma separator tubes, PST).
- Shortage of the Fresenius Kabi manufactured “BioFlex” blood bags

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Advisory Committee on COVID-19

Vaccination and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis

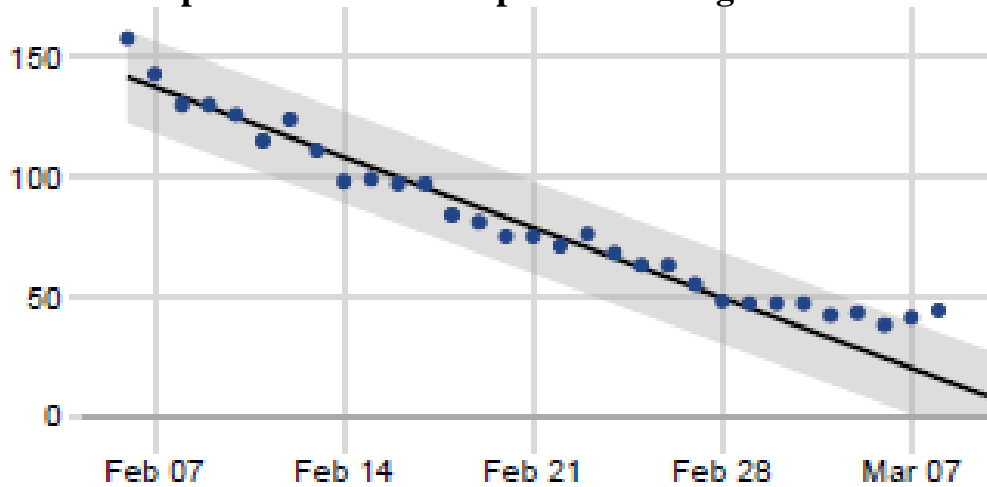
- Endorses vaccination for all eligible persons with FDA approved / EUA vaccines and reiterates the need for patients with cancer to be fully immunized, including receiving third doses and boosters with strong preference for mRNA vaccines
- Vaccination recommended for caregivers, household/close contacts, and the general public
- Vaccination should be delayed for at least 3 months following hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) or engineered cellular therapy (eg, chimeric antigen receptor [CAR] T-cell therapy) to improve vaccine efficacy.

- Vaccine delays in patients with cancer should also include those recommended for the general public (recent exposure to COVID-19, recent monoclonal antibody therapy).
- The committee strongly supports mandates for health care worker vaccination.

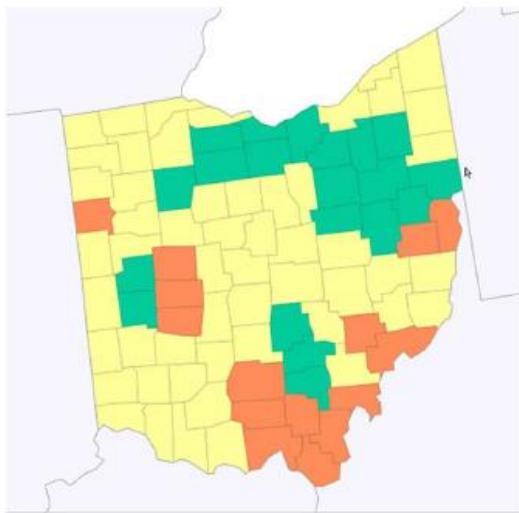
Confusion about who is eligible for Evusheld

Next Zoom Call ... **Thursday, March 17** (12:30 – 1:00 pm)

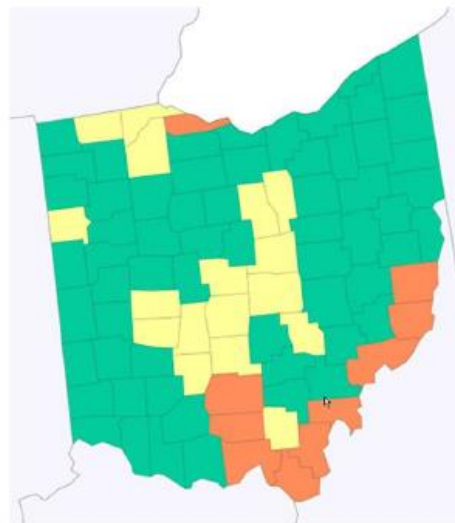
Number of positive COVID-19 patients in Region 6 ICUs – Last 30 Days



On Friday, February 25th the CDC launched COVID-19 Community Levels, replacing the previous COVID-19 transmission levels.

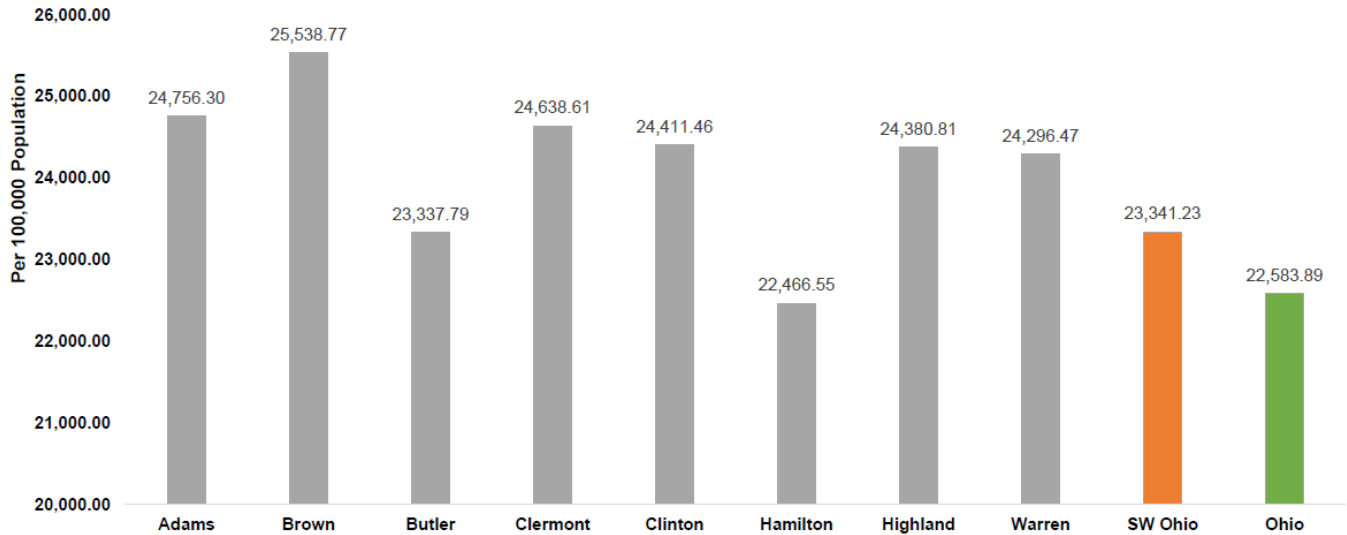


Feb 25, 2022



March 3, 2022

Rate of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and Southwest Ohio Counties, March 9, 2020 - February 28, 2022



COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations by Vaccination Status in Adults Age > 65

Rate per 100,000 population (Oct – Dec 2021)

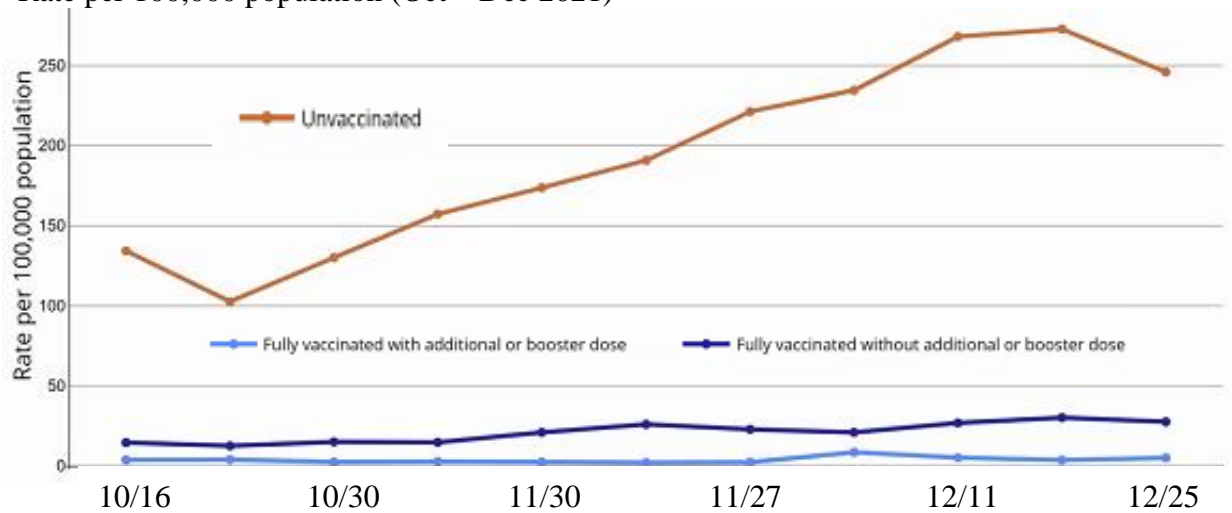


Figure 1: Middletown SSP Visitors by Month for 2021 and 2022

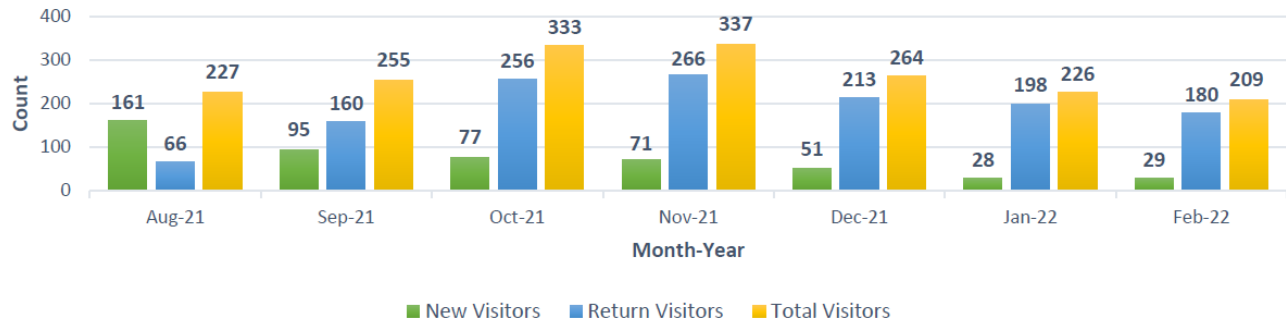


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2021 and 2022

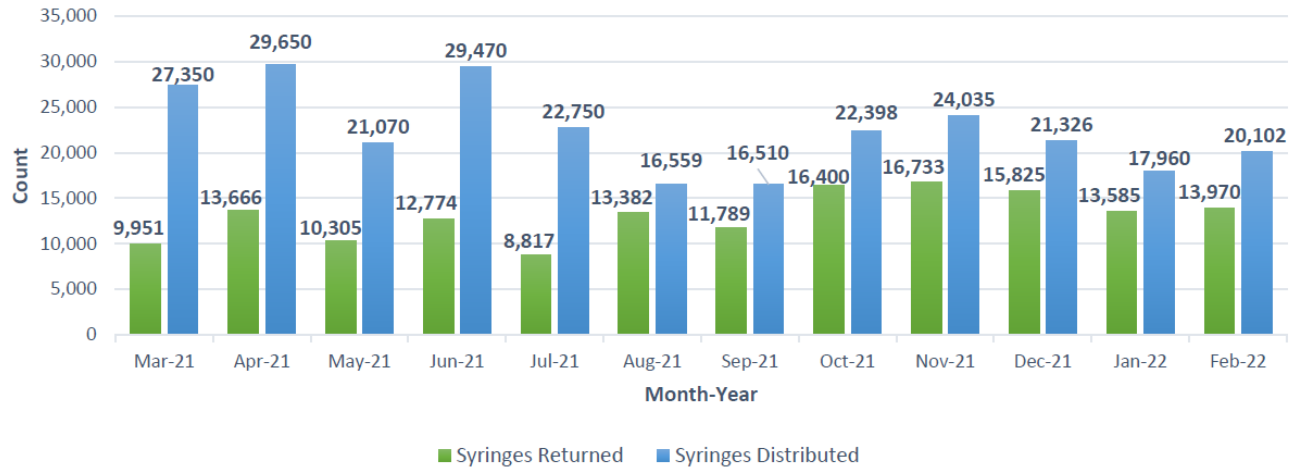


Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Visitors by Month for 2021 and 2022

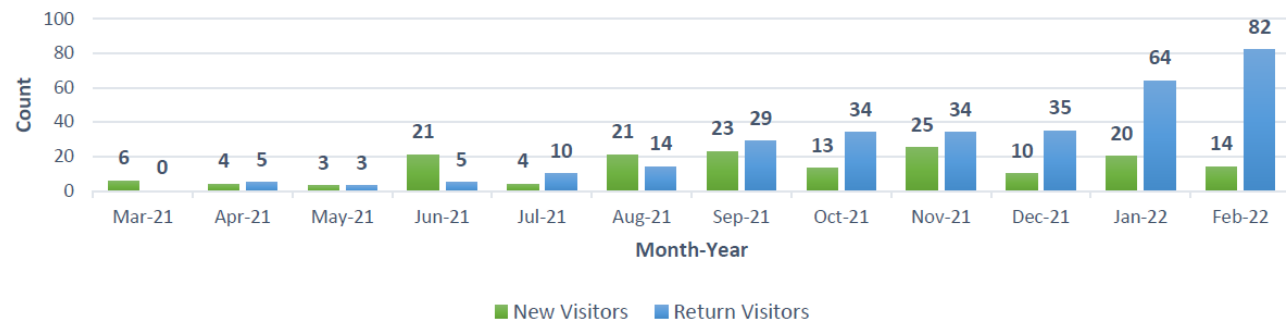


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2021 and 2022

