

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

The COVID-19 situation in Medina County continues to improve. With the good news of consistently decreasing cases, we are seeing an increase in vaccine. In fact, Medina County has one of the highest percentages in the state for individuals over the age of 80 to be vaccinated. We couldn't be happier to have this percentage of our most vulnerable population protected. With yesterday's announcement from the Governor that Ohio will move into the next phase of eligibility, I want citizens to know there will be a lot of vaccine coming into our area and many opportunities to schedule an appointment at a location that works for you.

We are excited to report that last week we protected almost 2,000 citizens with either their first or second dose. This week, the Health Department has 1,100 first doses, in addition to our second doses.

Over the next two weeks, we will hold clinics at six different locations throughout the county. These clinics will be posted in ArmorVax where you can choose a place and time that works for you. We are aware there is still high demand for vaccine in our current phases and even more people becoming eligible later this week. Clinics posted in ArmorVax tomorrow morning will be for people who are eligible as of today. Clinics posted later in the week will also include the next group opening up on March 11.

There are 18 locations in the county offering vaccine in addition to the Health Department. The state launched a central scheduling system to streamline the scheduling process. Many of the providers within the system will continue utilizing their current process for the time being, but this new tool provides a helpful place to search for appointments near you:

<https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

In more good news, the state is sponsoring several long-term regional mass vaccination clinics, including an eight-week mass vaccination clinic opening on March 17 in Cleveland. The sites will be open to anyone, in any county, that falls within one of the current phases. There will be multiple options for appointment scheduling, including in-person, phone, and online scheduling using the state's online tool linked above. Specific details and hours of operation have not been determined yet, but availability of appointments to schedule for these sites will be through the state tool referenced above.

Serving the public is the reason why we do what we do. I feel the frustration of residents who have been waiting for a vaccination, and trust me when I say there is no one more frustrated than I am with the limited vaccine amounts. I wish supplies would be consistent and plentiful enough for the Health Department to have regular open appointments in ArmorVax and the ability to plan clinics far in advance. The situation is improving though, and the supply is increasing. I know we are on a bright and safer path back to normal. If I could give the public just a glimpse of what a typical day looks like inside the Health Department, I know it would reassure you of the commitment the staff has in protecting this county and getting vaccine to as many people as possible.

Are you on ArmorVax?

If you haven't created an account on ArmorVax yet, we have resources on our website to help walk you through that process: www.medinahealth.org/vaccine. There is a how-to guide, frequently asked questions, as well as a video with step-by-step instructions on using the system. Remember to turn your location settings on and choose the farthest radius setting to make sure the app picks up all nearby clinics. If you don't see any available slots, that means there aren't any available.

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.