



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Medina County Health Commissioner Calls on Citizens to Help Fight Pandemic**

**MEDINA, OHIO, November 6, 2020** –Medina County is experiencing an unprecedented surge in coronavirus cases, unlike anything yet reported during the pandemic.

The county dramatically triggered five indicators in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, raising its risk level from orange to red. Medina County has maintained its high incidence designation reporting over 228 positive coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents.

The increase in cases has placed a substantial burden on the Health Department’s workload. Health Commissioner Krista Wasowski is calling on all citizens to help in their efforts to control the spread throughout the community.

“With the amount of spread happening in the state right now, public health doesn’t have the manpower to call every positive case and walk them through the protocols they should be following,” said the Health Commissioner. “We need citizens to be proactive and informed on their own. If you’ve tested positive, have symptoms, or think you’ve been in contact with a positive case, please stay home. Take personal responsibility to not expose your friends or co-workers. The virus travels through people. And the only way the pandemic will end is to stop allowing the virus to pass to one another.”

If you’ve received a positive test result from your doctor, don’t wait for public health to call you to start isolation. The Health Commissioner is also asking citizens to think about who they were in close contact with in the 48 hours before symptoms started. Those are the people that should be notified of exposure. If you are not comfortable doing this, call the Health Department and the call to contacts can be made confidentially.

The Health Department is asking anyone receiving a positive test result who is in a high- risk group, a student or has a student in school, works in a sensitive occupation, or believes they are part of a cluster of cases to call 330-723-9688 option 2. Examples of sensitive occupations include first responders, health care workers in all settings, and food service personnel.

### **5 Things to Do If You're Sick or Have Been Exposed to Someone Who is Sick:**

- Keep your distance. Stay in your bedroom and use a bathroom separate from the one used by other members of your household, if possible. Wear a face mask when around others and try to stay at least 6 feet away. Have someone else in the home prepare meals and leave them outside your bedroom. Don't share bedding, towels, dishes, or water bottles with others. If something is shared, wash it with soap and water before each use by a separate person.
- Do not leave your home (unless necessary for medical care). Ask family, friends, or community groups to help with needs by leaving supplies outside your door.
- Limit visitors to those who are necessary. Have them wash their hands when they enter and leave; wear a face mask and stay at least 6 feet away. If they have symptoms of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, ask them not to come.
- Wipe down high-touch areas every day with a disinfectant. This includes doorknobs; light switches; phones; remote controls; appliance, sink, toilet, and cabinet handles; countertops, etc.
- Limit contact with pets. If you do interact with pets, wear a facemask, and wash your hands before and after.

### **Ways to prevent COVID-19:**

- Stay home if you're sick, even with mild symptoms
- Be mindful in your interactions with others. Limit your chances of exposure by maintaining social distancing of at least six feet from non-household members
- Wear a mask in public
- 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

For questions or concerns, please call 330-723-9688, option 2 or visit [MedinaHealth.org](https://www.MedinaHealth.org).

For more information about the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov). For more information or resources related to COVID-19 in Medina County, visit [Medinahealth.org](https://www.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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