

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Community Members:

There's been quite a few new developments on the COVID-19 front in recent weeks. I wanted to share a few updates on these topics and hopefully answer any questions you may have.

Booster Shots

All three brands of the COVID-19 vaccine have been approved for booster doses. However, who is eligible and what brand/when to get it is a little confusing.

The recommendations allow for mix and match dosing, meaning your booster dose can be any of the three brands, regardless of what you received in your primary series. Some people may have a preference but all three offer protection from the virus.

If you received Pfizer or Moderna in your primary series, eligibility starts six months after your second dose. If you had Johnson and Johnson, you are eligible after two months. Anyone 18 and older who had Johnson and Johnson can get their booster, but there are still guidelines in place for those who had Pfizer and Moderna for populations at higher risk. Here is a great resource to help determine if you qualify: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/vaccine/booster-chart-2021.pdf>.

We have booster doses available through the Health Department and are offering them at all of our public vaccine clinics. Community members can make an appointment through the ArmorVax app or by calling the Health Department at 330-723-9688, option 2. A schedule of upcoming clinics is on our website here: <https://medinahealth.org/events/>

COVID-19 vaccines for children will also be available soon. There is not a date for this to begin yet, but the Health Department will have these available when they are approved. Children's Hospitals, pediatricians, and pharmacies will also have vaccine. The dosage will be different and the brand will only be Pfizer at this time. If you see a public health nurse, give her an extra smile. These days are getting more and more complex.

COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing

Medina County remains at a high incidence level meaning infection is still circulating throughout the community. Testing helps us in our disease investigation to understand trends and future predictions. If you're having symptoms it's very important to seek testing. We are having three drive through COVID-19 testing events next week, in addition to normal testing that takes place in the Health Center. Testing is open to the public but **appointments are required** by calling the Health Center at 330-723-9688, option 1.

Tuesday, November 2

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Wadsworth Fire Station #2
338 Weatherstone Dr., Wadsworth

Wednesday, November 3

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Brunswick Hills Fire Department
4875 Grafton Rd., Brunswick

Thursday, November 4

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Lafayette Safety Services Bldg.
6367 Technology Ln., Medina

What's Next?

With shorter days and colder weather ahead, this time of year can be tougher on some than others. Keep checking in with your loved ones and lend a helping hand where needed. I continue to ask everyone to recognize that there are different levels of comfort with joining gatherings and wearing a mask or not. Kindness will get us through, and the end to this is in sight.

As we move to more indoor activities, I encourage you to stay informed of the latest data and projections of what's coming down the pike on either the [Health Department](#) website, [ODH](#), or the [CDC](#). We are always available at the Health Department to answer questions by calling 330-723-9688, option 2 or by email through vaccine@medinahealth.org.

