

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

One year. That's how long it's been since the pandemic came barreling through our communities, impacting just about every aspect of our daily lives. January 2020 marked the first reported case of COVID-19 in the United States which set in motion public health's emergency planning to prepare for the inevitable spread that would soon follow. In some ways, this year has felt like an eternity but in other ways it feels as if it's flown by in the blink of an eye. It has brought its challenges but the strength of our community here in Medina County has continued to shine through.

Businesses, schools, churches, and organizations adapted the way they operated to keep up with evolving guidance from the State. Citizens had to make adjustments to their normal routines. Entertainment events and activities were rescheduled. Citizens' lives were impacted both financially and socially. But from these changes came innovative ways to adjust to these unprecedented times.

Virtual meetings have become the norm and it's been remarkable to see the creative ways technology has been used to stay connected. We have some pretty amazing non-profit organizations and community groups that have gone through incredible lengths to offer transportation services, meal deliveries, and other forms of support to help those isolated or in need. In the State of Business report from the Medina County Economic Development Corporation, Medina County's current unemployment rate has dropped to 4.1%. 464 new jobs were created and even more were retained due to companies investing in expansion projects. All these things are a result of people working to support one another.

I feel very fortunate to live and work in a community committed to lifting one another up in times of crisis. The pandemic has certainly created difficult situations, but these have also drawn us together too. The vaccine is becoming more available each week and our case numbers are dropping. Brighter days are ahead but we are not quite there yet. Continuing to practice the tried and true measures we've done since the beginning will still be important. Wearing a mask, getting tested if you are sick, and avoiding gatherings will help continue to slow the spread of the virus.

The latest update on vaccine distribution

This week, eligibility opened up to citizens 75 years of age and older as well as those with a developmental or intellectual disability AND one of the conditions listed here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program>

Citizens 80 years and older may continue to register by calling 330-723-9688, extension 243. People 75 years and older are encouraged to download the ArmorVax app on their smart device or create an account at ArmorVax.com. Detailed instructions for using the scheduling system can be found on our website. COVID-19 vaccine appointments can be scheduled through this system when appointments become available.

Citizens with developmental or intellectual disabilities AND one of the conditions outlined by the State of Ohio should contact the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities for information at 330-725-7751.

Our pharmacy partners throughout the county are also supporting state-wide efforts to make the vaccine more available to the public. A list other providers in the Medina County can be found on our website below.

Where can I find the latest information?

As information is made available, we will continue to update our website with resources about the vaccine: <https://medinahealth.org/vaccine>. You are also encouraged to visit the Ohio Department of Health's website for resources related to the COVID-19 vaccine: coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.