

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

Medina County's vaccine status is right on par with percentages around the rest of the state. Nearly 45,000 Medina County citizens have been protected with their first dose of the vaccine. If you're interested in viewing the data, you can find that here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard>

If you haven't been able to make an appointment yet, please don't be discouraged! As time goes on, more and more opportunities are becoming available thanks to increased supply coming into the state each week. The Health Department is giving over 1,000 first dose inoculations this week in addition to over 1,000 second doses. Just as a reminder, information on how to schedule an appointment in Medina County is available on our website here: <https://medinahealth.org/vaccine/>.

The Health Department continues to schedule appointments through larger clinics because they are a very efficient way to vaccinate people quickly. I want to assure the public that each clinic is designed to ensure your safety and comfort. Spacing, masks, and sanitation procedures are in place at all locations.

With more providers in the area offering vaccine, we understand citizens may have their name on waiting lists at other locations and may get into another place ahead of their appointment with us. If you made an appointment at the Health Department and need to cancel for whatever reason, that's ok, but we ask you let us know as soon as possible so we are able to open your spot up to someone else. Unlike other vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine has a shelf life of just a few hours once opened and an entire vial must be used once the first dose is given. Giving us the heads up helps staff plan and also helps others eager to take that open spot.

If you are scheduled with us and have a question about your appointment time, vaccine type, or other concern please call the Health Department. Community partners who are allowing their buildings to be used for clinics are not able to assist with any of these type of calls. We are grateful for the use of public and private buildings and want to continue to have these available.

Spring Break

With spring break plans and vacations put on hold during this time last year, it goes without saying that families will be eager to start to travel again. Especially with the beautiful spring weather we've had recently, I know we all feel ready to get back to normal activities.

If you are planning a trip, it's advised you and your family do so with caution. Especially if you are planning to travel internationally, it's important to understand the requirements and restrictions in the areas you're visiting. Do your research to understand what the positivity rate is, what safety interventions are in place, and if there are any quarantine or testing requirements when entering or leaving the area. Anyone traveling should still practice appropriate public health measures like wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and washing your hands.

Popular spring break destinations like Mexico are welcoming travelers but require a negative test to enter the area and a negative test to travel back to the United States, even if you're vaccinated. Before heading out on your vacation, consider the risks, know where and how to get tested, and have a plan in place in case you do get sick. This website can help guide you: CDC Travel Notices: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/noticescovid19>

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.