

October 23, 2020

## For Immediate release

### Miami County Public Health COVID-19 Update

**Miami County** – Miami County is currently at an Orange #2 COVID-19 Risk Level. This is due to Miami County meeting the criteria for 2 of the 7 Alert Indicators:

- 50+ cases /100,000 population within last 2 weeks
- More than 50% of new cases are from non-congregate care living

This risk level indicates increased exposure and spread of COVID-19. It is advised that community members exercise a high degree of caution and follow all current health orders. Limit events over ten people and non-essential activities as much as possible. In addition to the 2 indicators met, Miami County is listed as a High Incidence area. This means that a county is flagged as high incidence when more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents over the last 2 weeks.

For more information on the Public Health Advisory System visit:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

Since October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, there have been 312 new COVID-19 cases, 25 new hospitalizations and 2 new deaths reported. This brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in Miami County to 2028, with 1760 confirmed cases and 268 probable cases, 182 hospitalizations and 58 deaths, with 1566 presumed recovered.

Halloween is next week, and many communities have trick or treat activities planned. MCPH wants everyone to stay safe and encourages everyone in the community to be cautious when participating in these community events. The Ohio Department of health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have created guidance for Halloween activities. For more information visit:



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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html>

Some important tips for parents and community members participating in Trick-or-Treat include:

- First and foremost, if you are sick, or if children or if anyone in the house is sick, don't go out or pass out candy.
- Wear a mask/face covering and stay 6 feet away from anyone not from your household.
- For those passing out candy: Keep activities outdoors. Pass out candy outside. Try to avoid letting children pick their own candy out of a bowl/common container. Be creative in how to pass out candy. Set up a table with individually placed treats on it so children can pick up just 1 piece. A fun idea I saw was making pirate x's on the sidewalk to help with people staying 6 feet apart. congregate.
- Parents-try to limit the number of houses kids go to. If a costume has a mask, it is not a substitute for a cloth mask. Don't put a costume mask over a cloth mask. Just forgo the costume mask. If you see other people at a house, wait until they are gone before going up. If you see a group already at someone's door/candy station wait until they are gone before going up.
- As with every Halloween, go through your child's candy before they eat any of it. Do eat anything that's been opened or appears to be tampered with. This year it is a good idea to wipe off treat wrappers with a sanitizing wipe. Never wipe off the treat itself, just the wrapper.

Election Day will soon be upon us which will mean new obstacles for us during a pandemic. If someone is isolating or quarantining, it will be more difficult to exercise their right to vote on that day. There are numerous ways to vote. Miami county community members can vote early at the Miami County Courthouse, an absentee ballot by mail, or in-person voting on election day. Absentee ballots can be requested until noon on Saturday, October 31, 2020. However, election officials strongly encourage voters to request their ballot no later than Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Absentee ballots can be mailed, or they may also drop off their ballot at the board of election's drop box without having to leave their vehicle.



If community members are unable to vote by mail, the Board of Elections is offering a curbside voting at Miami County Court House. Voters must call ahead at 937-440-3900 and will be required to provide identification.



MCPH continues working to keep the community safe and informed as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in Miami County.

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