



Public Information Release

Stay Safe Ohio Update

May 5, 2020

Wearing cloth face coverings is a considerate and effective public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Madison County. Public Health experts recommend that everyone wear a cloth face covering when going out in public as the state begins rolling out the Responsible Restart Ohio plan. Face coverings help protect people around you by catching droplets carrying virus particles that may come out of your nose or mouth.

The virus that causes COVID-19 illness spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with one another. COVID-19 spreads very easily from person to person and small droplets containing the virus can remain suspended in the air for hours. Social distancing increases the physical space between people (recommended at least 6 feet) to help limit the spread. By combining face coverings and social distancing, we significantly slow the spread of the virus.

“In public health we always use evidence-based practices to form and support our decisions. There is still a lot we don’t know about this virus,” said Health Commissioner Chris Cook. “We are only three months into the pandemic in the United States. We are using best practices from past experiences to protect the community. I am confident we have made the right decisions in Ohio.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 25% of people with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms. There are Madison County residents who had no symptoms at all but tested positive for the virus. “When people are sick, I like to think they do the right thing and stay home. But people who are asymptomatic go about their normal lives – and what they are doing is spreading the illness to their friends and family without knowing it,” said Cook. “This is why the Stay Safe Ohio Order, the use of face coverings, and mass gatherings limits are still in place. We all have a job to do – and that’s to be considerate and help each other during this pandemic.”

A cloth face covering should be worn whenever you go out in public. Coverings should fit snugly, cover your nose, mouth, and chin, and be made of fabric you cannot see through. Do not place a face covering on children under 2 years old, on people who have trouble breathing, or those who cannot remove it themselves. For ideas on how to make a face covering with a t-shirt or bandana visit covid.madisonph.org.

“Face coverings will catch droplets that can make other people sick,” Cook said. “It’s that simple. Wear a face covering for your parents, your friends, and for your community.”

Get accurate local data on our website at covid.madisonph.org and on social media (@madisoncountyPH). Connect with us at 740-852-3065 or at info@madisonpublichealth.org. If you are concerned about your mental health, call the COVID CareLine at 1-800-720-9616 to talk to with a licensed mental health professional from 8am to 8pm, 7 days/week.

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Health Commissioner

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