

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

### **An update on vaccines**

Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine remains high in Medina County. If you're eligible and haven't been able to schedule an appointment yet, please don't feel discouraged. With each week, more and more vaccine is becoming available. With the Governor's plans to open up eligibility to all Ohioans by the end of the month, this is a great sign that a steady amount of vaccine will continue to flow into our state.

This week, the Health Department will give over 1,000 first doses in addition to planned second doses. Available appointments are posted in ArmorVax on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings. Citizens can conveniently choose a slot at whatever location is available and works best for them. The Health Department is planning clinics in different areas around the county to serve various parts of our population. As a reminder, if you have questions about your appointment or are in need of directions, please call us here at the Health Department instead of the location of your appointment. Community partners have graciously allowed us to use their space for clinics but our team at the Health Department will answer any questions you may have. 330-723-9688 option 2.

Our pharmacy partners in the county continue to receive weekly vaccine as well. We have a list of all county providers on our website here: [www.medinahealth.org/vaccine](http://www.medinahealth.org/vaccine).

The state-sponsored mass vaccination clinic in Cleveland at the Wolstein Center begins this week with plans to vaccinate upwards of 6,000 people per day. The site is open to anyone, in any county, that falls within a current eligibility group. If you're interested in taking a ride up to Cleveland, more information and a link to schedule an appointment can be found here: <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

### **Heading into a new season**

Data has consistently improved over the last several weeks, but Medina County remains red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Just recently, we've seen a small fluctuation in reported cases which serves as a good reminder that the virus is still here. The more layers of protection we add into our daily lives, like getting the vaccine, will help keep us safe. As we move into spring, I am looking forward to warmer weather and seeing normal activities resume that were either canceled or put on pause during this time last year.

We did see a bump in cases this week, but that is to be expected and not overly concerning at this point. Citizens should feel confident in going about their daily activities such as grocery shopping, visiting their doctor for routine appointments, or going to work thanks to protective interventions still in place. Medina County is very fortunate to have community and public services, such as Medina County Public Transit, that have worked hard to continue to serve our community members. Each MCPT bus has safety measures in place and residents who need this service can feel confident in using the bus line to get back to normal errands and appointments.

With tomorrow being St. Patrick's Day and the forecast looking nice, I'd like to remind citizens to not only be mindful about spreading infection, but also to celebrate safely by not drinking and driving. If you're out and about, I ask that you enjoy your green beer with a designated driver or car share service on standby. Better yet, support your local restaurants by ordering corn beef sandwiches to-go and enjoying them at home. I hope to never again experience the challenges we went through during this time last year. Let's move into this new season on a safe and healthy note.

### **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](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine).