

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

Each week, I do my best to provide the citizens of Medina County with an update on the current status of the virus in our county, insights on what public health sees coming down the pike, and our best recommendations on what you can do to protect yourself and others while getting back to normal life.

There have been periods of time over the last year where we felt a heightened sense of urgency. There have been periods of time where the pandemic seemed to quiet down. But throughout these different periods of time, every action taken by the community since coronavirus first appeared has made an impact. Now more than ever, the actions and decisions we are making today are going to affect what the next phase of the pandemic will look like for us.

The COVID-19 vaccine is extremely powerful and effective. We are incredibly fortunate to finally have enough supply on hand to meet the demand from our community members. To have this lifesaving resource available at our fingertips, when other areas of the world are still anxiously awaiting their turn, makes me feel an immense sense responsibility to deliver it to as many people as possible. What an opportunity we have—to finally get ahead of this pandemic and protect the lives of those around us.

If you are able to get the vaccine, please don't squander the opportunity. Don't wait. Talk to your loved ones about it. Encourage those around you to make an appointment. The warm summer months may offer us a reprieve from infection short term, but with the emerging variants and people once again gathering and moving throughout the public, we aren't sure what may happen come fall without protection from the vaccine.

Over the last several weeks, we've seen local cases decrease. As more people in our county get vaccinated, we expect cases to continue to decline. But right now, we still have to be vigilant about illness and understand the rate it's circulating. If you have symptoms or think you have been exposed to someone who is sick, getting a COVID-19 test is still an important step to take to protect those around you. Testing has become easier and more convenient. We have a list of locations on our website at www.medinahealth.org where you can get tested locally, including here at the Health Department.

The Medina County Health Department offers at-home kits, rapid testing on-site, and PCR testing depending on your needs. Testing is available Monday - Friday by calling the Health Center Division at 330-723-9688 option 1. A medical professional can help you determine the type of test that is right for your situation. Evening appointments are available on Tuesdays.

Available COVID-19 clinics this week

Supply is up for both Moderna and Pfizer. If you received your first dose from another provider and are having trouble getting your second, we can schedule you into a second dose clinic through the Health Department.

This week, we have a heavy focus on second dose. There was a first dose clinic in Wadsworth today and one more first dose clinic on Friday in Lodi. If you know someone who lives in the Lodi area that have not received their vaccine yet, please share this information with them: *Friday, 4/27, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Lodi*

Appointments can be easily viewed and reserved through the ArmorVax app or directly from www.ArmorVax.com. As always, the Health Department can schedule citizens without internet access over the phone at 330-723-9688, option 2.

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: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program>.