Fall 2026

Newsletter

MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

Care Cabinet Vending Machines

We have launched a new Care Cabinet vending machine initiative to make free health and safety supplies more accessible to residents of Mahoning County. Funded through the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, the Care Cabinets provide suppiles 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with no identification or eligilbity requirements.

The machines offer a variety of free supplies including naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, wound care kits, hygiene kits, and feminine hygiene kits. Supplies may vary by location based on community needs and availability.

Three Care Cabinets are currently available in Mahoning County at our main office (50 Westchester Drive in Austintown) and at the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County Main Library (305 Wick Avenue in Youngstown) and the Newport Library (3730 Market Street in Youngstown).

The Care Cabinets are designed to provide convenient, low-barrier access to supplies that can help prevent overdose, reduce health risks, and support basic health and personal care needs.

Residents can learn more about the Care Cabinet program, view locations, and see what supplies are available at each location by visiting https://bit.ly/4iOFiSN. As additional community access points become available, the online map will be updated to provide the most current information.

Free supplies. 24/7 access. No ID required.

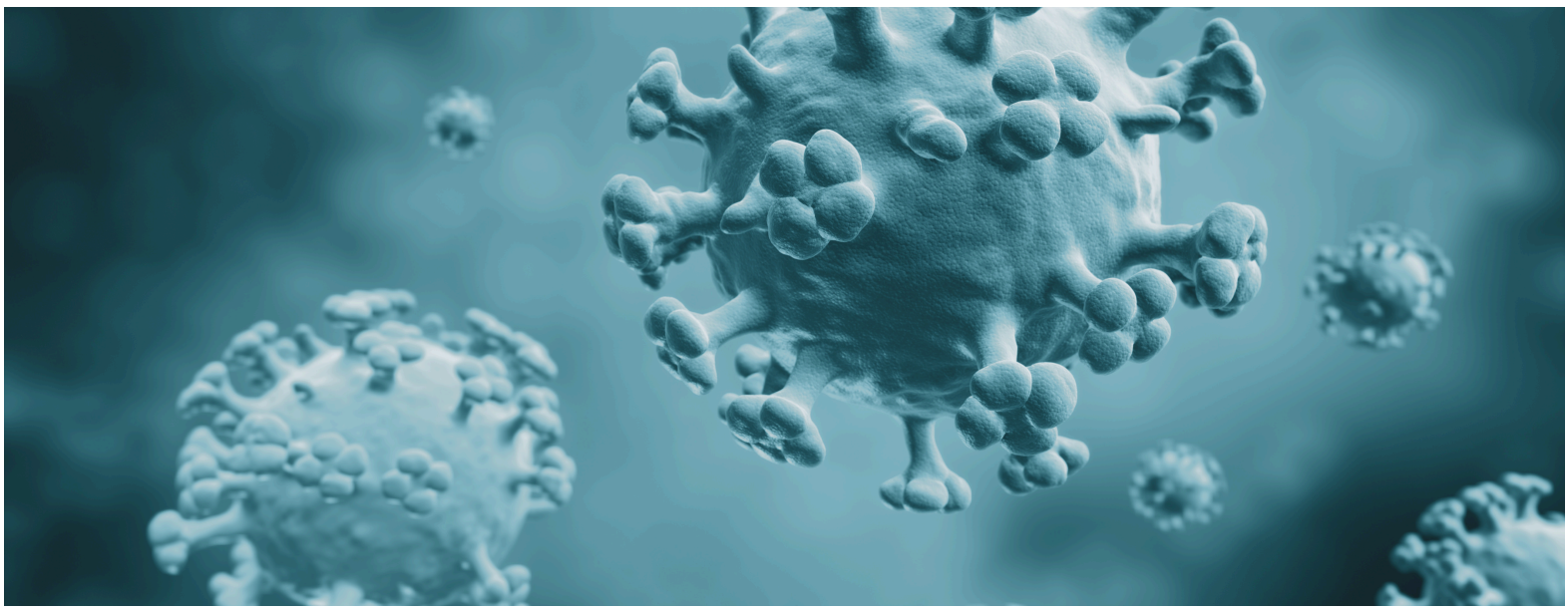
Prepare for Respiratory Virus Season!

The fall and winter seasons provide us with opportunities to experience different nature scenes from the colorful leaves to the first dusting of snow. They also bring us back to school season and more events and holidays that lead us to spend more time indoors with friends and family.

One thing we don't want to experience is getting sick with the flu or a respiratory virus like RSV or COVID-19. Older adults, young children, people with certain medical conditions like a weakened immune system, people with disabilities, and pregnant women are at higher risk for severe illness if they are infected with the flu or a respiratory virus. To help protect ourselves from these viruses there are several steps we can take to stop the spread:

- Avoid close contact - if you are sick or not feeling well, stay home and keep your distance from others. If others are sick, avoid close contact.
- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If a tissue is not available, then cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Wash your hands often. If soap and water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Improve air quality indoors by bringing fresh air into your home, set your fan to "on" on your HVAC system, use a portable HEPA air cleaner, or move activities outdoors if possible when having larger gatherings.
- Stay up to date with immunizations such as your annual flu shot in the fall and following current COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. If you are 50 years of age or older or are pregnant, ask your healthcare provider if the RSV vaccine is right for you.

To learn more about available vaccines or to schedule an appointment, call our Nursing Division at 330-270-2855 ext. 125.



PREPARE FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON!

Simple steps can help keep you, your family, and our community healthy this fall and winter.

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

If you're not feeling well, stay home and keep your distance from others.

COVER YOUR COUGH

Use a tissue when available. If not, cough or sneeze into your elbow.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

CLEAN SURFACES

Help reduce the spread by cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas.

FRESHEN INDOOR AIR

Bring in fresh air, use a fan, or use a portable HEPA air cleaner when possible.

STAY UP TO DATE

Get your annual flu shot and stay current on recommended vaccines.

Healthy people. Stronger communities.

Community Collaboration

Maternal and Child Health Partnership with the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches

We are partnering with our faith communities to help connect mothers, babies, and families with the support they need. Through collaboration with the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches (MVAC) and local faith communities, we are sharing information about our maternal and child health programs and resources available to families.

These resources include pregnancy testing, prenatal care referrals, breastfeeding support, postpartum support, safe sleep education, baby essentials, parenting resources, food and nutrition support,and other family support services.

By working together, public health and our faith community can help families access support early and build healthier beginnings for mothers, babies, and families.

A Message from the Health Commissioner

Public health is often most visible during emergencies, but much of our work happens every day behind the scenes through prevention, education, partnerships, and community outreach. Whether we are working with local organizations, supporting families, protecting the safety of our food supply, or expanding access to important resources, our goal remains the same: helping residents live healthier and safer lives.

This year has brought new opportunities to strengthen our connection with the community and find innovative ways to meet people where they are. Success in public health depends on collaboration, and we are grateful for the many community partners, healthcare providers, businesses, schools, libraries, faith-based organizations, and residents who help make this work possible.

As we head into the colder months, I encourage everyone to take steps to protect their health and look out for one another. Small actions can have a meaningful impact on the well-being of our families, neighbors and community. Thank you for your continued support of MCPH and our mission of promoting healthier people and stronger communities.

Ryan Tekac

Program Spotlight

Restaurant Inspections

Our food safety team consists of eight individuals, six of whom conduct food safety inspections throughout Mahoning County. In 2025, the food safety team conducted more than 2,800 inspections to include pre-opening, complaints, foodborne illness investigations, and routine inspections.

The major focus of these inspections is preventing common risk factors associated with foodborne illness. Education is a crucial piece in this process, and we foster a professional relationship with the operators of food establishments, providing educational materials during inspections and clearly explaining the public health significance of any violations identified.

We extend our appreciation to the members of our food safety team for their continued dedication to protecting public health, educating food operators, and promoting food safety throughout Mahoning County. To see how your favorite restaurant did on their last inspection, visit yourfoodsafety.com/mahoning.

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MahoningHealth.org

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.