

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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Dear Community Members:

### Home COVID-19 test kits now available

Testing remains a critical component in slowing the spread of coronavirus. PCR lab-based tests are still the gold standard in diagnosing COVID-19, but rapid antigen tests have been used as another tool to help quickly confirm illness to prevent potential spread during a time when an individual could be most infectious.

Medina County has received at-home rapid test kits and is working in partnership with Medina County District Library to make these home test kits available to the public at no cost. All MCDL locations will have these kits available. They are meant to be used when a person has symptoms but is unsure if it is COVID. The Health Department is launching this program now because allergy seasons is at hand, and it is difficult to distinguish some COVID symptoms from those associated with allergies.

Each kit comes with a free telehealth visit where a medical provider will walk you through taking your sample and understanding your results and next steps. I encourage citizens to consider using these tests when appropriate. More information about how and when to use them can be found here: <https://www.mcdl.info/index.php/heretohelp>

### Clinic Appointment Reminders

- If you made an appointment at the Health Department and need to cancel, please let us know as soon as possible! The COVID-19 vaccine, unlike other vaccines, has a shelf life of just a few hours once opened. An entire vial must be used once the first dose is given. Letting us know you are unable to make your appointment will help us quickly schedule someone else to take your spot.
- If you have any questions about your upcoming appointment, vaccine type, need directions to the location, or anything else, please call the Health Department directly and not the community location where the clinic is being held. Community partners who are allowing their building to be used for clinics are not able to assist with any of those types of calls. You are also welcome to email us at [vaccine@medinahealth.org](mailto:vaccine@medinahealth.org).
- You will receive the date and time of your second dose at the time of your first appointment. When choosing your first dose appointment time, we ask you to plan ahead three weeks after your first dose Pfizer or four weeks after your first dose Moderna, to ensure you will be available for your second appointment to avoid potential scheduling conflicts.
- Medina County Health Department community clinics are placed in Armorvax on Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Friday mornings before noon. If someone cancels an appointment, that slot will appear in the app and be available for scheduling. Those types of single appointments appear as soon as the cancellation is made, which could be anytime.

### Follow up on spring break

Medina County remains red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. After several weeks of continuously declining cases, we've seen some ebb and flow, keeping us in the category 3 designation. Even with the vaccine, we are still seeing much higher numbers of community spread than we would like. If you and your family plan to travel this spring break, we encourage you to do so cautiously and mindfully.

### 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).