



Public Information Release

Coronavirus Update for Madison County

March 31, 2020

Madison County Public Health (MCPH) is working on Coronavirus (COVID-19) response every single day. Details regarding our office service changes, issued State orders, and the most up-to-date information and guidance surrounding COVID-19, can be found on our website at covid.madisonph.org.

Here are the latest local facts and advice about COVID-19:

1. **There are seven confirmed cases in Madison County.** Ages range from 27 to 76 years old with a median age of 38 years. Two individuals are hospitalized. We continue to urge people to stay home and self-isolate as much as possible. Public health nurses are notifying and quarantining close contacts of all confirmed COVID-19 cases. If you have not been contacted by health department staff, you are not considered to have come in close contact with these individuals.
2. **Please do your part - stay home.** Experts from MCPH, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expect the number of cases nationwide to continue to increase. To slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and across Ohio, it is absolutely critical that you stay at home as much as possible. COVID-19 cannot spread to people it cannot reach.
3. **Understand the statewide Stay at Home Order.** Contact your employer if you have questions about reporting to work. You are allowed to grocery shop, receive medical care for both you and your pets, exercise outdoors (but not at group places like playgrounds), and care for others. When performing essential activities, always use social distancing and stay at least 6 feet from others. If you are sick, stay home.
4. **Know what to do if you feel sick.** If you cannot manage your symptoms with over-the-counter medicine, we suggest you call your doctor. They can assess your symptoms over the phone and decide if you need to be seen in person. Stay home for 14 days if you have a fever or cough you can manage at home with medication. You should now also stay home for headache, body aches, diarrhea, lack of appetite, abdominal pain, and vomiting. If symptoms last longer than 14 days, stay home for at least 1 week after symptoms stop.



5. **Understand the local facts about testing.** Testing for COVID-19 is not widely available in Ohio and is limited to those who are very sick and are high risk. Right now testing in Madison County is for people who are hospitalized with a severe respiratory illness. Tests must be ordered, collected, and sent to a lab by a doctor.
6. **Prevention is still the best tool for COVID-19 across Ohio.** Personal choices, such as staying home and frequent handwashing, will determine how fast this virus spreads. Community transmission of COVID-19 in Ohio is actively happening.
7. **Don't panic.** We know this is an overwhelming time for many. Take care of your mental health. Call, FaceTime, video chat, or write a letter to your loved ones. Go outside and enjoy the weather. If you are concerned about your mental health please call the Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990. We are all in this together!
8. **Reconsider all travel.** Only essential travel is permitted under the current Stay at Home order in Ohio. Current travel guidance can be found at [cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) and travel.state.gov.
9. **Donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).** There are PPE shortages throughout the United States. If you are a medical professional, business, or factory who has extra PPE due to a change in work requirements, PLEASE donate your PPE for our healthcare workers on the front lines.

Madison County needs: surgical masks (ear-loop or ties), N95 masks, latex gloves, protective clothing gowns, and goggles/face shields. To donate call Madison County EMA at (740) 852-4200 between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.

MCPH does not diagnose, test, or treat COVID-19. If you believe you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have come in contact with a positive COVID-19 case, you should CALL your doctor. People with mild illness are encouraged to stay home and care for themselves. It is strongly discouraged to show up to your healthcare provider office or hospitals without calling first, which can risk the health of others. Emergency rooms should only be used for immediate life-threatening conditions. If you have an emergency, always call 911.

MCPH will continue to provide accurate local data on their website at covid.madisonph.org and on social media (@madisoncountyPH). If you have questions about COVID-19 you can contact Madison County Public Health at 740-852-3065 or at info@madisonpublichealth.org. You may also call ODH COVID-19 Hotline for questions at 1-833-4ASK-ODH.

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