Multiple people in one car may get their flu vaccine, but paperwork will be needed for each individual.

There will be stations to distribute forms and gather information at the drive thru.

Richland Public Health Nurses will be available on both sides of each vehicle to give the proper vaccine dosage to each person after gathering documentation.

Richland Public Health recommends everyone age 6 months and older get an influenza (“flu”) vaccine. This recommendation follows CDC guidelines.

Flu vaccines are FREE (no co-pay) when using participating insurances accepted by Richland Public Health. Please bring your insurance card and a photo ID. Richland Public Health cost for flu vaccine varies depending on age and type of vaccine used.

Richland Public Health flu vaccines will also be available by appointment after the October 13 drive thru clinic. More information will be available after that date.

For additional information about influenza, visit our website www.richlandhealth.org or talk with your pediatrician or family physician. For special home-bound services, call 419-774-4540.

Influenza is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Flu is caused by influenza viruses, and is spread mainly by coughing, sneezing, and close contact. Anyone can get the flu. Flu strikes suddenly and can last several days. Symptoms vary by age, but can include: fever/chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose.

Flu is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk.

“No one likes to be sick. Getting the flu will cause you to miss work or school, along with your favorite activities,” Amy Schmidt, Director of Nursing at Richland Public Health, said. “You might also pass the flu on to your family, friends, or co-workers. Protect yourself and others. Get your flu shot.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cold and flu season runs from approximately October to May, with a peak somewhere between December and February. Flu can be widespread, with up to 49 million cases each year in the United States.

Everyone from age six months and up should get an annual flu shot. The CDC recommends getting your flu shot in October, but if you miss that month, get one as soon as possible.

Richland Public Health will hold a drive thru flu vaccine clinic for Richland County residents on October 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Richland County Fairgrounds (750 N. Home Road, Mansfield, Ohio).

Ohio drivers beware. Your risk of colliding with deer increases in October, according to officials at the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The increased risk is partly due to the fact that October through December is peak deer mating season in the Buckeye state.

Four deaths and 885 injuries were caused by Ohio Deer-Vehicle (D-V) crashes in 2019. Richland County was second among Ohio’s 88 counties for D-V crashes. The four counties with the highest number of reported D-V crashes in 2019 were Stark (511), Richland (510), Defiance (493), and Hancock (451).

“If there’s a ‘Deer Crossing’ sign, pay attention,” said Reed Richmond, Health Educator at Richland Public Health and an instructor in the AARP senior driver refresher classes. “Those signs are there because they are posted in areas with high and active wildlife populations. Use caution, especially during these fall months and especially at dawn and at dusk when deer are most likely to be moving.”

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Halloween During the Pandemic

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to use caution and plan ahead for Halloween festivities. Decisions on whether to participate should be made by local communities, individuals, and parents/guardians.

General Guidance
- It is strongly recommended that hayrides and haunted houses be canceled/avoided.
- It is strongly recommended that Ohioans exercise caution when deciding to participate in trick-or-treating and events that put them in close contact with people outside their households. To lower risk, consider safer, socially distant ways to celebrate, such as:
  - Holding a drive-through or drive-in trick-or-treat event, with children in costume and face coverings staying in cars and collecting treats from individuals spaced at least 6 feet apart.
  - Holding drive-by costume or car-decorating contests with judges who are physically distanced.
  - Decorating your home and hide treats as an alternative to trick-or-treating.
  - Holding costume parties or pumpkin carving events or contests online, such as by video conference.
- Do not hold large in-person Halloween parties. If holding smaller parties, limit attendance to 10 or fewer people and hold the event in an outdoor area where social distancing is possible. Avoid activities, such as bobbing for apples, that foster the spread of infection.
- Always wear a face covering and stay 6 feet away from people who are not from your household, whether trick-or-treating, passing out treats, or attending attractions or events. Stay home if you are sick.
- Carry hand sanitizer and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.
- Select events/attractions that are held outdoors and allow attendees to stay in their cars (such as drive-through event with displays) or socially distance. Avoid events that involve being crowded in a small area or coming into contact with/being touched by others.
- Consider the people in your household who may be at greater risk of complications if COVID-19 is brought into the home, such as those with certain health conditions, women who are pregnant, or older family members.

For Parents/Guardians
- If taking your children trick-or-treating, limit the number of houses you visit and ask your children to stay as far from treat-givers as possible. For small children, consider holding the bag for them.
- Wipe off candy wrappers with sanitizing wipes when you arrive home. (NOTE: Never wipe unpackaged food with wipes.)
- Allow children to eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.
- Allow If your child is at greater risk of complications from COVID-19, contact your doctor before allowing participation in Halloween activities.

VITAL STATISTICS
The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, check the websites at richlandhealth.org or call 419-774-4700.

August YTD
Total Deaths (all ages) 142 807
Births to Teens 7 72
Repeat Births* 75 584

Infant Mortality: Richland County August Cases: 0 Year To Date: 2
Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Infant deaths are considered an important indicator of the overall health of a society. Deaths to residents occurring outside of Richland County are not reflected in county death statistics. KNOW the SAFE SLEEP ABC’s: Alone, on Back, in a Crib.

Infant Mortality: Richland County August

Halloween Humor
I threw a boomerang at a ghost. I knew it would come back to haunt me.