

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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Dear Community Members:

Over the last several weeks, Medina County has reported consistently low numbers, even some stretches of days with zero reported cases. This past week was a different story. We've reported a spike of 43 positive cases between June 22 and June 29. That is a 189.5% increase compared to the previous seven days. This is a significant jump, but what's more concerning is where the cases are coming from.

Medina has done a really good job from the beginning to slow the spread of coronavirus. Protective actions were taken seriously and the spread throughout the community was pretty slow compared to other areas. But the rise in cases is telling us that community spread has started to pick back up.

The Health Center at the Health Department began pop-up testing two weeks ago. Out of 74 people tested, three were reported positive, although about six test results are still pending. The Ohio National Guard just completed testing of staff members in four Medina County nursing homes. There were no positive Medina County cases. The 43 positive cases over the last week were sick individuals from various parts of our community. Of these new cases, the average case age is 40 years old.

We have a team doing contact notification and thanks to their quick action and the cooperativeness of our community members, we've been able to quickly determine where the illness may have come from to prevent those individuals from spreading it to others. We are working around the clock to stay ahead of this spike so we don't have an explosion of cases as we are seeing in other states.

I know we are all tired of coronavirus and anxious for this to be over. But we have to continue to take the virus seriously. The current mass gathering order is still limited to 10 people. Given the trajectory of the numbers we are seeing, the Governor will likely extend this order for the time being. These orders are in place not to impede on your family fun, but instead to protect your family. We're heading into another big holiday weekend which is another opportunity to either put each other at risk or protect one another.

If you're having a party, consider pruning your guest list to just a few family members or a couple families that you regularly interact with already. This will cut down on your risk of exposure. Wear a mask when you shop for supplies for your celebration and be mindful of the size of the groups you are in throughout the weekend. It's been a long few months and our community has worked so hard to get as close to normal as we can. Let's keep moving forward.

### **COVID-19 Testing Information**

If you're sick or think you have been exposed to someone who is sick, call our health center at 330-723-9688, option 1 or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for future pop-up testing dates throughout the summer.

### **Where can I find the latest information?**

[Medinahealth.org](http://Medinahealth.org) or [Coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://Coronavirus.ohio.gov) have the latest real-time information. You can find health and safety messages and information you can use to help make decisions that are best for you and your family. Every Friday, we update the data dashboard on our website to provide the most up-to-date insights on COVID-19. You can find that information here:

[www.medicinacountyohio.gov/community/current-outbreaks/data/](http://www.medicinacountyohio.gov/community/current-outbreaks/data/)