



HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

# ERIE COUNTY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT

QUARTER 2 (APRIL - JUNE 2023)

**PREPARED BY:**

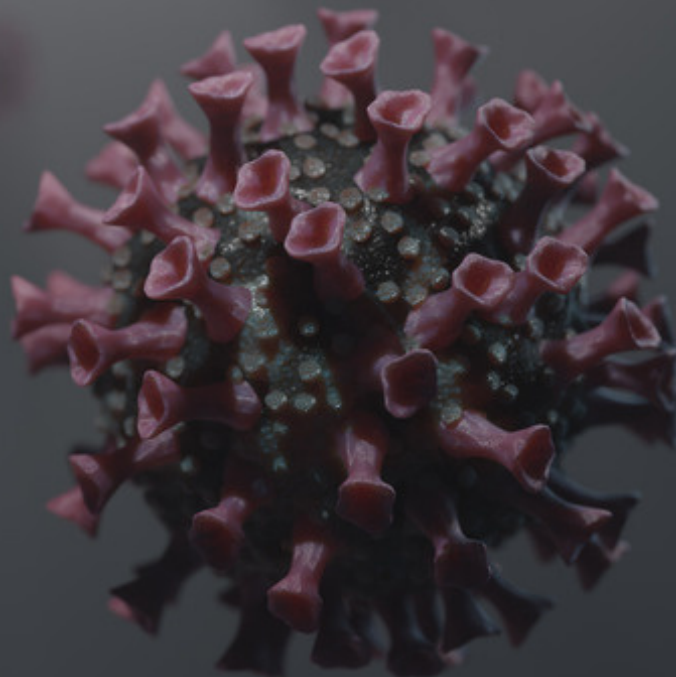
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# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE STATISTICS\*

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>TOTAL REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTBREAKS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOP 5 REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PER MONTH</b>	1. COVID-19 (88) 2. CHLAMYDIA (19) 3. GONORRHEA (8) 4. HEPATITIS B (2) 5. HEPATITIS C (2)	1. COVID-19 (94) 2. CHLAMYDIA (20) 3. GONORRHEA (8) 4. HEPATITIS C (2) 5. HEPATITIS B (2)	1. COVID-19 () 2. CHLAMYDIA () 3. GONORRHEA () 4. SHIGA-TOXIN PRODUCING E. COLI () 5. HEPATITIS C ()

\*Numbers are preliminary and subject to change



# WHAT'S NEW IN PUBLIC HEALTH?

## Potential Risk for New Mpox Cases This Summer

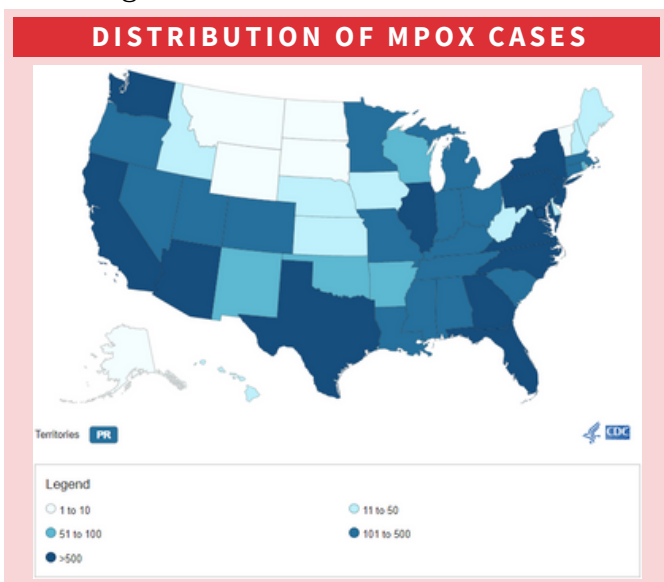
In May 2022, a global outbreak of Mpox was declared. This outbreak peaked in August 2022 and is currently ongoing. Previous outbreaks of Mpox were related to international travel; however, this current outbreak has spread rapidly through person-to-person contact mainly affecting men who have sex with men, and transgender people. As of June 21, 2023, there have been a total of 30,505 cases and 43 deaths reported in the U.S. Most infected persons have mild disease; however, people with undiagnosed or untreated HIV infection often have more severe outcomes. CDC is recommending clinicians to be alert for new cases and recommend vaccination for people in high-risk populations.

### High-risk populations:

- People with a known or suspected exposure to someone with Mpox
- People who have had a sex partner in the past 2 weeks who was diagnosed with Mpox
- Gay, bisexual, and other MSM, and transgender or nonbinary people who, in the past 6 months, have had more than 1 sex partner or a new diagnosis of one or more STI infections
- People who have experienced any of the following scenarios in the past 6 months:
  - Sex at a commercial sex venue
  - Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where Mpox transmission is occurring
  - Sex in exchange for money or other items
- People who anticipate experiencing any of the above scenarios
- People with HIV infection or other causes of immunosuppression who have had recent or anticipate potential Mpox exposure
- People who work in settings where they may be exposed to Mpox

### Mpox Transmission

Mpox is a contagious viral disease that often causes a rash on the hands, feet, chest, face, mouth, or near the genitals. You can get infected with Mpox by touching the rash or scabs of an infected person, touching the rash fluid, touching saliva, upper respiratory secretions, or during sexual contact if a person has a rash in their genital area.



## RSV Vaccine Approval

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) causes a respiratory infection that was discovered in 1956 and is one of the most common causes of childhood illness. It causes annual outbreaks affecting all ages; however, infants and children under the age of 2 and adults older than the age of 65 are at greatest risk for severe illness. RSV is spread through respiratory droplets and touching surfaces contaminated with respiratory droplets.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved two vaccines for RSV in May 2023. On May 2023, FDA approved the GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA vaccine (Arexvy), and approved the Pfizer vaccine (Abrysvo) on May 31st. Both vaccines can be used for people 60 years of age or older.

## Fungal Meningitis Outbreak in Matamoros, Mexico Clinics

On May 17, 2023 CDC confirmed an outbreak of fungal meningitis linked to patients who underwent procedures with epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico at two clinics: River Side Surgical Center and Clinical K-3. Both of these clinics closed on May 13, 2023. CDC and local health departments are working to identify all individuals who had procedures with epidural anesthesia at either of these clinics between January 1 to May 13, 2023 as all of these individuals could have been exposed and are at risk for fungal meningitis. The *Fusarium solani* species complex has been isolated from the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of confirmed cases.

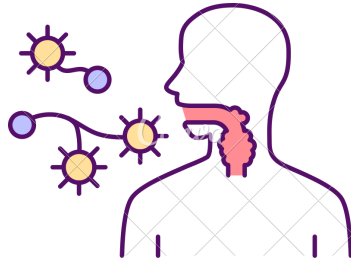
As of June 23rd, there have been a total of 9 confirmed cases, of which 5 have died. There have been 10 probable cases, of which 1 has died. There have been 16 suspected cases and 169 people currently under investigation. So far, there have been no deaths in the suspected cases and people currently under investigation. This outbreak is still ongoing.

### General Fungal Meningitis Information

Fungal Meningitis is a severe illness affecting the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord in humans. Multiple fungal species naturally living in soil and decaying wood and leaves can cause the infection and are transmitted to people through inhalation of the fungal spores. Fungal meningitis does not spread person-to-person. People of all ages can become infected; but, populations at higher risk include people with weakened immune systems, premature infants with low birth weight, and living in certain areas of the U.S. where fungal species are more common in the environment.

Symptoms of fungal meningitis include the following:

- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Confusion
- Eyes are more sensitive to light



### Matamoros, Mexico location



## Erie County Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS)

The Erie County Health Department's Office of Epidemiology & Surveillance is responsible for ensuring Erie County's preparedness for a public health emergency, strengthening our ability to respond as a community to all types of public health incidents, and monitoring the overall health of Erie County.

History has shown that quickly alerting the medical community of impending disasters, both physical and biological, can reduce loss of life and improve communication among key responders.

ECHD provides the following types of alerts to our medical community:

- Urgent public health incidents
- Periodic disease alerts
  - Quarterly Communicable Disease Updates
  - Increased Influenza Activity alerts
  - Large foodborne illness outbreak alerts
- Weekly Influenza Reports (during flu season)

Contact Taylor Kula (tkula@echdohio.org) for more information!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Erie County Health Department (419) 626-5623 x5103  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
Ohio Department of Health [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

# Preparedness Summit

The Preparedness Summit is a national conference focused on public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) and was presented by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This year's theme of **Recover. Renew. Reprioritizing All-Hazards Preparedness** occurred from April 24 - 27, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The past few years the focus of public health was on the COVID-19 pandemic, however other all-hazards threats continued. Now that COVID-19 is beginning to enter the endemic phase, it is a perfect opportunity to reprioritize an all-hazards approach to preparedness to strengthen our community to respond to current and future threats.

Erie County Health Department had 20 staff across multiple divisions attend the Preparedness Summit virtually. Staff attended 48 virtual sessions over the course of the conference out of the 79 total live-streamed and on-demand sessions.

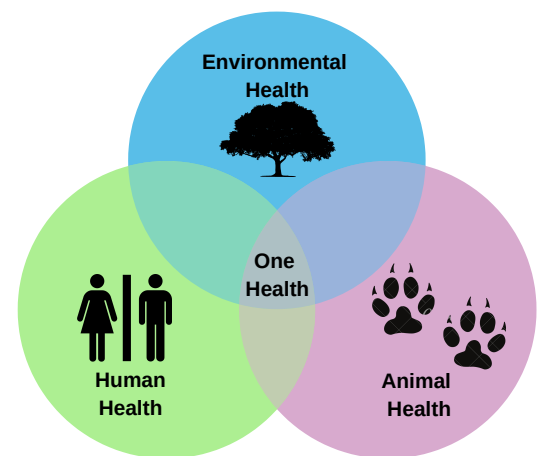
## Key topics learned

### Lessons Learned by Attendees

- Importance of After Action Reports
- Need for clearly defining roles and responsibilities of all agencies during emergencies
- Incorporation of One Health Approach in all PHEP exercises
- Different types of cyber threats to public health facilities
- Data-informed decision making
- Vulnerable populations
- More risk mitigation done before an incident means there will be less emergency response required during disaster and reduce amount of suffering during emergency
- Stress relief techniques
- Collaboration at all levels of government and with other non-governmental organizations is critical in disasters

### Top 5 most attended session topics

1. One Health
2. Disaster Epidemiology
3. Climate Hazards
4. Public Health and the Private Sector
5. PHEP Key Strategies



2024 Preparedness Summit

March 25 - 28, 2024  
Cleveland, Ohio

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