

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

Last week, the Health Department issued a Stay at Home Health Advisory, asking all Medina County residents to stay at home as much as possible. The intent of the advisory is to communicate the seriousness of the coronavirus situation in Medina County and beyond. With over 650 cases just in the past week alone, we truly are at a critical time in the pandemic.

While the advisory is not an order, it's a message intended to slow activity and help guide residents in the steps to slow the spread. We are not sounding off the warning signals of dangers to come, we are sounding off the alarm that we are in a dangerous period right now, and actions are needed to stop the increasing spread throughout the state. Even small modifications in our daily activities have an impact. Consolidating errands, shopping alone, and using local online and curbside options are small ways that you can make a difference.

New orders from the state or changes in restrictions frustrate everyone. The Health Department does not take any of this lightly. We have parents who have children in our schools who have felt the stress of changes in learning. We have staff members who have educators and coaches in their families who are struggling with classroom and courtside changes. We have employees with spouses who have been laid off or whose small businesses have been impacted. We feel the strain of the pandemic because we live in this county and we are your neighbors. We are just as tired of coronavirus, but with the option of vaccine on the horizon, we do see better times ahead.

If you become sick or are waiting on a test result, please do not wait for the Health Department to call to start isolation. Think about who you were in close contact with in the 48 hours before symptoms started. Were you closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes? Did you ride in a car with someone, share office equipment, or share utensils?

Those are the people that should be notified of exposure. They could test positive for COVID-19 anytime with 14 days of exposure. If you aren't comfortable notifying them, call the Health Department and the call to contacts can be made confidentially.

While we are asking residents to reconsider gatherings and stay home as much as possible, I do not want people to fear going out in public. Local businesses have made tremendous efforts to design safe shopping and many offer options for shoppers. Please continue to support local businesses in ways that you are comfortable. Many of our smaller stores rely on profits from this time of year to sustain their business.

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

