



Director's Report

Patrick Dowd

Acting Director, Allegheny County Health Department

Board of Health Meeting

May 3, 2023





Today's Agenda

- Director's Report
 - Administrative Updates and the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny
 - Medical Director's Report
 - WIC Updates
- Board Action Items
 - Proposed revisions for Article VI: Housing and Community Environment
 - Funding request to support Plumbing Program's digitalization of plan review process



Director's Report

- Changes to COVID-19 vaccine guidance
- Selected for \$10 million EPA Targeted Airshed Grant
- Began treating wetlands for mosquito larvae
- Addressed American Lung Association's "State of the Air"
- Stipulated penalties
- Seeking responses for climate change survey
- Launching "Rethink Your Drink" campaign



Plan for Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027

- Guiding principles
 - Equity driven
 - Community engaged
 - Data supported
 - Policy oriented
- Priority areas
 - Physical health
 - Behavioral health
 - Environmental health
- Goals: 8
- Objectives: 37
- Potential Strategies: 55
- Metrics: 59
- Partners identified: 60+



Overall Goal

- Allegheny County residents lead healthy lives as demonstrated by their physical and behavioral health and the environments in which they live, learn, work, and play.



Physical Health Goals

- People of all ages engage in behaviors that promote physical health and reduce the risk of chronic disease
- All people have appropriate places to obtain medical and dental care
- Decrease disparities in life expectancy and chronic disease in Allegheny County



Behavioral Health Goals

- People have access to behavioral health services, including treatment for substance disorders
- People will participate in programs and activities that support mental health and well-being



Environmental Health Goals

- More people live in stable and safe housing
- Fewer people experience violence in their homes and communities
- More residents live in communities that are prepared to adapt to and absorb the impacts of climate change



Putting it all together (Example #1)

- **Goal 1:** People of all ages engage in behaviors that promote physical health and reduce the risk of chronic disease
- **Objective 1.1:** More infants are fed human breastmilk
- **Strategies:**
 - Increase the number of trained lactation support professionals, especially people of color
- **Metric:** Increase human breastmilk feeding from 81.7% (2019) to 84% (2027). Source: PA Birth Certificate
- **Partners:** Organizations that support lactation services and education



Putting it all together (Example #2)

- **Goal 6:** More people live in stable and safe housing
- **Objective 6.2:** Fewer people live in housing that does not meet health standards
- **Strategies:**
 - Update ACHD Article VI - Housing and Community Environment
 - Support policies that reduce the amount of blighted and abandoned properties
 - Support policies that increase the availability of affordable and safe housing
- **Metric:** By 2027, increase compliance for abatement for complaint housing cases with Class 1 or Class 2 violations by 15% from 60% (2021) to 75% (2027) in compliance
- **Partners:** Housing Authority, Department of Human Services, municipal governments, housing advocacy organizations, area landlords



Read the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027

alleghenycounty.us/PHA





Medical Director's Report

Barbara Nightingale, MD
Deputy Director for Clinical Services

May 3, 2023

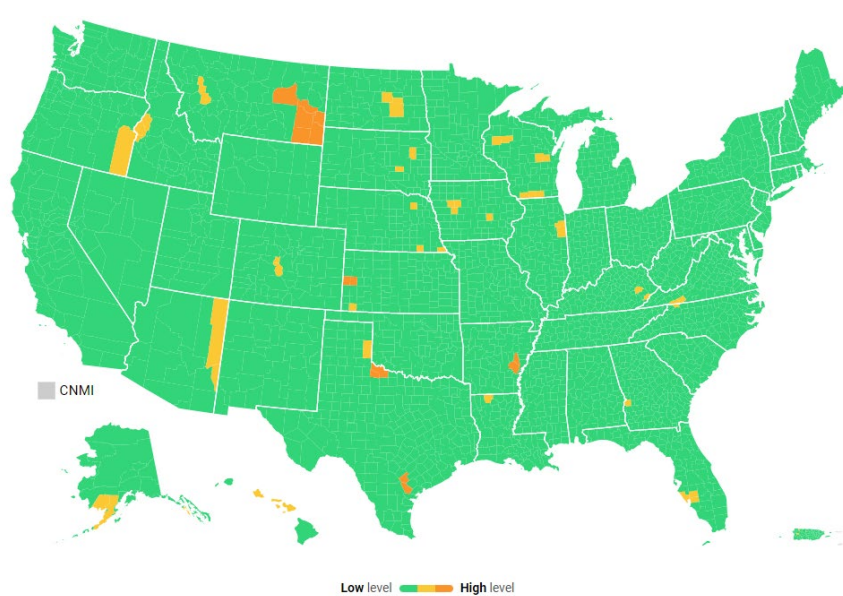




Outline

- COVID-19 update
- Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) - Health Advisories
 - Candida Auris
 - Marburg Virus
 - Lyme Disease
 - Hepatitis A

COVID-19 in the Community



<https://covidactnow.org/?s=46323380>

● Low

In Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, community level is Low.

[COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

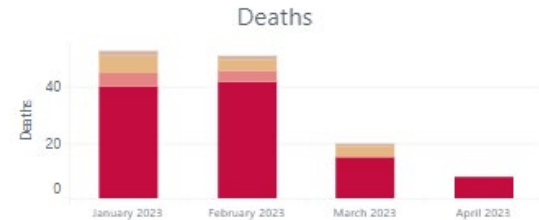
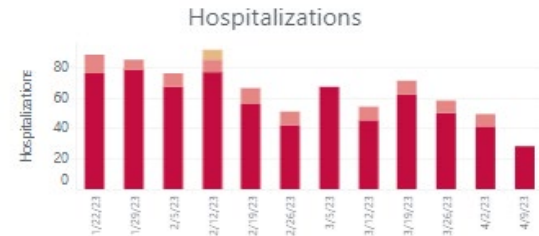
Infection Type

■ Probable Reinfection

■ Probable Infection

■ Confirmed Reinfection

■ Confirmed Infection



Time Period

Last 3 Months

Last Updated:

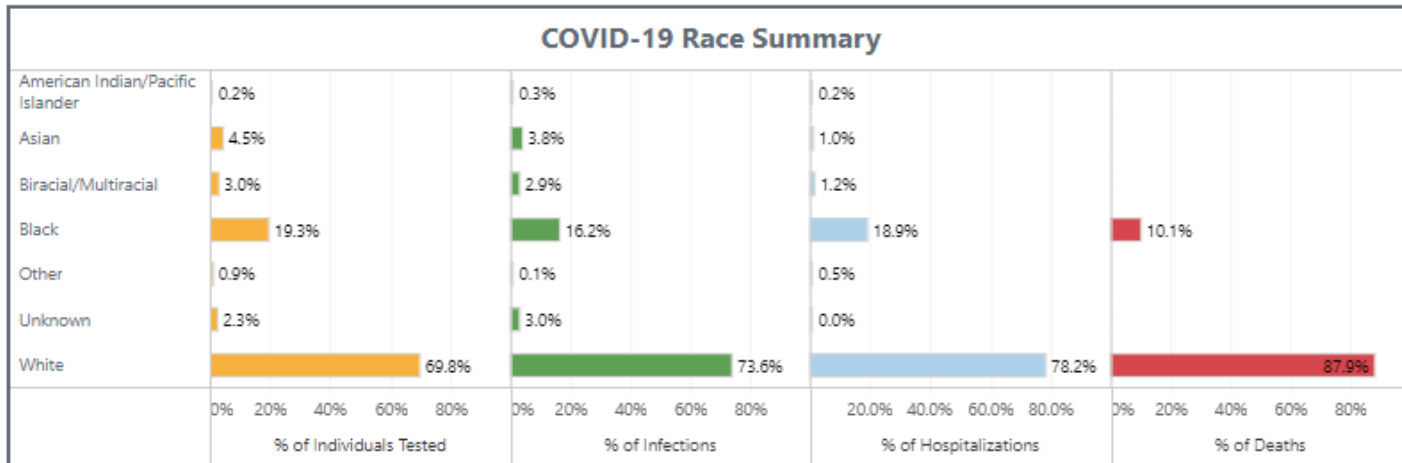
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<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Dashboards.aspx>



COVID-19- Hospitalizations and deaths

Allegheny County COVID-19 Data from Last 3 Months			
Individuals Tested	Infections	Hospitalizations	Deaths
44,427	8,210	806	99



LAST DATA REFRESH: 4/24/2023 10:07:24 AM



COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- Simplified mRNA COVID-19 vaccination schedule
 - Aligns more closely with influenza vaccination schedule
 - Monovalent no longer used (bivalent only)
- Children under 5 years old
 - 2-3 bivalent doses
- People 6 years and older
 - 1 bivalent dose
- People 65 years and older
 - 1 additional bivalent dose (4 months after first)
- Immunocompromised people
 - Update pending



COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

Race	Bivalent Booster	Bivalent Booster Rate (%)
Asian & Pacific Islander	10,224	20.7%
Black/African American	20,066	12.7%
Native American	343	25.2%
Unknown	17,669	
White	205,096	21.0%

Age Group	Bivalent Booster	Bivalent Booster Rate (%)
0-4	2,224	3.4%
5-9	5,564	8.8%
10-19	13,474	9.6%
20-29	17,960	10.7%
30-39	27,864	15.7%
40-49	25,332	17.8%
50-59	36,024	22.0%
60-69	61,804	36.5%
70+	64,090	40.7%

Last updated April 26, 2023

[COVID-19 Dashboards \(alleghenycounty.us\)](https://alleghenycounty.us/covid-19-dashboards)

	At Least One Dose	Completed Primary Series	Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose
People with an Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose#			
			Count
			Percent of US Population
Total			55,499,012
			16.7%
Population ≥ 5 Years of Age			55,391,526
			17.7%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age			54,056,475
			19.1%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age			52,117,186
			20.2%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age			23,221,265
			42.4%

CDC | Data as of: April 19, 2023 6:00am ET. Posted: April 20, 2023

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-people-booster-percent-total



Ending the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

- Public Health Emergency ending on May 11, 2023
 - Vaccines, testing and treatment coverage
 - *Transition to traditional health care coverage*
 - Details of CDC national vaccine program are pending (free for now)
 - May limit the ability for the CDC to provide no-cost testing
 - May reduce the number of sites offering testing
 - Data reporting
 - *Potential for reduced data and frequency of reporting*
 - Negative laboratory tests
 - Vaccine administration
 - Hospitalizations
 - *Could change strategies used for prevention and mitigation*



PA DOH: Candida auris

- Candida auris (*C. auris*) infections
 - Yeast that can cause severe invasive illness and outbreaks in health care facilities
 - Resistant to multiple antifungal drugs
- Summary of event
 - *C. auris* first appeared in PA in 2020 and cases continue to increase
 - *C. auris* first detected in Allegheny County in 2022
- What to do?
 - Learn about *C. auris* infection and steps to prevent infection¹
- ACHD
 - Investigation of all cases
 - Health care provider guidance, education and recommendations



PA DOH: Lyme Disease and Tickborne Diseases

- Lyme disease
 - Most commonly reported tickborne disease in PA and U.S.
 - Caused by bacterium through bite of infected tick
 - Infection can spread to joints, heart and nervous system
- Summary of event
 - Tick bite-related emergency department visits have increased recently in PA
 - 2,380 Lyme disease and 20 anaplasmosis cases in Allegheny County in 2021
- What to do?
 - Prevent tick bites and remove ticks correctly
 - Learn about Lyme disease symptoms¹
- ACHD
 - Surveillance of cases



PA DOH: Hepatitis A

- Hepatitis A
 - Vaccine-preventable, short-term liver infection
 - Spread through close contact with infected person or eating contaminated food/drink
- Summary of event
 - Since 2017 multiple states (including PA) have experienced large hepatitis A outbreaks
 - 5 Hepatitis A cases in Allegheny County in 2020, 1 in 2021, 1 in 2022
- What to do?
 - Stay up to date with Hepatitis A vaccines
 - Children and people with risk factors (ex. experiencing homelessness, use drugs, men who have sex with men)
 - Learn about Hepatitis A symptoms¹
- ACHD
 - Investigation of all cases
 - Vaccination of close contacts and at Immunization Clinic





WIC Program Update

Dannai Wilson
Deputy Director, Bureau of Family and Child Health
May 3, 2023



WIC Program Highlights

- **Infrastructure Funds (\$810K)**
 - Administrative and downtown offices moved - 2020, WIC waiting room upgrades - partnership with the Children's Museum
- **UPMC WIC Satellites** - Two UPMC locations will offer WIC services, summer 2023.
 - Magee and Primary Care Center Pediatrics
- **WIC Mobile Clinic** - Public Health Improvement Fund Grant (\$294K) - Increase WIC accessibility in communities with low utilization rates and number of families participating
 - Tarentum, Duquesne, Homestead, North Side, Millvale, South Hills, Mt. Oliver
- **Giant Eagle Mobile Unit** - WIC approved

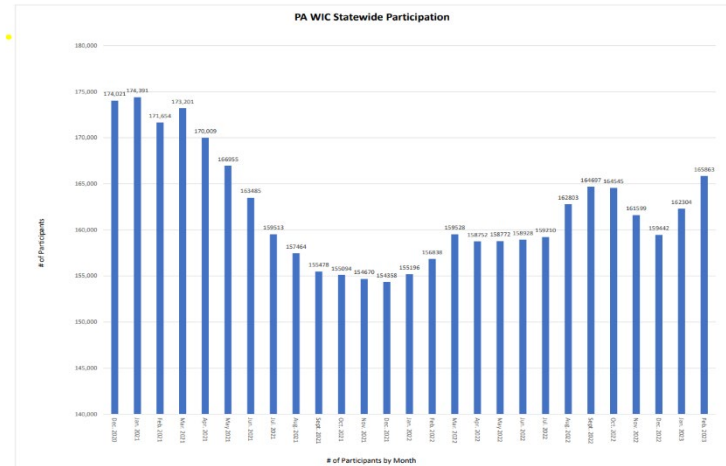
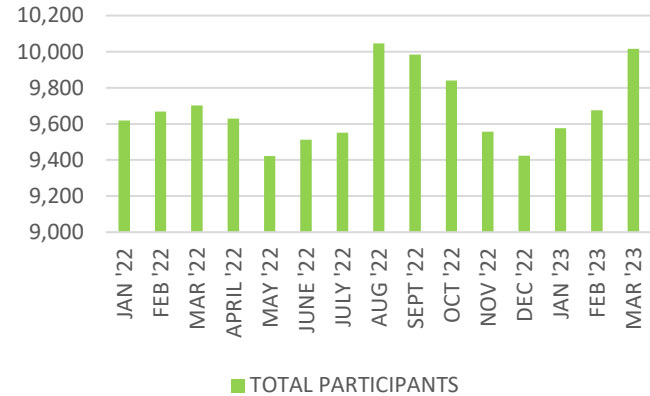




WIC Progress Report

- **Enrolled:** 11,312
- **Participation:** 10,016/State Caseload Assignment - 10, 963
 - 91% of participants received their benefits
- **Appointments:**
 - 2022 - 63,950
 - 2021 - 60,104
 - 2020 - 59,084

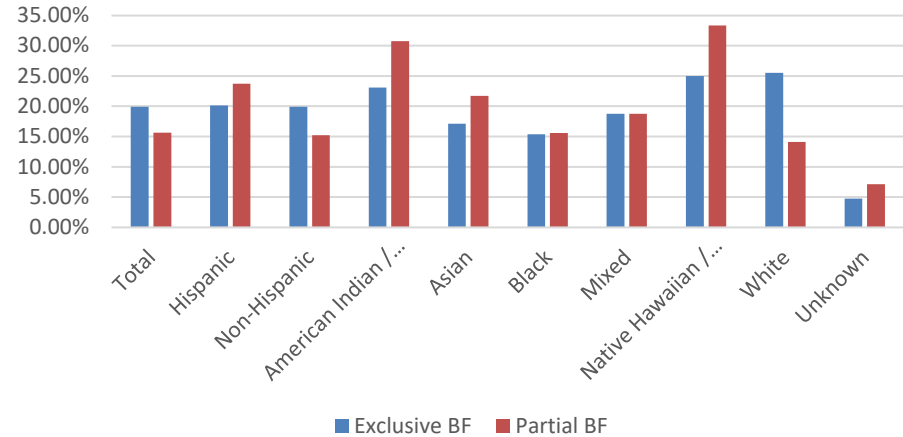
Participation with Benefits



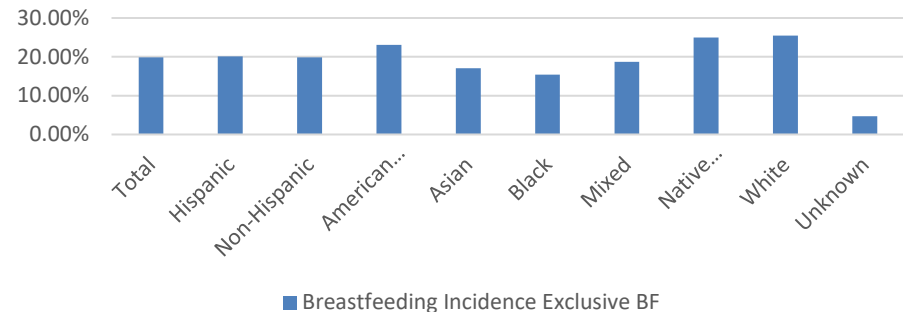
Breastfeeding

- **Breastfeeding Incidence - 65%**
 - Black participants were less likely to breastfeed exclusively, or partially, than other racial/ethnic populations
 - The rates for Black participants are low despite accounting for 43% of WIC population in Allegheny County

Exclusive and Partial Breastfeeding



Exclusive Breastfeeding Rates





Emerging Practice

- Remote card access
- Electronic filing
- Better shopper experiences
- State Spotlight - WIC modernization



children's
museum
pittsburgh



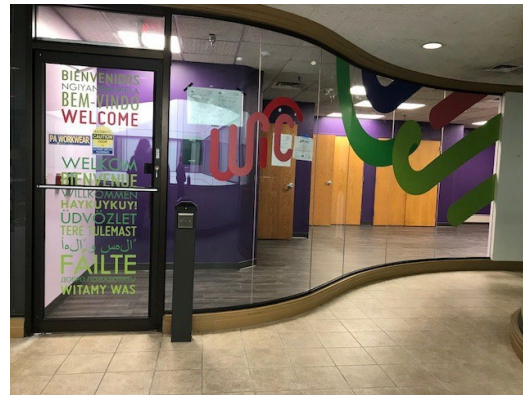
Wilkesburg- Hosanna House/Entrance



McKeesport- Waiting Room



Greentree-Waiting Area



Downtown- Entrance



Turtle Creek-Office





Proposed Article VI Update and Public Comment Period

**Otis Pitts, Deputy Director - Bureau of Food Safety,
Housing & Policy**

**Tim Murphy, Program Manager- Housing and
Community Environment Program**





Introduction

- Article VI gives authority to inspect and enforce minimum property standards and public health requirements for dwellings and premises
- Proposing first revision to Article VI since 1997
- Update is necessary to:
 - Align county housing standards with other jurisdictions
 - Promote better understanding and readability for landlords and tenants
 - Improve safety standards to reduce and prevent injuries
 - Clarify roles tenants and landlords have in keeping dwellings safe and healthy



Vote for Public Comment Period

- Proposing 60-day public comment period
- Met with stakeholders on proposed updates and to encourage involvement in a public comment period
- If approved, staff will conduct a public hearing, compile public comments and responses into a document
- After considering public comments, ACHD will present a final Article VI draft to BOH during a future meeting for a “repeal/replace” vote



Categories of Proposed Changes

- **Administrative Updates:** procedural updates, structural changes, explaining penalty notices and updates to permitting/plan review
- **Modernizing Requirements:** aligning with international codes and industry standards
- **Improving Readability:** increasing understanding around areas such as violation levels and habitability standard
- **Improving Safety Standards:** raising safety standards as prioritized in the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027
- **Clarifying Tenant and Landlord Responsibility:** adding language specifying the role each play in maintaining safe, healthy dwelling places.



Administrative Updates

- Related sections grouped under subchapters to assist in understanding. Penalty information was moved to the beginning, variance requests were moved to "General Requirements"
- More than 20 definitions added or updated to clarify requirements. Example: updating owner definition
- Section 607: Penalty Notice - clarify that items listed are only required when a penalty is deemed appropriate
- Section 612: Requirements for Rooming House Permits
 - If a rooming house also requires a permit from our Food Safety Program, they will need separate permits and will pay separate plan review fees
 - In line with Article III update



Modernizing Requirements: Aligning with Industry Standards

- Multiple sections adjusted to be in line with international codes and industry standards
 - Example: Section 646: Sloped ceilings - one-third of the room ceiling height required to be 7 feet down from half the room
 - Aligns standards with IPMC
- Other areas of modernization include: distance to connection to public water supply, ventilation requirements, openable window requirements, required ratios of plumbing fixtures in rooming houses, and minimum square footage requirements



Improving Readability

- Class violation levels are clearly defined
 - Currently program is restricted to classifying certain issues regardless of the circumstance, as defined in Section 615
- Clarifying the habitability standard: Revised the definition of dwelling or dwelling unit unfit for human habitation
 - Rather than adding up numbers of class violations, the standard is whether there exists a hazard to occupants or the public
- Section 651: Lead hazards: Clarifying minimum requirements for addressing lead issues, based on hazard category
 - All definitions in line with HUD and the Code of Federal Regulations



Improving Safety Standards: Plan for a Healthier Allegheny

- Section 624: Openings
 - Deadbolts required on all entry doors, in line with IPMC
 - Fall prevention devices on all windows under 24 inches from the floor, in line with IRC
 - Openable windows must be secured to prevent sudden drops, in line with IPMC
- Section 626: Grading and drainage
 - Properties must be properly graded and drained to prevent erosion, landslides, and pooling water resulting in pests, in line with IPMC

Improving Safety Standards: Electrical Outlet Safety and Sufficient Refuse Containers

- Section 630: Electric fixtures and outlets
 - Ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets required in all bathrooms
 - All accessible outlets must be GFCI protected within 6 feet of sink and on the exterior
 - In line with HUD and National Electrical Code
- Section 655: Facilities required
 - Owners must provide containers with sufficient capacity to store occupant's trash between scheduled collection times, in line with IPMC





Improving Safety Standards: Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Section 643: Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
 - Requiring CO detectors in line with the City of Pittsburgh, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and International Fire Code
 - Required in all dwellings with fuel burning appliances, ongoing renovations, fireplaces or attached garages
 - Must have detector on every floor (basements and cellars included)
 - Must be located in the vicinity of all sleeping areas
- According to the PA Department of Health there were 11 unintentional, non-fire related, CO deaths between 2016-2020 in Allegheny County
 - 110 throughout the commonwealth, during that same period



5) Tenant and Landlord Responsibility

- Section 638: Tenants, as well as landlords, share a responsibility to maintain a healthy, safe environment for themselves and neighbors
 - In policy and practice, HCE focuses on education and communication
 - Penalties are treated as a last resort
 - Changes will require tenants to:
 - Notify landlord of issues
 - Work with landlord to manage pests
 - Not create fire hazards
 - Store potentially dangerous materials safely
- Section 654: If tenant's actions in a multi-unit do not contribute to an infestation, owner is solely responsible. Owner remains responsible for all common areas and the exterior



Anticipated Timeline

- May-July 2023: Public comment period
- July 2023: Hold public hearing
- July-August 2023: Review public comments and develop public comment response document
- August 2023: Incorporate public comments, as appropriate
- Fall 2023: Present final draft to BOH for approval
- Fall/Winter 2023: Send proposal to county council
- July 1, 2024: Effective date for new Article VI





Request Permission To Go To Public Comment



Public Comments

- Commenters will be allowed 3 minutes each to address the Board