



# MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

**Address**  
50 Westchester Drive  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

**Phone**  
330-270-2855

**Toll Free**  
(800) 873-6243

**Laboratory Services**  
330-270-2841

**Website**  
www.mahoninghealth.org

**Facebook & Twitter**  
@mahoninghealth



**Austintown**  
330-792-2397

**Boardman**  
330-788-1485

**Youngstown**  
234-855-1575



**Phone**  
330-270-2855 ext. 136



<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE:</b> August 16, 2021	<b>Contact:</b> MCPH WIC, Daljeet Dhillon
	<b>Phone:</b> 330-788-1485 ext. 104
	<b>Email:</b> ddhillon@mahoninghealth.org

## Mahoning County Public Health’s WIC Program Celebrates Breastfeeding Awareness Month

August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month (BAM). Ohio WIC and Mahoning County WIC Program, a Division of Mahoning County Public Health are promoting BAM to bring awareness to the many known health benefits of breastfeeding for mother and baby.

For this year’s Breastfeeding Awareness Month, the theme is **“Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility.”** This theme focuses on how breastfeeding contributes to the survival, health and well-being of all, and the work to protect breastfeeding worldwide. Evidence based research points out that breastfeeding is significantly associated with reductions in overall infant mortality, neonatal mortality, and infection-related deaths.

### **To help raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding, the Mahoning County WIC Program is sponsoring the following events:**

- BAM Open House – Friday, August 20, at Fellows Riverside Gardens from 1:30 pm to 4 pm – [Click here for a flyer](#)
- ACTION Pop-Up Markets - Farmers Market featuring locally grown produce by GROW Urban Farm – [Click here for a flyer](#)
  - Thursday, August 19 at the Boardman WIC Office, 3910 Hillman Way, Youngstown, from 11 am to 2 pm
  - Thursday, August 26 at the Austintown WIC Office, 50 Westchester Drive, Austintown, from 11 am to 2 pm

Breastfeeding is a personal choice, but communities play a vital role in informing and supporting a mother’s decision to breastfeed her baby. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and continued breastfeeding with the addition of appropriate solid food for the first year and beyond. The Ohio WIC Program helps provide breastfeeding support to Ohio families and health professionals across the state.

One of the most important ways businesses and communities can support this work is to help mothers feel comfortable nursing in public. Hungry babies need to eat, and Ohio law (Section 3781.55 of the Ohio Revised Code) allows breastfeeding in public.



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Businesses can show their support by placing a [“Breastfed Babies Welcome Here”](#) or universal sign for breastfeeding in their windows and educate their staff about the acceptance of breastfeeding in their establishments. They can also encourage their employees and provide a private space (other than a bathroom) to pump. This will help increase employee retention and reduce medical costs.

For more information about breastfeeding, Ohioans can call Ohio Statewide Breastfeeding Hotline at 1-888-588-3423 or by calling the Mahoning County Public Health WIC Office at 330-788-1485 ext. 104.

Members of the news media with requests for information from Mahoning County Public Health must submit requests to our PIO Team by one of the following methods.

- **Email(24/7/365):** [PIOTeam@mahoninghealth.org](mailto:PIOTeam@mahoninghealth.org) with your name, contact information, the media outlet you are representing, and the information you are requesting.
- **Phone During Business Hours (8 AM to 4:30 PM):** (330) 270-2855 please dial extension 109 – if there is no answer, please leave a message or press 0 to speak with the operator who answers the line.
- **Phone After Hours: (330) 270-2855,** please dial extension 414 and leave a detailed message on our after-hours reporting line including your name, contact information, the media outlet you are representing, and the information you are requesting. The message will be routed to a member of our leadership team.
- **Calls placed to personal cell phones will not be returned.**

## ABOUT MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Mahoning County Public Health works to protect the public’s health and to ensure conditions in which all people can live healthy lives. Mahoning County Public Health offers a variety of services from immunizations to environmental and community health programs. For a complete list of services visit [mahoninghealth.org](http://mahoninghealth.org).

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