



PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

COVID-19 Prevention Directives & Advisories for Madison County

November 23, 2020

Over the last week more than 250 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported to Madison County Public Health with a single day increase of over 50 new cases reported on Sunday. These totals do not include any results from the testing clinic at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center on Friday, November 20. During the last two weeks cases in schools have increased by five times and quarantined contacts have quadrupled. Outpatient visits, emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and Intensive Care Units in our region are being taxed like never before during this pandemic. Based on current data, Madison County will likely be placed on the “watch list” for being elevated to Level 4 (purple) on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS). Every way that we measure the spread of COVID-19, and corresponding risk to residents, is significantly increasing. This is especially foreboding as we are walking into the winter holiday season. With no recovery time between holidays, COVID-19 is likely to spread in a way that will sicken hundreds of residents, push the healthcare system to the limit, and cause tragic and unnecessary loss of life.

In addition to all state orders, the following directives and advisories are effective for Madison County until January 1, 2021 unless otherwise extended:

- 1. Schools are directed to close their buildings to students and activities and, therefore, will use virtual/remote learning. School buildings may remain open to staff at the discretion of school leadership. Schools will publish information about their virtual learning plans for caregivers.**
- 2. School sports, club sports, travel sports, and other school activities are suspended.**
- 3. Community festivals, events, and gatherings are suspended.**
- 4. Businesses and government offices are strongly advised to allow staff to work from home and implement teleworking and video conferencing policies wherever practical.**
- 5. Churches and houses of worship are strongly advised not to meet in person and to use online or “drive-in” options.**
- 6. Community, governmental, social, and similar organizational meetings are strongly advised to be held virtually.**
- 7. Residents are strongly advised not to gather with people outside their own household.**

COVID-19 is spreading in Madison County at an uncontrolled rate. Madison County Public Health is calling upon every resident to do their part during this pandemic: stay home except for essential activities, wear your mask properly, and do not gather in groups.

Get your news from trustworthy sources during the pandemic. For daily updates, please visit covid.madisonph.org and coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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Our Mission

We are committed to monitoring and responding to our community's health and wellness needs through innovative services, education, collaboration, and compassionate care.