A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Community Members:

This week we are celebrating National Public Health Week, acknowledging the work done by public health throughout the COVID-19 crisis but also recognizing the contributions made by public health year round. Prior to the pandemic, the role of public health may have been unfamiliar to you. In fact, you may not realize all the many ways local health departments work within a county. From water quality and mosquito control to smoking cessation and food safety, health departments work behind the scenes in many county operations to ensure the health and safety of citizens in that jurisdiction.

This year, National Public Health Week holds much greater significance. If you know someone who works in public health in any way, whether a local health department official, social worker, volunteer, or health care worker, I encourage you to take a moment this week to celebrate them and the work they do to protect the wellbeing of our communities.
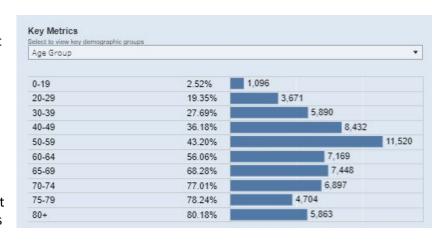
The latest on vaccines and current cases

New cases in Medina County haven't been as high as they once were, but the level of community spread has remained steady over the last few weeks. Medina County's high incidence rate is at 178.03 which has kept us at the risk level 3/red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. We know that much of the spread is happening across our younger population.

Youth who are 16-17 are eligible to receive only the Pfizer brand vaccine. The Health Department has started to work with local school districts to make access to the vaccine convenient for students and parents to schedule an appointment if they wish to do so. With upcoming graduations, proms, and summer gatherings, using all tools available will help protect one another in these settings and prevent potential spread.

Parents unable to schedule a child for a school-based clinic can use the Armorvax app/website to schedule at other community locations. It is important to watch the clinic description to ensure that it is a Pfizer clinic.

The Health Department continues to vaccinate over 2,000 citizens per week, joining local pharmacies and hospitals in this life-saving campaign. I am excited to report that over 35% of Medina County residents have received at least their first dose. The chart to the right shows percentages by age group to give you a snapshot of where our county stands today. The link below takes you to the state dashboard where you can see the daily vaccination progress across Ohio.

Key Metrics
Select to view key demographic groups

Age Group

Age Group	Percentage	Count
0-19	2.52%	1,096
20-29	19.35%	3,671
30-39	27.69%	5,890
40-49	36.18%	8,432
50-59	43.20%	11,520
60-64	56.06%	7,169
65-69	68.28%	7,448
70-74	77.01%	6,897
75-79	78.24%	4,704
80+	80.18%	5,863

The Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard

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.