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Medina County Moves to Orange in Ohio Public Health Advisory but Risk Still a Concern

MEDINA, OHIO, August 13, 2020 –Medina County has moved from risk level 3/red to risk level 2/orange in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. The level 2 designation means there is increased spread of COVID-19 throughout the community and a high degree of caution should be exercised.

Medina County Health Department wants to stress that the move down from level 3 to level 2 does not indicate a decrease in prevalence of COVID-19 in Medina County. Community spread and exposure of the virus are still of critical concern.

“The move from red to orange in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System is a step in the right direction for Medina County but we still have a long way to go,” says Krista Wasowski, Medina County Health Commissioner. “Everyone is aware of the need to be cautious when they are ill, but we are finding that many cases are now coming from spread during the infectious period before an individual starts showing symptoms.”

The time of viral exposure to symptom onset is typically four to six days. During the time period before symptoms arise, an infected individual could be contagious. If you or a member of your household are ill, the entire household should stay home and take precautions. The Health Department is also asking residents to stay home if they are waiting for a doctor’s visit, COVID-19 test, or a test result to decrease the chance of exposing others.

“No one is intentionally getting one another ill, but the nature of how COVID-19 spreads is why avoiding certain situations and alerting public health officials of anyone you may have come into contact with during an infectious period is so important,” the Health Commissioner continued. “Especially with schools and sports starting back up, we are asking all residents to be mindful of when and how they are interacting in the public so we can safely return to normal activities.”

Medina County Health Department acknowledges the efforts Medina County residents have made to limit exposure to COVID-19 and encourages residents to continue to follow the Ohio Department of Health’s recommended guidelines to maintain our risk level 2/orange designation:

- Wear a mask
- Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay home if you are sick, even with mild symptoms

- Maintain social distancing of at least six feet from non-household members
- Decrease in-person interactions with others and avoid contact with anyone considered high-risk
- Consider necessary travel only
- Follow good hygiene standards:
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Use hand sanitizer frequently
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
- Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits as much as possible

For more information about the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov. For more information or resources related to COVID-19 in Medina County, visit Medinahealth.org. Follow Medina County Health Department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

About Medina County Health Department

The public health mission is to prevent, promote, and protect health. You can trust the Health Department to keep you informed and provide reliable information on what you can do during this outbreak and beyond. The Medina County Health Department has protected your health since 1918. Services are partially supported by your property tax health levy. Equal opportunity provider.

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