



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting Health,
Improving Lives.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2021, Columbus Public Health continued to protect the health of our community in new and unprecedented ways during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Columbus Public Health was a leader in our community's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of our residents during the spread of dangerous emerging variants.

As part of its response, Columbus Public Health implemented a mass vaccination effort to reach and protect as many people as possible from COVID-19, especially people of color who were disproportionately impacted by the virus.

In addition to giving more than 220,000 vaccines at a special drive-thru clinic at the Celeste Center and community clinics in socially vulnerable neighborhoods, our response also included COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, compliance and enforcement.

GREETINGS FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021, but Columbus Public Health never faltered and continued to step up and protect our community in unprecedented ways. Through mass drive thru vaccine clinics and special community clinics to reach and protect vulnerable community members who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, we provided over 220,000 vaccines. It was a new and extraordinary effort that required all hands on deck to protect our community from COVID-19. While we continued our pandemic response, we also continued to fulfill our mission of protecting health and improving lives through critical public health services that meet the diverse needs of our community. I am proud of what we accomplished during very difficult times, and I am pleased to share this overview of our work in 2021.



Best of Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mysheika W. Roberts".

Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

 [DrMysheikaRoberts](#)

 [DrMRoberts](#)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we emerge from the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outstanding staff at Columbus Public Health remain steadfast in their commitment to our residents and shepherding our community beyond such a challenging and uncertain time. Fortunately, we now have the benefit of safe and effective vaccines – critical forms of protection that have enabled us to return to the traditions and routines we love, and a core component of our ongoing efforts to strengthen health, well-being and resiliency. In fact, Columbus Public Health distributed more than 220,000 vaccines throughout central Ohio, with a particular focus on promoting equity by proactively engaging with those who are most vulnerable. I am proud to share that we did this while continuing to provide a broad range of programs, services and care central to quality of life. We will – as always – enhance and expand our work to address new areas of need and opportunity, and, with the exceptional leadership, talent and expertise of our colleagues at Columbus Public Health, I am confident we will succeed.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Ginther".

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

 [MayorGinther](#)

 [MayorGinther](#)

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PANDEMIC RESPONSE

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Provided 222,919 COVID-19 vaccines.
- Hosted vaccine clinics at 111 community partner agencies to remove barriers.
- Administered 473 homebound vaccines.
- Distributed 24,833 Vax Cash gift cards to decrease disparities in vaccine rates.

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

- Conducted 89,839 COVID-19 case investigations to identify cases and do contact tracing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Conducted 29,697 contact investigations for isolation and quarantine.

Testing

- Completed 6,447 COVID-19 tests with our adult hospital partners: OhioHealth, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Mount Carmel Health System.

Outbreak Response

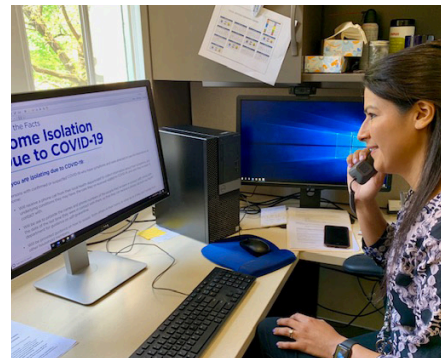
- Responded to 55 COVID-19 outbreaks.

Mask Enforcement

- Conducted 854 complaint investigations.
- Issued 43 warning letters.
- Achieved a 94.9% compliance rate.

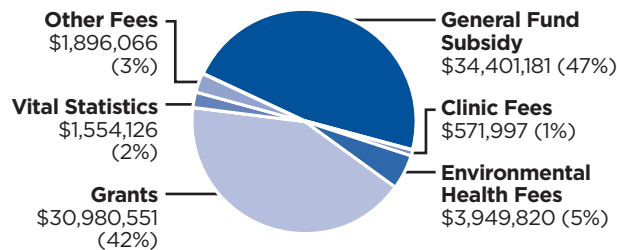
Public Information Call Center

- Fielded 102,417 calls and chats to provide information, education and appointments for testing and vaccines.

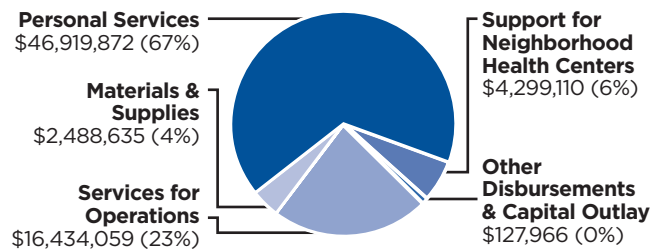


OUR BUDGET

2021 Total Receipts By Source - \$73,353,747



2021 Total Expenditures By Category - \$68,992,412



VACCINE EQUITY PLAN

Increasing Access

- A minimum of 20% of vaccine supply reserved for vulnerable populations within each phase.
- Priority determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index.
- The Social Vulnerability Index plus this information was used to prioritize vaccine distribution:
 - Income
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Disability or medical condition
 - Transportation access or the inability to be transported
- Race data collected during registration to track progress and make adjustments.
- Weekly Opportunity Vaccine Clinic for eligible residents in opportunity neighborhoods.

Removing Barriers

- Registration provided online and by phone.
- Vaccines offered at recreation centers in opportunity neighborhoods to increase access.
- Monitored and adjusted as needed to best serve vulnerable populations.

Informing and Engaging Vulnerable Communities

- Diverse community partnerships and influencers carried vaccine information into the community.
- Community town hall vaccine conversations held with the health commissioner and minority groups, including clergy, sororities, fraternities, resettlement agencies and non-profits.
- Partnered with the Department of Neighborhoods to engage community members and provide “boots on the ground” information.
- Launched a community multi-media campaign with businesses and hospital partners, with a special focus on underserved minorities.

Opportunity Clinics

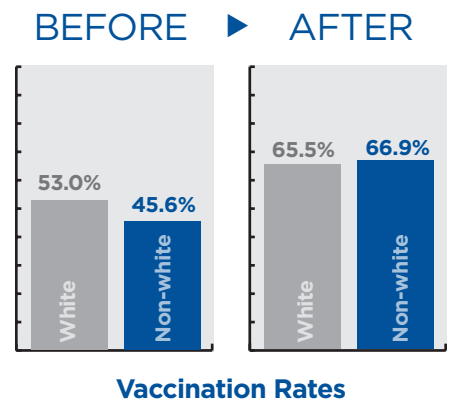
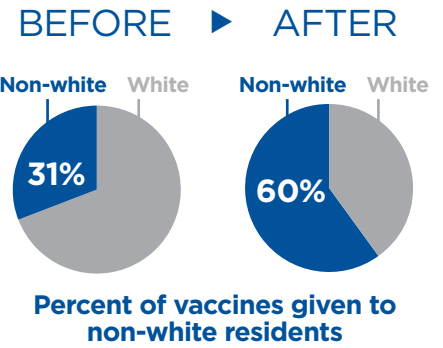
- Opportunity Clinics removed barriers and provided early access to protect communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.



VAX CASH

Vax Cash was designed to help close the disparity gap in vaccine uptake. Beginning in July and running into early 2022, Columbus Public Health gave \$100 Visa cash cards to Franklin County residents getting their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at 10 neighborhood satellite clinics, including community centers, New American organizations and churches. The Vax Cash program also used health educators at clinic sites to provide information and answer questions, along with community organizers who went door to door in clinic neighborhoods to promote the clinic.

- Before Vax Cash - There was a large gap in vaccination rate between white and Black & brown populations (7.4%).
- After Vax Cash - Groups had nearly identical vaccination rates.
- Before Vax Cash - 31% of vaccines were given to non-white residents.
- After Vax Cash - nearly 60% of vaccines given to non-white residents.
- Columbus Public Health gave a greater percentage of its first dose vaccines than any other provider.
- The proportion of vaccines given to the Hispanic/Latino population doubled after Vax Cash.
- 26,952 cards distributed.
- 28,737 people started their primary vaccine series.
- 41,800 clients served.



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

While we provided a mass vaccination effort, we also continued to provide critical public health programs to protect and serve the public.

Alcohol and Drug Services

- Engaged 2,186 individuals through seven Walk in for Recovery and outreach events.
- Distributed 16,000 fentanyl test strips through community outreach and two partner locations to save people from accidental overdoses.
- Provided naloxone trainings, education and harm reduction strategies to over 5,156 residents and distributed 5,763 boxes of NARCAN nasal spray.
- Provided alcohol and drug prevention education to 2,365 residents at 46 community sites.

CARE Coalition

- Canvassed 996 homes and sent mailings to an additional 1,199 homes after a traumatic event in the neighborhood.
- Completed outreach to 137 next of kin, 58 youth shooting victims, and 29 trauma referrals to show care and to share information on resources.
- Facilitated 18 community debrief sessions to hold space following trauma and to encourage healing.

Center for Public Health Innovation

- Held a Health Equity Summit, which provided training to 298 people on effective language to discuss racial equity and to advance racial justice.
- Provided interpretation and translation for CPH programs and COVID-19 related services.
- Provided training on the use of racial equity tools (e.g., racial equity impact assessment) to address unintended institutional racism in decision-making.
- Provided webinars and education on a variety of topics, including the impact of racism on health outcomes, HIV/AIDS, cultural competency, cultural humility and the COVID-19 vaccine.

Dental

- Screened 2,353 children for dental sealants in Columbus City, South-Western City, Hamilton Local, Whitehall City, Columbus Catholic, and charter schools.
- Placed 6,929 total dental sealants on children's teeth in schools from September through December.
- Visited 29 schools (September through December) and 13 recreation centers in the summer of 2021.

Disease Prevention

- Issued more than 802 Retail Tobacco and Paraphernalia Sales Licenses.
- Completed 1,278 sign checks to ensure compliance with Tobacco 21.

Emergency Preparedness

- Activated staff and operationalized Incident Command Structure for COVID-19 response efforts.

Epidemiology

- Conducted analyses for comprehensive reports on reportable infectious diseases, all child deaths with a focus on firearms and sleep-related infant deaths, fetal and infant mortality, and men's and women's health.
- Updated an interactive dashboard to display several years of Key Community Health Indicators related to the Community Health Assessment.

Food Protection

- Conducted 12,007 inspections of 5,991 food facilities.
- Educated 206 participants in food safety.

Laboratory

- Performed 1,794 drug screens to support the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Program.
- Screened 4,247 clients for Hepatitis C, 5,631 clients for HIV, and 7,134 clients for syphilis.

Maternal Child Health

- Distributed 1,548 cribs for infants without a safe sleep surface to help reduce infant mortality.
- Trained 741 Safe Sleep Ambassadors through 51 trainings.
- Completed 7,147 home-based or telehealth visits for pregnant and newly parenting families.

Neighborhood Environmental Health

- Initiated investigations of 100% of all cases of children with elevated blood lead levels and worked with property owners, tenants and the City Attorney's office to ensure lead properties were secured and enforcement was followed.
- Treated 70,964 acres for adult mosquitoes, conducted 1,733 inspections of larviciding sites, larvacided 4,680 catch basins, treated 264 rain barrels, and removed 4,680 scrap tires from alleyways and right-of-ways to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.
- Completed 980 rat assessments of residential properties and conducted 5,431 inspections of active rat baiting sites.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES, *continued*

Outbreak Response

- Investigated and responded to 88 outbreaks.
- Participated in the Coalition against Hepatitis for People of African Origin to promote prevention of hepatitis B among the African immigrant community.

Sexual Health Promotion

- Began the implementation of the plan to end the HIV epidemic by piloting a Peer Navigation program and utilizing resource navigators to assist HIV negative persons in accessing PrEP and other needed community resources.
- Expanded the multi-media Know HIV No Fear campaign to promote HIV prevention strategies such as PrEP, testing and care.
- Expanded the partnership with Lutheran Social Services for the Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) to provide support for persons experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Nursing Team

- Provided first aid at the Linden Farmers Markets.
- Responded to two Red Cross Shelters to screen clients.

TB

- Provided TB testing to 1,096 Columbus City, Worthington and Dublin school children at high risk.
- Provided 1,763 home-based patient visits and 11,267 electronic directly observed therapy encounters.

Vaccine Preventable Disease

- Administered 10,456 vaccines to 4,844 clients.
- Administered 6,456 flu vaccines at COVID-19 clinics.
- Successfully case-managed all 97 newly reported cases of perinatal hepatitis B infection in pregnant women to ensure zero transmission of hepatitis B virus to their newborn babies.

Vital Statistics

- Issued 58,346 certified birth certificates.
- Issued 69,763 certified death certificates.

Women's Health and Wellness Center

- Completed 9,009 visits and provided 585 LARCS (long-acting reversible contraception) with 97% provided same-day and 46% for residents of a CelebrateOne neighborhood.
- Enrolled 91 residents with 56 healthy full-term babies born through Baby & Me Tobacco Free.
- Began mobile clinic visits at Week of Walk In for Recovery Events, Huckleberry House and the YWCA.

Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

- Served an active client caseload of 25,773, the largest caseload in Ohio.
- Conducted 15,000 contacts by WIC peers with breastfeeding families, taught 48 classes to 264 parents, and handled over 300 hospital and other referrals for breast pumps.
- Distributed 3,804 vouchers worth \$20 for a total of \$76,080 to WIC participants at 20 local farmers markets for purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Thank you to the Columbus Board of Health which continued to meet virtually to protect the health and safety of our residents.



Andrew Boy
Founder and CEO,
United Schools
Network



Dr. Chad Braun
Chief Medical Officer,
Equitas Health



Shayne Downton
Director of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion,
Mount Carmel Health
System



Karen Jefferson Morrison, JD, MS
President, OhioHealth
Foundation
Senior Vice President,
External Affairs



**Mary Ellen Wewers,
PhD, MPH, RN**
Professor Emerita,
College of Public
Health, The Ohio State
University

*Not pictured: Mayor Andrew J. Ginther,
President, Ex-Officio*



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