

Putnam County Health Department

Working Towards a Healthy and Safe Putnam County

October, 2025



Re-Accreditation

The Putnam County Health Department has been reaccredited! On September 4, the Health Department was notified by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) of their success in achieving reaccreditation through August 2030. Achieving reaccreditation shows that the PCHD strives for excellence and reaffirms their dedication to quality improvement and community health.



Personal Health Services Division

Flu Season

It's time to start thinking about getting your seasonal flu vaccine. The Health Department will be offering the trivalent flu vaccine in two forms: the traditional flu shot and the FluMist nasal spray. The flu shot is available in a high-dose version for adults aged 65 and older, and in a standard-dose version for individuals between 6 months and 64 years of age. FluMist is a live, weakened vaccine administered as a nasal spray and is approved for healthy individuals between the ages of 2 and 49, excluding pregnant women.

In addition to flu vaccines, the Health Department will also be offering the updated COVID-19 vaccine from Moderna, called mNexspike. This newly formulated vaccine is designed to protect against the most recent strains of the virus and will be offered to individuals who qualify based on CDC guidance. The Health Department bills most major insurance companies, so you typically have no out-of-pocket cost.

The following flu clinics are on a walk-in basis, open to the public for all ages:

October 8th: 9:00 - 11:30 AM and 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Health Department

October 9th: 4:00 - 6:00 PM at The Leipsic Community Center

October 15th: 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the Council on Aging as a Drive Thru. All ages welcome.

October 18th: 6:00 - 10:00 AM at Ottawa Glandorf High School during the Kiwanis Health Fair

Vaccines will continue to be available throughout the entire influenza season. If you would like to schedule an appointment or have additional questions, please call the Putnam County Health Department at 419-523-5608.

Health Promotion Division

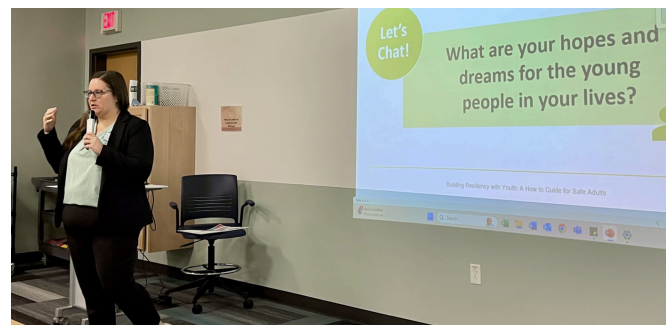
Tobacco Use And Prevention Grant Awarded

In July 2025, the Putnam County Health Department was awarded the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grant from the Ohio Department of Health. This allows the Putnam Youth Tobacco Awareness (PYTA) coalition, which the Health Department is the lead, to continue the work towards preventing new tobacco and nicotine users and providing resources for current youth and adult users to quit tobacco and electronic cigarettes. The PYTA coalition is also focused on making policy changes that will have sustainable impacts on the health of our community members.



Focused On Youth Mental Wellness

As part of the Northwest Ohio Resilient Youth Project, we presented the “Building Resiliency with Youth: A How-To Guide for Safe Adults” to educators at their annual Professional Development Day. We partnered with the Task Force For Youth to provide a Mental Health Wellness Activity Challenge for 7th to 12th grade students during Mental Health Awareness Month in May.



Sarah Nsiah presenting at the Mental Health Summit

With efforts of our Adolescent Health Resiliency Advisory Committee, we also held the Putnam County Mental Health Summit at The Leipsic Community Center on October 2nd, 2025. The 25 community partners who attended the summit were informed on youth mental health, grief, and trauma-informed care.

Environmental Health Division



Why Keeping Bats Out of Your Home Is Crucial for Rabies Prevention

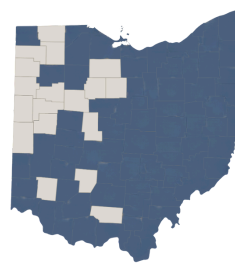
When bats enter your home, they pose a serious health risk—especially when it comes to rabies. While not all bats carry the virus, they are the leading source of human rabies exposure in North America. The danger lies in their small teeth, which can bite without leaving obvious marks, making encounters easy to overlook. Rabies is a deadly virus that affects the central nervous system. Once symptoms appear, it is almost always fatal.

Rabies is preventable. Avoid contact with bats to reduce your risk. **If a bat is found indoors and in a room with a sleeping person—assume exposure, safely catch the bat and contact the health department.** If you have any questions regarding exposure to humans or pets, please contact the health department. To keep bats out, seal cracks and gaps in your home’s exterior, install screens on windows and vents, and avoid leaving doors open at night. If bats are roosting in your attic or walls, professional removal is essential. Respect bats for their ecological role, but keep them outside where they belong. Your health—and peace of mind—depend on it.

Lyme Disease On The Rise in Ohio

5x

In 2024, we had 1 case of Lyme Disease. Already in 2025, 5 people tested positive for Lyme Disease.



The dark blue shows Ohio counties with cases of Lyme Disease in 2025.

Resource: Chart was modified from the ODH.

Help prevent tick bites by:

PROTECT: Avoid wooded, brushy areas, and tall grass. Walk in the center of trails. Use EPA registered repellent with up to 30% DEET. Wear light-colored, long pants, sleeves and socks.

CHECK your whole body especially under the arms, in/around ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between legs, around the waist, and in/around the hair.

REMOVE ticks as soon as possible.

WATCH for common symptoms related to Lyme Disease: fever/chills, muscle/joint aches, headache, fatigue, and/or “Bull’s Eye” rash. See your healthcare provider if you suspect a tick bite or experience symptoms.

New Brochures

We have new brochures in English and Spanish. Contact us at 419-523-5608 if you need copies.

