

# COVID-19 Monthly Report



**Agency Name: Galion City Health Department**

**Program Reporting Period: October 2021**

**Date Submitted: November 2, 2021**

## Domain 1 - Incident Management for Early Crisis Response

### **Activity Title: Emergency Operations Center and Coordination**

**Monthly Update:** The Galion City Emergency Operations Center is functioning virtually, as needed- no meetings occurred during October. IAP's are not being produced frequently but any existing are shared in a virtual file. The Galion EOC has shifted to situation reports and meeting only as needed. Mass vaccination clinics were offered again in October along with flu clinics. GCHD staff continues to do more out in the community. No additional meetings of the COVID Defense Team have occurred.

### **Activity Title: Responder Safety and Health**

**Monthly Update:** The Logistics Section Chief and/or the Incident Commander for the Galion EOC has worked with various response agencies to request and fill request orders by working with the Crawford County Emergency Management Agency. Responding agencies have been monitoring their burn rate of PPE. PPE levels are being monitored within the Galion IAP or through their own methods. There were no requests for PPE were submitted in October 2021.

### **Activity Title: Identification of Vulnerable Populations**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD continues to work closely with partner agencies to identify and ensure vulnerable populations are served. This includes those with access and functional needs, the elderly, and persons who are incarcerated. Efforts include, but are not limited to organizing testing/contact tracing for schools, LTC facilities, messaging through various methods for vulnerable populations, etc. GCHD worked with the Crawford County Parole Board to identify individuals being released from prisons; these parolees were identified and monitored for 14 days after their release. Work with the school district has been a priority, including plans for a safe school attendance, athletics, preparation for staff and student COVID cases and subsequent contact tracing, etc. Galion City Schools and the parochial school have a working plan for the current school year. Adjustments to the quarantine guidance for schools is in place and continually being updated based on the state guidance. We have also teamed up with Galion emergency response departments to give cards to home bound individuals so we can reach them with COVID vaccinations.

## Domain 2 – Jurisdictional Recovery

### **Activity Title: Jurisdictional Recovery**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD continues to work with and will continue to work with partner agencies, first responders, the central and northwest region, and emergency management for mitigation and to continue the recovery stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our areas of recovery include preparing for and holding mass vaccination clinics for 5-11 year olds and booster doses, financial recovery/accountability, mental health of responders, physical facility recovery/adaptation, ReStart Ohio, etc. Although vaccination rates are dropping, we will continue to do outreach and

provide vaccines to increase the number of vaccinated people. In October, because of the increase in cases across the nation, our vaccination rates are on the rise in our community.

### Domain 3 – Information Management

#### **Activity Title: Information Sharing**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD (staff and 2 BOH members) were members of the county virtual Joint Information Center (JIC) to ensure that message consistency is achieved; the Virtual JIC only meets as needed- Crawford County Public Health is the lead agency for the JIC. Information sharing is also achieved through the EOC, of which GCHD is the lead agency; most information is pushed out through the GCHD. GCHD is currently working with schools. Work continues to be done with local businesses to address safety concerns, masking, and social distancing considerations; Our Chamber of Commerce is willing to share information as needed. Sharing of ODH public information campaign pieces has been occurring. Sharing of data through social & print media continues as needed. Information regarding flu shots and the flu versus COVID symptoms has been pushed out. GCHD worked with its Chamber of Commerce to develop public information messaging. GCHD's COVID webpage continues to direct the public to COVID resources. The webpage has become a valuable resource for us for vaccine information. The JIC has not regrouped. We continue to provide Galion Covid-19 statistics to the public while continuing to encourage uptake of the vaccine. We are also educating the community on the importance of masking and social distancing indoors.

#### **Activity Title: Emergency Public Information and Warning**

**Monthly Update:** Emergency information has been dispersed to the public through partner agencies, local media, social media, etc. Information is sourced from the CDC, ODH, and local subject matter experts. The use of social media, print media, and through various partner/stakeholder communication streams has occurred. Information regarding COVID vaccines has been pushed out and we are following ODH closely in regards to booster doses of the vaccine. GCHD's COVID webpage continues to direct the public to COVID resources. The CDC information that was pushed to all public health departments in late July concerning the Delta variant Covid-19 case increase, communicability, and precautions has been shared via social media to the Galion residents with our message being to encourage vaccination. The news media messages from the Ohio Department of Health about the safety of the vaccines and the importance of increasing mitigation measures has also been shared with our community through social media. We have created billboards for combination flu and COVID vaccination clinics that included information on new vaccine incentives. We also are planning advertising regarding COVID in the local Town Money Saver that reaches 11,000 people.

### Domain 4 - Countermeasures and Mitigation

#### **Activity Title: Nonpharmaceutical Interventions**

**Monthly Update:** Health department offices are open to the public with curbside services still being offered to ensure that essential functions are still met in the safest way for all customers. GCHD will continue to offer updates from the ODH and state office on recommendations. We maintain the capability to work remotely although currently not needed. Physical/social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings, along with isolation and quarantine measures, has continued to be encouraged throughout the community. The shift to a risk-based system continues. BINAX Now at home test kits are available for distribution through the Galion City Schools, the Galion

Public Library, and through the GCHD. The demand for at-home test kits began seeing a decline in late October. ODH has been able to supply us with the amount requested.

**Activity Title: Quarantine & Isolation Support**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD worked with the law director who agrees with the county prosecutor's interpretation on how to address isolation and quarantine concerns and legal matters. Legal webinars and conference calls have previously been attended by the Health Commissioner as well as the Law Director to ensure legal aspects of I & Q are covered. GCHD created a webpage with resources and has created some videos to assist with contact tracing. GCHD has transitioned its contact tracing to PCG at the state. Our department is doing our best to keep up with the multiple outbreak investigations that have occurred over the past month.

**Activity Title: Distribution and Use of Medical Material**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD EOC has not received additional donations. GCHD continues to be a site available to accept donations from the community and local partners for distribution through the CCEMA. Any donations are reported to Crawford County EMA, material is dispersed by CCEMA as indicated by priority lists.

Domain 5 - Surge Management

**Activity Title: Public Health Coordination with Healthcare System**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD worked closely with Avita Health System to help address surge concerns and expanding bed capacity. Levels are still monitored. The hospital has opened its surge plans and has adapted to the expanding and contracting surge needs. No change. Hospital bed space and COVID admissions are monitored through Central Ohio Trauma System.

**Activity Title: Infection Control**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD continues to perform 24/7 reporting requirements and epidemiological work as needed to address positive cases, probable, and suspected cases of COVID-19. Numerous cases were tracked and outbreaks linked from schools and area businesses and other congregate settings. Within Galion, we have identified multiple outbreak categories - associations with either congregate care (nursing homes or residential facilities) or schools as well as multiple area businesses. As of 10/29/21, of our **1,660** total cases, **291 (17.53%)** are associated with a congregate care settings, **32 (1.93%)** are associated with correctional institutions, and **1,337 (80.54%)** acquired COVID-19 from other locations through community spread. GCHD has transitioned its contact tracing to PCG at the state.

Domain 6 – Biosurveillance

**Activity Title: Public Health Surveillance and Real-Time Reporting**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD continues to perform 24/7 reporting requirements and epidemiological work as needed to address positive cases, probable, and suspected cases of COVID-19. GCHD worked with the Avita Health System to get them set up in ODRS for direct reporting ability when possible. We have transitioned contact tracing to the state contractor PCG. We continue to investigate outbreaks.

**Activity Title: Public Health Laboratory Testing, Equipment, Supplies, and Shipping**

**Monthly Update:** GCHD receives calls into the health departments regarding persons in the community that need to be tested. Community calls are referred to local physician's offices, the Avita COVID-19 call center, and the ODH coronavirus.ohio.gov website testing site location page for information gathering and referring to testing sites for follow up. GCHD continues to educate on the difference between PCR, Antigen and Antibody testing. Rite Aid offers drive through testing in Galion. BINAX Now at home test kits continue to be distributed through the Galion City Schools, the Galion Public Library, and through the GCHD.

**Activity Title: Data Management**

**Monthly Update:** All testing data is entered by the laboratory into the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) as required by the state. Data related to cases is logged and monitored for epidemiological links. We have transitioned contact tracing to the state contractor PCG and any outbreaks are investigated by GCHD. All staffing hours are logged utilizing HDIS. All vaccine data is collected on paper and/or electronically, then compiled electronically and uploaded into ImpactSIIS.