

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

This past week has been one filled with relief, hope, and a little anxiety. Everyone is trying to navigate and figure out how we move into a world of more social interaction, less mask usage, and into a comfort level with vaccine coverage. This isn't an easy time.

Yesterday, the Ohio Department of Health [amended its remaining health order](#) to conform to the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, which allows those who have been vaccinated to stop wearing masks. Under the CDC's new guidance, those who have not been vaccinated should still wear a mask and socially distance.

The new changes are necessary and liberating, but not without difficulties. There will still be employers and businesses that require facial coverings for a period of time, and there will be some who request them for unvaccinated individuals, and still others that allow them at customer discretion. None of these decisions are wrong, and I can tell you from speaking with dozens of businesses this past week that none of these are made lightly.

COVID-19 vaccinations work. They reduce both transmission and serious illness. Medina County has one of the highest rates in the state for vaccination, and we continue to increase the numbers protected every day. This does give us the confidence to remove the protocols in place and re-start activities.

In the coming weeks, I ask for your kindness and understanding as each person assesses and decides what their comfort level is. We battled this pandemic together and we will come out of it together.

Available COVID-19 clinics this week

The Health Department continues to adjust to make scheduling an appointment as easy and convenient as possible for your entire family. In addition to weekly scheduled clinics, we have set dates happening throughout the summer at different locations, including our Lodi, Buckeye, and Highland libraries. Families in Wadsworth, Highland, Brunswick, Black River, and Cloverleaf school districts should keep an eye out for communication from their schools on upcoming school-based clinics. If you aren't able to make your school date, children ages 12-17 years old are welcome at any Health Department community clinic offering the Pfizer vaccine. This week's schedule:

Medina County Fair Grounds

Wednesday, May 19

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Westfield Fire Station

Wednesday, May 19

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Seville Fire Station

Thursday, May 20

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Lodi Methodist Church

Friday, May 21

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Clinic dates and information are posted weekly in the ArmorVax app or at www.ArmorVax.com, on the Health Department's Facebook and Twitter pages, and also listed on the events page on our website: <https://medinahealth.org/events/>. As always, the Health Department is happy to assist citizens over the phone. Get registered and schedule an appointment by calling 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>.