

# January 2024

The EpiGram is a monthly publication of the Stark County Reportable and Emerging Disease Network (REDNET). It contains a summary of provisional communicable disease reports and other key public health indicators, with summary tables for each of the four local health department jurisdictions. Some reportable conditions may be under investigation, and, at any given time, data may fluctuate from month to month for a specific category. If you have any questions, please contact Julianna Smith at 330.451.1650 or [smithj@starkhealth.org](mailto:smithj@starkhealth.org) or Kaelyn Boyd at 234.458.5135 or [kboyd@cantonhealth.org](mailto:kboyd@cantonhealth.org).



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## Monthly Highlight: Legionnaires' Disease

Legionnaires' disease (LD) is a serious type of pneumonia caused by the waterborne bacteria *Legionella*. It has an overall seasonal pattern of illness, but cases do occur throughout the year. This January, Stark County had 2 individuals diagnosed with LD, both with differing healthcare exposures in the 14 days prior to illness onset. Healthcare exposures (HCE) are not rare with LD; Stark County averaged 26% of cases with some type of healthcare encounter during their exposure period. In the past, some of these HCEs may have been the source of the disease, however identifying a true source is challenging. In order to prevent and reduce the possibility of healthcare-acquired Legionella and other waterborne illnesses, the Joint Commission recently updated their Infection Prevention and Control Issues in the Environment of Care, 5th edition (October 2023). This document aligns with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ASHRAE Guidelines to help prevent the growth and spread of pathogens in hospital water systems. See the table below for a list of bacteria that the JC highlights.

Healthcare providers play a key role in controlling these organisms, through rapid identification, testing and reporting. Additionally, taking measures such as avoiding splashes from sink drains and spray from faucets can reduce the risk of LD. Educating patients on control measures they can take in their own homes, like flushing faucets and showerheads periodically when not in use, can help make patients aware of how they can reduce *Legionella* risks in their own homes.

Organism	Sources
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Sinks, hydrotherapy pools, whirlpools, water baths, dialysis machines, eyewash stations, flower vases, endoscopes with residual moisture in the channels
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	Cooling towers, showers, faucets, room-air humidifiers, decorative fountains, respiratory therapy equipment
<i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	Dialysis machines, nebulizers, water baths, ventilator temperature probes
<i>Ralstonia pickettii</i>	Fentanyl solutions, chlorhexidine, contaminated respiratory therapy solution
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	Medical equipment that collects moisture (for example, mechanical ventilators, cool mist humidifiers, mist tents, room humidifiers)
<i>Enterobacter</i>	Intravenous fluids, unsterilized cotton swabs, ventilators, rubber piping on a suctioning machine, blood gas analyzers

### For More Information:

[Infection Prevention and Control Issues in the Environment of Care, 5th edition Preventing Waterborne Germs at Home](#)

Source: Joint Commission, chapter 5 Infection Prevention and Control Issues in the Environment of Care, figure 5-1

**Table 1: Select Vital Statistics for Stark County**

	Jan 2024	YTD 2024	2023
Live Births	305	305	3915
Births to Teens	11	11	215
Deaths	428	428	4570

\* Birth and death data are preliminary.

**Table 2: Stark County Crude Birth and Death Rates**

	2019	2020	2021*	2022*	2023*
Birth	11.1	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.6
Death	12.1	14.3	14.6	13.0	12.5

\*2021-2023 data are preliminary.

\*\*Source: Data Ohio. Rates are per 1,000 population.

**Table 3: Summary of Air Quality Index, Pollen, and Mold Counts for Stark County, Ohio, including historical data.**

	January 2024				February 2023			
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Median	Counts in highest reported health risk category	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Median	Counts in highest reported health risk category
Pollen Count	Data collected seasonally and currently not available.				Data collected seasonally and currently not available.			
Mold Count	Data collected seasonally and currently not available.				Data collected seasonally and currently not available.			
Air Quality Index	59	9	27	<b>Good</b>	81	31	50	<b>Moderate (10)</b>

\*\*See the following websites for updated Air Quality Index and mold index terminology and color coding: <http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqibasics.aqi> <https://pollen.aaaai.org/#/pages/reading-the-levels>. Data source for this table is the Air Quality Division of the Canton City Health Department.

Jurisdictional Summary of Select Reportable Conditions in Stark County, OH (Provisional Data)	Alliance City		Canton City		Massillon City		Stark County		All Departments	
	Jan	YTD	Jan	YTD	Jan	YTD	Jan	YTD	Jan	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	1	1	2	2	0	0	3	3	6	6
Chlamydia infection	10	10	77	77	16	16	60	60	163	163
COVID-19	106	106	232	232	118	118	702	702	1,158	1,158
CPO	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
CPO - Colonization Screening	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2
Gonococcal infection	4	4	34	34	1	1	16	16	55	55
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	4	5	5
Hepatitis B (including delta) - acute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis C - acute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - chronic	0	0	4	4	1	1	3	3	8	8
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza-associated hospitalization	4	4	39	39	16	16	63	63	122	122
Legionellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Pertussis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Salmonellosis	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	5	5
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	5	5
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Syphilis, Total	0	0	8	8	2	2	7	7	17	17
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary and Early Latent	0	0	7	7	1	1	6	6	15	15
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Varicella	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>1,572</b>

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System, downloaded 2/22/2024.



Summary Table of Select Reportable Conditions Reported in the Previous 5 years within Stark County, OH (Provisional Data)	Jan 2024	Jan 2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	All of 2023	5 Year Annual Average	Rate
Campylobacteriosis	6	4	6	4	108	74.6	20.10
Chlamydia infection	163	151	163	151	1,650	1,680.6	452.86
COVID-19	1,158	1,154	1,158	1,154	9,183	20,989.6	5,655.87
CPO	3	1	3	1	38	22.6	6.09
CPO – Colonization Screening	1	0	1	0	8	N/A	N/A
Cryptosporidiosis	0	2	0	2	16	23.8	6.41
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	3	3.2	0.86
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:h7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	2	0	2	0	21	12.8	3.45
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	0	0	2	0.6	0.16
Giardiasis	2	1	2	1	16	10.4	2.80
Gonococcal infection	55	57	55	57	618	708.8	190.99
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	5	4	5	4	11	8.0	2.16
Hepatitis B (including delta) – acute	0	0	0	0	4	4.0	1.08
Hepatitis B (including delta) – chronic	1	2	1	2	34	36.0	9.69
Hepatitis C – acute	0	1	0	1	4	4.0	1.08
Hepatitis C – chronic	8	13	8	13	178	213.6	57.56
Hepatitis C – Perinatal Infection	0	0	0	0	1	0.8	0.22
Hepatitis E	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	0.05
Influenza-associated hospitalization	122	83	122	83	185	262.6	70.76
LaCrosse virus disease (other California serogroup virus disease)	0	0	0	0	2	0.8	0.22
Legionellosis	2	0	2	0	17	24.8	6.68
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	1	1.2	0.32
Lyme Disease	1	1	1	1	90	37.6	10.13
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	1	1	1	16	15.2	4.10
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	2	0	2	0	3	2.0	0.54
Mumps	0	0	0	0	1	0.4	0.11
Pertussis	1	3	1	3	13	12.2	3.29
Salmonellosis	5	5	5	5	55	44.4	11.96
Shigellosis	2	0	2	0	11	10.8	2.91
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	5	7	5	7	47	19.8	5.34
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	0	0	0	1	1.2	0.32
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS)	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.05
Streptococcus pneumoniae – invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	3	3	3	3	34	21.6	5.82
Streptococcus pneumoniae – invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	2	0	2	0	8	10.8	2.91
Syphilis, Total	17	13	17	13	128	57.6	15.50
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary and Early Latent	15	9	15	9	78	41.4	11.14
Syphilis, Congenital	0	1	0	1	2	0.6	0.16
Tuberculosis	1	2	1	2	2	1.0	0.27
Varicella	1	1	1	1	10	11.6	3.13
West Nile virus disease (also current infection)	0	0	0	0	2	0.4	0.11
Yersiniosis	3	1	3	1	10	6.4	1.72

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System, downloaded 02/22/2024. Rates are per 100K population and based on 5 yr. average incidence 2019-2023.