

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

We are nearing the end of our seventh month of the pandemic in Medina County. Can you believe we've been living with coronavirus that long? I looked back at some of the first messaging the Health Department communicated back in March. Early on, there were so many uncertainties and things were moving in a fast and dangerous direction. Public health spoke with urgency out of concern for the unknown. Now, throughout these seven months, so much has changed. We are still communicating the urgent need to stop the spread of the virus, but we are in a much better and more controlled place thanks to improved data, resources, and research.

We know how to stop the virus: wearing a mask, social distancing, and staying home if you are sick. I know you are tired of doing these things, we are too. But they work and we've seen the success of your actions. However, once again, the virus seems to be making its way through the community at a rate we are not happy to see. Whether its people letting their guard down or getting too comfortable in social groups, we've seen an increase in cases of over 100 per week over the last few weeks.

We recognize that the number of confirmed cases in Medina County is small compared to our population. It's an argument we've heard pretty frequently throughout the pandemic as we've reported data. Our numbers have been low in comparison thanks to the precautions that have been successfully put in place. Without mitigation, our numbers would skyrocket. There is still a belief that younger people or individuals without underlying medical conditions won't be badly impacted if they get sick. But we still have our vulnerable population to protect. The more the virus circulates through the community and the more weeks we report over 100 new cases, it increases the risk for others who may have more severe, and even deadly, outcomes.

Safeguards and restrictions have been put in place as a way to protect one another and keep our schools and economy moving. These are things our experts have studied that we know work, but how successfully they will work is dependent on us. I'm encouraging all Medina County residents to hang in there and help us slow the spread of coronavirus.

Wearing a mask while out shopping helps our stores stay open, respecting social distancing rules allows our restaurants to continue to serve guests, and avoiding unnecessary social gatherings helps reduce our children's chance of bringing coronavirus into our schools. We need to stay vigilant in doing these things to continue moving forward and to feel safe in doing so. I know we can figure this out as a community.

Halloween, Fall Parties & Events

You will be seeing trick-or-treaters out in costume on Halloween here in Medina County. If your family chooses to participate this year, please use caution by walking in small groups, avoid gathering with people outside of your household, and consider limiting the number of homes you visit. For those passing out candy, keep hand sanitizer nearby and be mindful of ways to limit exposure. 6-foot distance and masks will help everyone participating stay safe. Halloween is a busy night so I would also encourage everyone to be careful driving to keep our neighborhoods safe.

With the virus still circulating and the threat of flu season here now too, we need community members to limit their chances of getting sick or spreading the virus to others. We've discouraged other types of Halloween events and large gatherings and hope you take that into consideration.

Where can I find the latest information?

Medina County Health Department's coronavirus data dashboard is updated every Friday afternoon. You can find the dashboard here: www.medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/data/. For other information and resources you can use to help make decisions that are best for you and your family, visit www.Medinahealth.org.