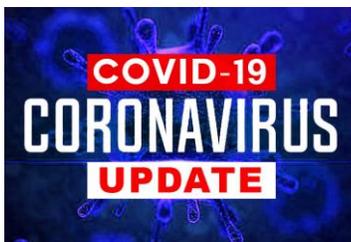




*Our Mission: To improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion and protection.*



### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

Public Health along with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are closely monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) global pandemic.

As of November 30, 2020, the United States reported **13,400,000** cases with **267,000** deaths. Ohio reported **414,432** cases with **6,399** deaths. Montgomery County reported **22,196** cases with **243** deaths.

For the latest U.S. case count, [visit the CDC's website](#).

For the latest Ohio and Montgomery County case counts, [visit the ODH Coronavirus website](#).

### Montgomery County Residents Advised to Stay at Home to The Greatest Extent Possible

On November 18, the Montgomery County Board of Health passed a resolution issuing a [“Stay at Home Health Advisory”](#) for all of Montgomery County. Effective immediately, it **advises all residents to stay at home to the greatest extent possible** due to the significant increase in COVID-19 cases in Montgomery County.

“Public Health has observed a significant increase in community spread of COVID-19 across Montgomery County,” said Montgomery County Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper. “In addition, there has been an increase in infected individuals seeking medical care and outbreaks in multiple sectors, including businesses, congregate care / living facilities, daycares, universities, and K-12 schools in Montgomery County. We all need to work together as a community to break the cycle of spread in the Miami Valley and throughout the State of Ohio.”

***Residents are advised to only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs such as seeking medical care, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, picking up food, or receiving deliveries.***

Additionally, Public Health advises against:

- a. Attending social gatherings, and scheduling events designed to bring people together.
- b. Traveling in and out of the state.

Residents of Montgomery County are *advised to limit holiday celebrations this year to people in your immediate household and not risk gathering with others.* Traveling, hosting guests indoors, and sharing food, utensils and plates all pose significant risks. Traditional private gatherings with family and friends can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Residents are *strongly advised to not invite guests into their homes,* unless they are essential workers providing services such as plumbing, heating or electrical work. During such service, all workers and residents should wear masks and maintain as much distance as possible.

This advisory shall remain in effect until December 17, 2020.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Planning; Healthcare Providers Can Enroll to Become Vaccine Providers**

In anticipation of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Governor's Pandemic Recovery and Response Leadership Team has created a Vaccine Preparedness Office to coordinate a smooth and swift distribution and vaccination process statewide. We are closely monitoring guidance from CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the status of each vaccine candidate and are hopeful that one or multiple vaccines might be authorized in the coming weeks and months.

Once a vaccine has been authorized, Ohio expects to receive shipments allocated by the federal government with guidance to first vaccinate high-risk populations including healthcare workers and older adults. In preparation for receiving a vaccine, Ohio has launched an inter-agency working team in collaboration with partners to create and execute a comprehensive vaccination program. A recorded webinar about the Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Program and how you can participate is available at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/recording/7780950630613664012>.

ODH has launched a provider enrollment process with the goal of registering all interested vaccine providers in the coming weeks. A "job aide" is attached explaining how to complete a Vaccination Provider Program application, as well as an enrollment checklist.

CDC offers an FAQ about COVID-19 vaccination at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

### **CDC Reverts to Previous Guidance Advising COVID-19 Testing for Asymptomatic Individuals**

CDC has reverted to previous guidance regarding testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection, stating that "Due to the significance of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, this guidance further reinforces the need to test asymptomatic persons, including close contacts of a person with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection." CDC previously announced that it was up to state and local public health officials and health providers to decide whether close contacts of individuals with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection should be tested.

### **CDC on Retesting Individuals Previously Diagnosed with COVID-19**

At this time, there is limited information about reinfections with SARS-CoV-2. For individuals previously diagnosed with COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, CDC does not recommend retesting within three months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection. For individuals who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the three months after the date of initial symptom onset, if an alternative etiology cannot be identified by a provider, then the person may warrant retesting; consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts is recommended. As a reminder, serologic (antibody) testing should not be used to establish the presence or absence of SARS-CoV-2 infection or reinfection, and the "gold standard" for clinical diagnostic detection of SARS-CoV-2 remains RT-PCR.

### **Promoting Importance of Child Well Visits and Vaccination During COVID-19 Pandemic**

In Ohio and across the country, there has been a decrease in child well visits and vaccinations administered to protect against diseases like measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, and polio. The Ohio Department of Medicaid will launch several initiatives to encourage childhood immunizations among its members. These efforts will be aimed at increasing safe, convenient access to vaccinations by providing mobile vaccination clinics and reducing administrative barriers for providers. A new public service announcement has been developed to stress the importance of childhood vaccines. The spot is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkqjzW-Wpc0>.

### **Long-Term Health Effects of COVID-19**

CDC is actively working to learn more about the range of short-and long-term health effects associated with COVID-19. As the pandemic unfolds, we are learning that many organs besides the lungs are affected by COVID-19 and there are many ways the infection can affect someone's health. One of the

health effects that CDC is closely watching and working to understand is heart damage. Click [here](#) for more information

**The Public Health Clinic located at 117 S. Main St. in the Reibold Building is closed due to a staffing shortage caused by the possible exposure to COVID-19 in its workforce. The clinic will remain closed until Thursday, December 7.** Contact tracing for staff that may have been exposed is currently taking place. At this time, it is believed no member of the public has been exposed, however, cleaning of the facility will take place before the clinic re-opens. Public Health will contact those individuals who have appointments during this time, so they may reschedule.

**Call 937-225-4550 to schedule or reschedule an appointment.**

As a reminder, Public Health's specialty clinics are limited to those services and ***cannot provide COVID-19 diagnosis, testing, or treatment. If you have been tested for COVID-19, contact your physician to obtain the results.***



### **Safely Celebrate the Holidays During the Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been [stressful](#) and isolating for many people. Gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.

Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking [measures](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread. If you decide to get together with others, please keep the gathering small (10 people or fewer) and stick to the basics:

- **Everyone should wear a mask who can safely do so.**
- **Make sure everyone washes their hands frequently and uses hand sanitizer.**
- **Whenever feasible, stay 6 feet away from one another.**
- **Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces.**
- **If you are sick, remain home and stay away from others as much as possible.**

The following people should not attend in-person holiday gatherings:

#### **People with or exposed to COVID-19**

Do not host or participate in any in-person gatherings if you or anyone in your household

- Has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has [not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others](#)
- Has [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- Is waiting for COVID-19 [viral test](#) results

- May have been [exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days](#)
- Is at [increased risk of severe illness](#) from COVID-19

Do not host or attend gatherings with anyone who has COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

For a guide with specific tips to celebrate the holidays safely, click [here](#).



### World AIDS Day is December 1

World AIDS Day (WAD) is a time for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with the virus, and remember those who have died. The 2020 WAD theme, **Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact**, is especially poignant this year as our HIV community has been newly challenged by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has not only forced us to adapt our response to HIV/AIDS in communities to ensure continuity of services, but also reinforced the urgency of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. and around the world.

Montgomery County Health Commissioner, Jeff Cooper states, “The key to ending HIV in our communities begins with eliminating stigma and discrimination, and making sure people have access to testing, treatment and prevention options. While testing and treatment are critical, we must also work to remove barriers that keep people from accessing these vital services.”

In 2019, there were approximately 38 million people across the globe with HIV/AIDS. Of these, 36.2 million were adults and 1.8 million were children. An estimated 1.7 million individuals worldwide acquired HIV in 2019, marking a 23% decline in new HIV infections since 2010.

In 2019, Montgomery County reported 1,568 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection and 778 living with a diagnosis of AIDS. African Americans continue to represent the highest number of HIV infections, especially men who have sex with men. Stigma and discrimination continue to be barriers, and many people still do not have access to confidential HIV testing as well as other essential services.

The good news is community-based and self-testing have opened doors to helping people know their HIV status, and attention has been placed on the need for continued community support. **Do you know your status?** The CDC recommends the following:

- All adults and adolescents from ages 13 to 64 should be tested at least once for HIV.
- All pregnant women should be tested for HIV along with other sexually transmitted diseases.

- Sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from more frequent HIV testing (every 3 to 6 months).
- Anyone who has unsafe sex or shares injection drug equipment should get tested for HIV at least once a year.

For testing at the Public Health Clinic, call 937-225-4550. For more testing sites near you, call 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) or visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov>



### Media Opportunities:

- 11/3/2020 – WROU – COVID-19
- 11/3/2020 – DDN – COVID-19
- 11/4/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- 11/4/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- 11/5/2020 – ALL – COVID-19 Media Briefing
- 11/6/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Schools
- 11/8/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Masks
- 11/8/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Masks
- 11/9/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Schools
- 11/9/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Schools
- 11/9/2020 – DDN – PFAS in Wells
- 11/10/2020 – DDN – COVID-19
- 11/10/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Pop-Up
- 11/10/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Pop-Up
- 11/12/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Gyms
- 11/12/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- 11/12/2020 – DDN – PFAS in Wells
- 11/12/2020 – DDN – Flu Shots
- 11/12/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Holidays
- 11/16/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Retail Masks
- 11/16/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Weddings & Funerals
- 11/16/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Retail Masks
- 11/16/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Vaccines
- 11/17/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 In-Home Workers
- 11/17/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Mask Mandate
- 11/17/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Thanksgiving
- 11/17/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Holiday Stress
- 11/17/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Churches
- 11/18/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Stay at Home Health Advisory
- 11/18/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Stay at Home Health Advisory
- 11/19/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19
- 11/19/2020 – ABC 22 – COVID-19 Restaurants

11/19/2020 – WDTN – COVID-19 Level 4  
 11/19/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Level 4  
 11/19/2020 – DDN – COVID-19 Face Masks  
 11/23/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Thanksgiving  
 11/23/2020 – ABC 22 – COVID-19 Stay at Home Health Advisory  
 11/25/2020 – Fox 45 – COVID-19 Schools  
 11/25/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19  
 11/30/2020 – Ohio Capital Journal – COVID-19  
 11/30/2020 – WHIO – COVID-19 Weather Impact  
 11/30/2020 – Newsweek – COVID-19 University of Dayton

**ALERT: COVID-19 Cases Are Rising**

**Stay home when possible.**

**Wear a mask over your mouth AND nose.**

**Avoid crowds. Stay 6 feet away from others.**

**Wash your hands often.**

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call Public Health at 1-937-225-6217 or the Ohio Department of Health at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Submitted by:  
**Jeff Cooper, MS, Health Commissioner** and **Michael Dohn, MD MSc, Medical Director**

