



635 North Erie Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317  
419.213.4100  
419.213.4017 Fax  
boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS  
Health Commissioner

#### LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Johnathon Ross, MD, President  
Barbara Sarantou, Vice President  
Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN  
Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE  
Sonia Flunder-McNair  
Ted Kaczorowski  
David Karmol  
Paul J. Komisarek  
Richard L. Munk, MD  
Susan Postal, EMT-P  
Matthew Sapara  
Donna A Woodson, MD

#### AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Department operates in  
accordance with Title VII of the  
Civil Rights Act of 1964

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.lucascountyhealth.com](http://www.lucascountyhealth.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO  
(419) 309-0153

December 26, 2024

## Health Department Reports First Flu-Related Death of 2024-2025 Flu Season

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has confirmed the first flu-related death of the 2024-2025 influenza season in Lucas County. This tragic loss underscores the seriousness of the flu and the importance of prevention, especially as flu activity increases this time of year. Currently, Lucas County accounts for 2.4% of influenza-associated hospitalizations within the state.

“Our hearts go out to the family and friends affected by this loss,” said Karim Baroudi, TLCHD Health Commissioner. “While flu activity in Lucas County is currently below our five-year average, this death is a reminder that the flu can be a severe illness, especially for those at higher risk, such as older adults, young children, pregnant individuals, and people with underlying health conditions.”

During the 2023-2024 flu season, there were four influenza-related deaths in Lucas County, with the most recent death occurring in May of this year.

To protect yourself and those around you, the Health Department strongly recommends the following preventive measures:

- **Get Vaccinated:** The flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu and is recommended for everyone six months and older. If you haven’t received your vaccination for this flu season, it isn’t too late!
- **Practice Good Hygiene:** Wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid close contact with sick individuals.
- **Stay Home When Sick:** If you experience flu symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, or fatigue, stay home to prevent spreading the virus.

“Even though our community’s flu numbers are below the five-year baseline, we can’t become complacent,” added Karim Baroudi. “Flu is unpredictable, and it’s up to all of us to take steps to protect ourselves and those around us.”

**The flu vaccine is available at the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, and walk-ins are welcome.**

For more information on how to protect yourself this flu season, please visit our [Flu Information page on our website](#) or call (419) 213-4100.

###