



#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Medina County Becomes Risk Level 3/Red, Mandatory Facial Coverings in Effect**

**MEDINA, OHIO, July 23, 2020** –Medina County has moved from risk level 2/orange into risk level 3/red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. The level 3/red designation means that there is very high exposure and community spread of COVID-19 throughout the county. Residents are strongly encouraged to follow all current health orders while limiting activities as much as possible.

The Ohio Public Health Advisory System determines risk level based on seven data indicators. The indicators triggered by Medina County are new cases per capita, sustained increase in new cases, proportion of cases not congregate cases, and sustained increase in outpatient visits. A full list and descriptions of indicators can be [found here](#).

The red level designation comes the same day as the state-wide order requiring facial coverings to be worn at all times in the following settings:

- When not alone in an indoor location that is not a residence
- Outdoors but unable to consistently maintain six-foot or more social distance from people who are not household members
- Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, such as a taxi, a car service, or a private car used for ride-sharing

The full order with a more detailed list can be [found here](#) when available.

Medina County Health Department has added a new feature to their website for community members to submit concerns related to businesses and entities in violation of the order. This new feature can be [found here](#).

“Our staff is heavily focused on disease investigation, contact notification, and re-opening our businesses and schools. We will prioritize face mask violations, but our staff and resources are limited,” says Krista Wasowski, Medina County Health Commissioner. “As part of our efforts to enforce face masks, the Health Department is focusing on educating residents on the importance of taking personal responsibility and making decisions that will limit chances of spreading the virus.”

As with other areas of the state, Medina County is experiencing testing shortages. The Medina County Health Department is offering limited testing at this time and will expand those efforts based on

laboratory availability. In the absence of testing, Medina County Health Department advises individuals to self-monitor for symptoms and to stay home if any arise. Symptoms include, but are not limited to: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste and smell, sore throat, muscle pain, and chills. Mild cases mimicking summer colds or allergies have also been reported.

“Medina’s businesses and schools are dependent on the choices we make every day and by the way we are interacting in the public. I know everyone has been working hard, but the data shows we could be doing more,” the Health Commissioner continued. “You have the opportunity to determine the safety and economic health of our county. We are asking for everyone to make decisions that will help slow the spread of coronavirus and bring our risk level designation back down to orange.”

All residents are strongly urged to follow the Ohio Department of Health’s recommended guidelines to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and lower the county’s risk level:

- Conduct a daily health/symptoms self-evaluation and stay home if you are sick, even with mild symptoms
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 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](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). For more information or resources related to COVID-19 in Medina County, visit [Medinahealth.org](https://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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