

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

Medina County is currently at level 2/orange in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. However, regardless of that designation, we are in the high incidence category. That means we have reported over 146 new cases per 100,000 people in the last two weeks. Just like in the counties around us, cases are steadily rising in Medina County.

We anticipate Medina County will report more than 600 positive cases this month, which will be the highest number our county has reported in a 30-day period so far. The vast majority of cases are not a result of increased testing, congregate living situations, or pre-surgical visits (tests required by hospitals prior to having a routine procedure). People are ill and getting tested because they are symptomatic. As of now, we are thankfully seeing people recover well and their illness being resolved with minimal complications. However, we do have sick individuals in our hospitals and as numbers continue to climb, that number will likely grow in proportion.

What should I do if I test positive for coronavirus?

If you have been in immediate contact with someone who you know has tested positive for coronavirus, stay home and away from others as soon as you become aware. The disease progression of coronavirus is what makes containing the spread so tricky. Transmission can happen a couple days before someone starts to feel sick. Staying away from others quickly after knowing you have been exposed can help prevent spreading the virus unknowingly.

If you become sick, we really encourage you to seek testing and we encourage this for a couple reason. Knowing you have the virus helps protect those around you. People in your household, work environment, or social group can take appropriate actions to prevent others from being exposed.

If you test positive, the health department is notified because COVID-19 is a Class A reportable disease. We are required to then contact you to determine the potential exposure of others. When a result is reported to us, we are given your name, contact information, and positive test result. We aren't given your health history or any other personal information. The purpose of public health reaching out is to help you figure out who else may have been exposed and offer guidance on who you might or might not need to notify. A lot of times people believe there is a much larger group of people who they have to tell about their positive test result when in fact that may not be the case. During the interview, we also ask basic details such as types of symptoms you experienced, when they began, and how quickly those resolved. This adds to the collective understanding of how this new virus spreads and affects people, and it continues to inform both reopening decisions and science.

How can I help stop the spread?

We are anticipating this weekend will be a busy one with Halloween, fall festivals, and a big weekend for football. We know people are going to gather. I am strongly encouraging you to do so with caution. There have been quite a few community events over the last few weeks and I want to thank those who have made adjustments and worked with the Health Department to do so safely. In preparing for the weekend ahead, I'm asking everyone to take those same precautions. If you can avoid those large OSU watch parties and instead enjoy the game at home with your family, you will be helping to protect our community and help us slow the spread of this disease.

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.