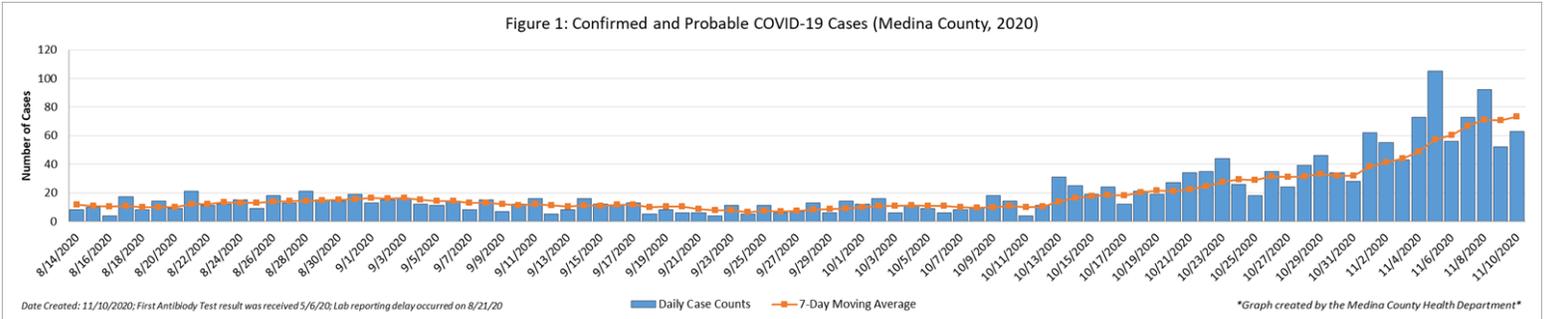


A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Community Members:

Positive coronavirus cases, outpatient visits, and hospitalizations are on a steady rise in Medina County. The Health Department received 450+ lab confirmed cases in the first week of November. **The situation is serious, and I am calling on all citizens to be aware of what's happening in our community and to take intentional steps to stop the spread of this virus.**



Holiday Travel

It should be no secret by now that travel poses a significant risk of getting or spreading coronavirus. If travel is not necessary over the holidays, we're asking that you hang out at home with your immediate family. It's just not worth it to put your loved ones or other travelers at risk, especially during a season meant for giving. Give those around you the reassurance that you are doing what you can to protect their wellbeing. If travel is absolutely necessary, here are some considerations to keep in mind: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>. Something to also keep an eye on is the state's travel advisory which indicates each state's positivity rate. It's recommended to avoid traveling to states over 15%, or self-quarantining for 14 days after leaving those locations: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>

How can I help stop the spread?

It's easy to let your guard down around people you feel comfortable with. But in all the evidence we're finding, that's when the virus appears to be quietly making its way through gatherings and rapidly infecting unknowing individuals, similar to a domino effect. This video is a good representation of how quickly transmission can happen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf5ZJ3lwwS8&feature=emb_title



Because of the sheer volume of cases coming in, the Health Department is asking anyone receiving a positive test result who is in a high-risk group, a student or has a student in school, works in a sensitive occupation such as a first responder, health care worker, or food service personnel, or believes they are part of a cluster of cases to call 330-723-9688 option 2. Please do not wait for a call from public health to start isolation. Think about who you were in close contact with in the 48 hours before symptoms started. Those are the people that should be notified of exposure. If you are not comfortable doing this, call the Health Department and the call to contacts can be made confidentially. By doing these things, you're helping not only those around you, but you're helping our team here at the Health Department, who are working around the clock to protect the residents of our county.

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.medinahhealth.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 or visit the Ohio Department of Health at coronavirus.ohio.gov.