A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Community Members,

Fall is officially here and bringing with it cooler temperatures, fall gatherings, and family events. It is a favorite season for many and I hope everyone takes advantage of all there is to do in and around the county. https://www.visitmedinacounty.com/our-events/

These cooler months are also flu and respiratory illness season. You might be seeing information on an increase in COVID-19 cases nationally. This uptick in COVID-19 cases and other respiratory illnesses are occurring here as well, which is expected this time of year. It is important to note that the increases are above what we had been seeing, but are still far below where we were last year at this time.

COVID-19 testing

Over the counter antigen test kits are readily available through the same providers as last year. In addition, the federal government has announced that 4 kits per household can again be requested using https://www.covid.gov/tests. If your employer requires PCR testing you can obtain that through several urgent care clinics and also at the Medina County Health Department Ledgewood Drive location. Testing is by appointment 330-723-9688 option 1 and is available regardless of insurance status.

The updated quarantine and isolation calculator can be found here https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/ and should be used to help guide your decisions on social interaction when ill.

COVID-19 vaccines

2023-2024 COVID vaccines are available in the county now through pharmacies, and will be available at upcoming Health Department community clinics as well. Details on our dates/times/locations will be on our website and advertised by partners hosting clinics as well. Armorvax will not be used for clinic registration.

All providers will now be billing your insurance for the vaccine and its administration, but please do not let that be a barrier if you lack coverage. The Health Department can provide both COVID and flu shots for anyone without insurance. Vaccination remains the best protection from severe illness and hospitalization. Please consider making an appointment wherever is most convenient.

RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes cold-like symptoms. However, young children and older adults are at higher risk for severe illness from RSV. Older adults (60 and over) can talk to their healthcare provider about RSV vaccinations. For young children, RSV antibody treatments are available for the following groups:

- All infants younger than eight months and who are in their first RSV season.

- Children who are immunocompromised, between 8 months and 19 months, and in their second RSV season.

Both RSV and COVID vaccines will be available at the Health Department in October. Call us at 330-723-9688, option 2, to schedule an appointment. The Health Department accepts private insurances, Medicaid, Medicare, and no insurance. Follow us on Facebook or X (formerly known as Twitter) for additional updates.