

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Community Members:

With just a few days left in 2020, I can't help but reflect on what a journey this year has been. Working in public health, the pandemic has been our primary battle, but I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the many other hardships, natural disasters, and tragedies that occurred all over the world.

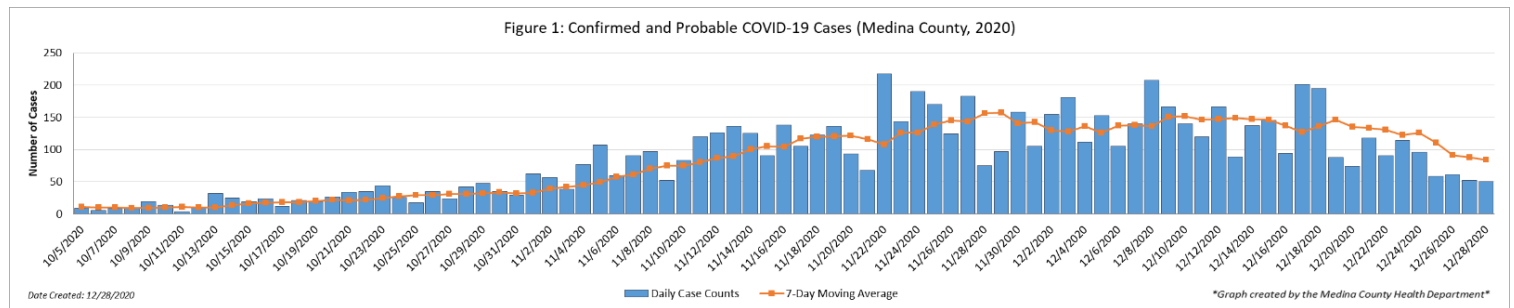


For the amount of struggles we've all endured, I'd like to think that this year has resulted in more good things than bad. 2020 has been challenging beyond measure, but it's also been a year of strength, growth, and community; especially here in Medina County. Speaking on behalf of my team at the Health Department, we thank everyone in Medina County for adjusting their lives, supporting small businesses, and helping others in need as we've navigated through these unprecedented times together.

The turn of the year won't magically bring an end to coronavirus, but 2021 does promise a brighter future ahead. As we head into the New Year, my commitment to you is the same. The Health Department will continue to work to protect the citizens of Medina County throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Looking ahead

Current data is reflecting encouraging news. There has been a decrease in new reported cases over the last several weeks. Holiday gatherings were a concern, but the trend as it stands shows that the adjustments made have helped to prevent a major holiday surge. We still have widespread illness across the county and there are still many sick people in our hospitals, but the decreasing numbers are a good sign that everything you are doing is paying off.



Why monitoring your symptoms is so important

Coronavirus is still widely spread throughout our community. Taking personal responsibility as citizens is important to continue to curb the spread of the virus. The mix of coronavirus, flu, and seasonal cold sharing similar symptoms makes it difficult to determine what illness someone has. If you have any symptoms, even mild ones, the Health Department is asking you to stay away from others and seek testing. Testing is so important because it not only lets you know what is happening in your body, but it helps us protect others and prevent potential outbreaks in places like your workplace, school, or congregate care settings. 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/>

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.