

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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Dear Community Members:

For the first time since July, Medina County has started to see a significant downward trend in disease burden throughout the county. We've moved from risk level 2/orange to risk level 1/yellow in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System for the first time. The level 1 designation means there is still active exposure and spread of coronavirus, but our situation has improved.

Outside of Medina County, many areas around the state seem to be on a similar path. Data continues to show that interventions like mask wearing and social distancing work, thanks to the hard decisions and great choices people have made to implement them. Carefully monitoring this data and learning from these interventions is what has allowed policy makers to start loosening restrictions and making recommendations to help us get back to normal while learning to live with the virus.

Last week, an order was signed permitting self-service food stations in **retail food establishments** to reopen, such as in convenience stores, gas stations, and grocery stores. This would include things like roller hot dogs or self-service donuts. Retail food establishments are separate from restaurants, bars, and banquet halls.

The order was an amended version of the previously signed Dine Safe order which reopened restaurants earlier this summer. All language in the order was the same, with just the addition of the Retail Food Establishment directive. At a first glance, the order looks like it lifted other dining restrictions, but unfortunately that is not the case. All current restaurant, bar, and banquet hall restrictions are still in place as of now.

I know this created some confusion and disappointment that the Dine Safe order is still in place. But as disease burden trends continue to improve and the threat of coronavirus continues to decline, we will start to see more restrictions lifted and we will more quickly get back to normal.

### Ohio Department of Health Orders

The full amended Dine Safe order can be found here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/directors-dine-safe-ohio-3rd-amended.pdf>.

The Ohio Department of Health Responsible RestartOhio sector specific guidance can be found here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/SelfService-Food-Stations-Retail-Food-Establishments.pdf>

### Thank you

Here in Medina County, you have done an incredible job to slow the spread of coronavirus. We started out at level 3/red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System just nine weeks ago and because of you, we have successfully brought our risk level down to the lowest level. I encourage you to continue your efforts and thank you for the hard work you and your families have done.

### 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 [Medinahealth.org](http://Medinahealth.org).