



Office of Minority Health

Newsletter - March 2020

The Metro Transit Minority Health Fair Event Has Been Postponed!

The Summit County Local Office of Minority Health has postponed the events that had been scheduled to celebrate Minority Health Month. We are hoping to reschedule the events as soon as Ohio Governor's social distancing order is lifted. For any questions please contact Aixa Bakuhn at 330-812-3859 or abakuhn@schd.org.



Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Please note that the May meeting has been cancelled.

Next scheduled meeting:
July 20, 2020 11:00 AM
Summit County Public Health - Auditorium
1867 W Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44313
* Feel free to share this invitation

COVID-19

Information for Summit County Residents

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Summit County?

A: Yes. There are currently 42 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Summit County as of 3/25. This number is updated daily by 3:00pm.

Q: What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

A: COVID-19, or coronavirus disease 2019, is a respiratory disease caused by one of the seven coronaviruses known to infect humans. It was first identified in humans in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The virus that causes COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: Symptoms, which generally appear two to 14 days after exposure, include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Most people who become sick do not require hospitalization, but **older adults, people with chronic health conditions (heart disease, diabetes, lung disease), and people with compromised immune systems are more likely to get very sick and require more advanced care.**

[Continue Reading](#)

Key Facts about COVID-19

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT
1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT
2

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT
3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



CS 515446-A 03/16/2020

FACT
4

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT
5

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

To Learn More

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER MONTH!

How can you prevent colorectal cancer?

Screening saves lives!

Screening (testing for colorectal cancer) is

the No. 1 way you can prevent colon cancer and rectal cancer. With screening, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Colon cancer and rectal cancer are also highly treatable if caught early. That's why on-time screening is essential and lifesaving! Screening should begin at age 45.

Below learn:

- When you should be screened
- Risk factors, including genetics and family history
- Screening methods
- Common symptoms

When it comes to screening, tomorrow can't wait!



[Learn More](#)

Colorectal Cancer Disparities in Summit County:

Men in Summit County experienced higher incidence and mortality rates for colorectal cancer than women (Figure 15). Black men had the highest incidence and mortality rates. The incidence rate for black men for CRC was 38% higher than white men and 50% higher than black women. White women experienced the lowest incidence and mortality rates for colorectal cancer.

Cancer in Summit County 2015 Report

MATH Program

Let's do the MATH.

Asthma is an illness that has become all too familiar to our ears. Unfortunately, that familiarity can also lead to a bit of desensitization. It's just one of "those things" that "some people" have to deal with. We forget that, in the worst case scenarios, people die from asthma.

Managing Asthma Triggers at Home (MATH) is a pilot project operating out of Summit County Public Health-Environmental Health (Healthy Neighborhoods and Air Quality) in partnership with Akron Children's Hospital (ACH). The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of a suite of interventions in a child's living space....can we reduce asthma triggers at home? Environmental triggers are big pieces of the asthma trigger puzzle. Following successes by other programs, SCPH and ACH agreed to partner to work with 100 children (and their families) who are part of the High Risk Asthma registry at ACH.



After the project was finalized, we began enrolling families in the 3rd quarter of 2018. Program design has the family involved with SCPH staff for one year period. The child's interactions with ACH related to asthma are tracked for a year before MATH involvement, during the year of the intervention, and a year after we discontinue direct involvement.

So, what exactly are we doing for these families? After an initial introduction to the program, Sue Cummings completes a Healthy Homes assessment of their home, focused largely on asthma triggers. If needed, a family can have pest-control services provided by the project.

Every home is offered a baseline home cleaning by a professional cleaning company. At this point, the family receives the equipment we are hoping will provide cleaner air for their child with asthma. That equipment includes: a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter system, an air purifier to be used in the child's bedroom, a dehumidifier if their home has a basement, HEPA furnace filters, bed and pillow covers to trap dust mite allergens, an extra spacer kit for their medication, and a CO detector if they don't have one. (The CO detector isn't about asthma... it's just about safety.) Dawn Meyers works with Sue to deliver equipment and then provide quarterly check-ins where an asthma control questionnaire is administered, new furnace and air purifier filters are provided, and general encouragement is offered to the families. Monthly text messages are sent to the families to maintain contact with the program and provide educational instruction.

There are many challenges with the project. Enrollment is a slow process because people are naturally skeptical of allowing strangers in their homes. Unreliable communication is also a challenge due to frequent cell phone disconnections and/or families moving. As of the writing of this article, we have enrolled 74 out of the 100 families. Five families have unenrolled for various reasons. Twenty-eight families have completed the 9-12 month involvement. And early results look promising...the interventions are making a positive impact. We look forward to continuing our work with the remaining families and hope that positive results will lead to a longer term program that will work with even more families!

Race, Ethnicity, & Kidney Disease



African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians are at high risk for developing kidney failure. This risk is due in part to high rates of diabetes and high blood pressure in these communities.

Below is more information about kidney failure for each of these groups.

African Americans

African Americans are almost four times as likely as Whites to develop kidney failure. While African Americans make up about 13 percent of the population, they account for 35 percent of the people with kidney failure in the United States. Diabetes and high blood pressure are the leading causes of kidney failure among African Americans. Learn more about the impact of **kidney disease** on African Americans and steps to keep the kidneys healthy.

Hispanics

A growing number of Hispanics are diagnosed with kidney disease each year. Since 2000, the number of Hispanics with kidney failure has increased by more than 70 percent. Compared to non-Hispanics, Hispanics are almost 1.3 times more likely to be diagnosed with kidney failure.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

American Indians also are disproportionately affected by kidney failure. Compared to Whites, American Indians are about 1.2 times more likely to be diagnosed with kidney failure. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure among American Indians. However, better diabetes care is reducing the risk for kidney failure in American Indians with diabetes.

[Learn More](#)

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