



# MASSILLON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2025

## What we've been up to...

We had a highly productive planting day on May 17, 2025, at the Massillon Community Health Garden. Thanks to generous donations from Freshmark/Sugardale, Moyer's Nursery and Mozzacca's Greenhouse, we were well-prepared for a successful season. Students from the Construction Trades class at Massillon Washington High School rototilled the garden, to get the soil prepped for planting.



*"Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy"*  
~ John Denver



Community members, along with volunteers from Arrow Passage Recovery, the Massillon Lions Club, and Legacy Project Remix Kids, came together to help get everything in place. We're excited about the new additions to the garden this year, including strawberries, blueberries, and edamame! Our goal is to surpass last year's production amount to help feed our community.



## In This Issue

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- Upcoming events

Much appreciation to all our volunteers, partners & sponsors!



## Animal Bite Program



### Report the Bite

- The State of Ohio mandates that all animal bites are reported within 24 hours to the health commissioner where the bite occurred.
- The reason that bites are reported is to help public health officials assess the risk of rabies and take necessary preventative measures, including quarantining the animal.
- If you seek medical care, the facility will typically complete the bite report and submit it to the local health department for you. Otherwise, anyone can call the Environmental Health Division at (330)830-1795 to report a bite that occurred in the City of Massillon.

### Quarantine

- After the health department receives the bite report, a quarantine order is sent to the animal's owner.
- The quarantine is for a period of no less than 10 days, and the quarantine can occur in the pet owner's home. For the quarantine period, the animal should remain on the property and be kept separate from other animals.
- If the animal exhibits signs of rabies, it may be euthanized and its brain tested for rabies.
- During the quarantine period, the animal owner and/ or the victim may be contacted by the Massillon's Animal Control Officer.

### Veterinarian

- At the end of the quarantine period, the animal must go to its veterinarian for a health check. The veterinarian will verify that the animal appears to be in good health and is current on its rabies vaccination before it can be released from its quarantine. The owner should take the paperwork sent by the health department with them so the veterinarian can complete the Good Health Certificate, and then return the paperwork to the Massillon City Health Department to the attention of the Environmental Health Division.

## Nursing Division Supports Students and Community This Summer

The Nursing Division of the Health Department is spending the summer actively participating in community events and helping prepare local students for a healthy and successful school year.

We are offering **sports physicals for just \$10 by appointment on July 8th, 9th, 14th, and 16th**. In addition, our nurses will be administering required school vaccines for students entering **kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade**.

If you have any questions about your child's immunization record, feel free to contact us- we're happy to review it with you. You can reach the Nursing Division at **330-830-1714**.

You'll also find our nurses out in the community this summer at various outreach events, including:

- The **Massillon Community Health Garden**
- **Massillon City School Food Truck** distribution sites
- **Fun Fest Downtown**
- Several **Massillon City Summer Concerts**

We look forward to seeing you and supporting your family's health!



## Programs & Services

- Birth and Death certificates
- Nuisance complaints
- Food and pool inspections
- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
- Childhood and COVID Immunizations
- Cribs for Kids
- Car seat installation checks
- Project Dawn Naloxone Kits
- HIV testing
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test Strips
- Anytime CPR Kits
- Gun locks

## Closings

### Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

**Independence Day** July 4, 2025

**Labor Day**  
September 1, 2025



## Produce Picking

Summer in Ohio is a wonderful time to enjoy local fresh fruits and vegetables, but how do you know what is in season and how to pick the best produce. Always use your senses when picking fruits and vegetables. Look for signs of ripeness—brighter colors typically indicate readiness. A fragrant smell, especially for fruits, usually indicate that it is ripe and ready to eat. Touch – check for firmness. Avoid produce that feels too soft or mushy, except for fruits like peaches and plums, where slight softness indicates ripeness. Pick local when able to ensure peak freshness and a longer shelf life at home.

Use these quick tips to know what's in season and how to pick the best produce during Ohio's summer months (June through August):

### June:

**Strawberries:** Strawberries are best ripe in late May and early June. Look for deep red berries with no white tips. Berries should be fragrant.

**Cherries:** Cherries arrive late June and early July. Look for red plump cherries that are firm.

**Lettuce and Kale:** Lettuce grows best in cooler temperatures and is often ready in early June while the nights are still cool and days are warm. Look for bright green leaves with no wilting.

### July and August:

**Blueberries, Blackberries and Raspberries:** Blueberries will be ripe in early July with the other berries following shortly after. Look for brighter full colored berries that are fragrant.

**Green Beans:** Snappy bright green beans that are free from spots are ready to pick and eat

**Sweet Corn:** Ohio sweet corn is what we live for! To pick the best look for green husk with brown silks, kernels should look plump. Avoid ears that have a musky smell when peeled.

**Peppers:** So many different colors and varieties to choose from! Peppers are best mid to late July and all through August. Peppers should look plump with no withering. They should have glossy firm skin and be brightly colored.

**Tomatoes:** Tomatoes should be soft to the touch but not mushy. They should appear rich in color and should also be fragrant to smell.

**Summer squash and zucchini:** Most flavorful when less than 8 inches, firm to touch with a glossy appearance.

### August and September:

**Apples:** Fragrant to smell and colorful, they should have a firm smooth skin and a crisp touch.

**Fall squashes:** see above

**Lettuce:** See above





# Community OUTREACH



**Plastic bag recycling challenge:** The Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge has been a tremendous success! Our community has truly come together, utilizing the drop-off locations at the Massillon Recreation Center, Massillon Public Library, and the Massillon City Health Department. So far, we've collected an impressive 743 pounds of plastic bags and are quickly closing in on our 1,000-pound goal. Once we reach that milestone, we'll be awarded a bench that will be proudly placed at the Massillon Community Health Garden.

**Pop-Up Pantry:** Our partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's Pop-Up Pantry and Massillon City Schools has been truly remarkable. Each month, we're reaching more families and expanding our impact. This effort wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our volunteers from Ahead, Inc., SPARK, Lifecare Health and Family Dental, Freshmark/Sugardale, the Massillon Lions Club, Massillon City Schools students, Jackson Bear Hugs, and Arrow Passage Recovery. The pantry is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month 12:00-2:00pm.

**Summer Food Distribution:** Massillon City Health Department is excited to join Massillon City Schools for this year's Summer Food Distribution with the Obie Meal Mobile. Our focus this summer will be on promoting sun safety and raising awareness about fleas and ticks. We'll be bringing fun games and activities to many of the Meal Mobile stops, all leading up to the End-of-Summer Block Party on July 31, 2025.

*Any suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to:  
[mstanley@massillonohio.gov](mailto:mstanley@massillonohio.gov)*



**Vision:** A community where all residents have access to services to achieve a healthy life-style both mentally and physically.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

Front Desk/ Vital Stats  
(330) 830-1710

Health Commissioner  
(330) 830-1712

Environmental  
(330) 830-1795

Nursing  
(330) 830-1714

WIC  
(330) 830-1715

### Location

611 Erie St S  
Massillon, OH 44646

### Hours of operation

Monday– Friday  
8:30am-4:30pm

Visit us on the web at  
[massillonohio.gov/health](http://massillonohio.gov/health)