



**Public Health**  
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Ashtabula City Health Department

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 02.29.24**

### **OHIO WASTEWATER MONITORING**

#### **Monitoring of Community Wastewater Detects Elevated Levels of Influenza B in Ashtabula**

In an ongoing effort to help mitigate the spread of Influenza, a network across Ohio is studying samples of wastewater to look for the presence of fragments from the virus that causes the disease. An upward trend of viral gene copies has been detected in the Ashtabula sewer-shed, which serves Ashtabula City and parts of Saybrook and Ashtabula Township.

This trend is an early indicator that cases of Influenza in the community may be increasing. Residents should be on alert and adhere to prevention efforts such as: frequent hand-washing, cough etiquette, staying home when you are sick and sanitizing.

The Ashtabula City Health Department has alerted healthcare providers, long term care providers, schools and the public to be prepared for a potential increase in Influenza cases.

As a reminder it is not too late to get your annual influenza vaccination if you have not already received one this season. The Ashtabula City Health Department has influenza vaccinations for everyone ages 6 months and over. Call the nursing department at 440-992-7122 for walk-in hours or an appointment.

*For more information on wastewater monitoring call the Ashtabula City Health Department at 440-992-7123.*