

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

Throughout the last year, I've used this space as a way to connect with and inform citizens on the status of COVID-19 in Medina County. It's served as a way to deliver both good news and bad during many uncertain months. Looking back through past letters, they have served as a timeline of the challenges we have all endured. It's amazing to see how much could change from week to week.

As of today, the hard work community members have done to battle the COVID-19 pandemic has lessened the need for weekly updates. I will be moving to less frequent letters, but will keep in touch if there is anything new the community needs to be informed of. The Health Department's normal cadence of updating our website and communicating through social media will remain the same.

The big news this week is the Governor and Ohio Department of Health's decision to end most public health orders beginning tomorrow, June 2. Individuals will make decisions based on their comfort level moving forward. You may see private businesses or restaurants maintaining certain safety protocols while others take a different approach. The Health Department asks citizens to be understanding of others over the next several months as people make those adjustments. Medina County still has one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the state, reinforcing our confidence in moving away from restrictions and back into the normal rhythm of life.

Infection rate remains low, but illness is circulating. The virus is still here and people are still getting sick. The COVID-19 vaccine both reduces transmission and serious illness. If you haven't received yours yet, the Health Department has plenty of opportunities all summer long to get your shot. We are still scheduling appointments through ArmorVax, but you are always welcome to walk-in at any public clinic. Dates, times, and locations can be found on our website at www.medinahealth.org.

If you're a business, church, or other type of organization and have an interest in having a clinic at your location for either your staff or congregation, it's not too late. Give us a call or email the Health Department at vaccine@medinahealth.org.

If you do find yourself sick or think you may have been exposed to someone who is sick, please seek testing. Medina County Health Department offers at-home test kits, rapid testing on-site, and PCR testing depending on your needs. Testing is available Monday through Friday by calling the Health Center Division at 330-723-9688, option 1. A medical professional can help you determine the type of test that is right for your situation. Evening appointments are available on Tuesdays.

It has been a long fifteen months of adjustments, worry, and hope. I hope you and your loved ones take time for yourselves this summer. My wish for all residents is that you are able to reconnect with friends and family, whether that is on a vacation, in your backyards, or at one of the many planned area events this summer. Getting back to a favorite hobby or activity is possible at this point, and you should have confidence that these can be done safely during these summer months.

Where can I find the latest information?

Questions or concerns? Visit us online at www.medinahealth.org, call our office at 330-723-9688, option 2, or send us an email at vaccine@medinahealth.org. For other COVID-19-related information, visit:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>