

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

While I wish I was starting this weekly coronavirus update with better news to report, good news is unfortunately not the reality in Medina County at this time. The coronavirus surge continues to rage on in Medina as well as all throughout the state. Current data is telling us cases are steadily increasing and worsening week to week. Hospital capacity in our area is becoming a concern as cases continue rise. Medina County will likely move from risk level 3 to risk level 4 in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System by either this week or next if this trend continues.

With the mix of coronavirus, flu, and seasonal cold sharing similar symptoms, we are asking that if you are sick to self-quarantine and seek testing. There are several locations in Medina County to get tested. A list of those places can be found on our website here: <https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/testing/>

It depends on each location, but most labs are able to turnaround test results within 2-3 days or sooner. It's important that during the time you're waiting for results that you stay home from work or school, even if you aren't feeling that sick. When a lab receives a positive test result, there is a process before that positive test result is reported to the Health Department. The volume of cases has delayed this process and you will likely be notified by your provider or through your online medical chart before your test makes its way to our department.

If you are in a high risk group, a student, or work in a sensitive occupation such as a first responder or medical worker, you can help us by calling the Health Department at 330-723-9688, option 2 as soon as you are made aware of your positive test. Letting anyone know who you came into contact with 48 hours before your symptoms started can help prevent more spread from taking place. This is a great resource to keep nearby if you develop symptoms and includes steps to take once you've been tested for coronavirus: <https://medinahealth.org/wp-content/uploads/lve-Been-Tested-for-COVID-19-Now-What.pdf>

### **Mask Up Medina Day: Shop Local & Free Mask Distribution**

Thank you for scaling back your Thanksgiving plans and modifying your holiday this year. I know some of the adjustments that needed to be made were difficult. Your weekend shopping traditions may have looked a little different too. While the Stay At Home Advisory asks citizens to limit gatherings with others and to be more aware of our interactions, it's not meant to prevent you from being out in public. Our local business community depends on sales from this time of year and they have implemented options to shop safely. Please continue to support them throughout the season. Here is a directory of restaurants and retail locations: <https://vocalforlocalmedinacounty.com/directories/>

This Friday, December 4, county leaders will have free boxes of non-medical, disposable face masks for any Medina County resident who needs them. [Click here to view](#) participating locations. You are encouraged to show your support for Mask Up Medina County Day by using the hashtag #MaskUpMedinaCounty on social media.



Thank you for everything you are doing, Medina County. Your efforts are not going unnoticed, but our current situation is telling us much more work needs to be done. Please keep masking up, keeping distance, and hanging in there. There will be an end in sight.

### **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/](http://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](http://www.Medinahealth.org) or visit the Ohio Department of Health at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).