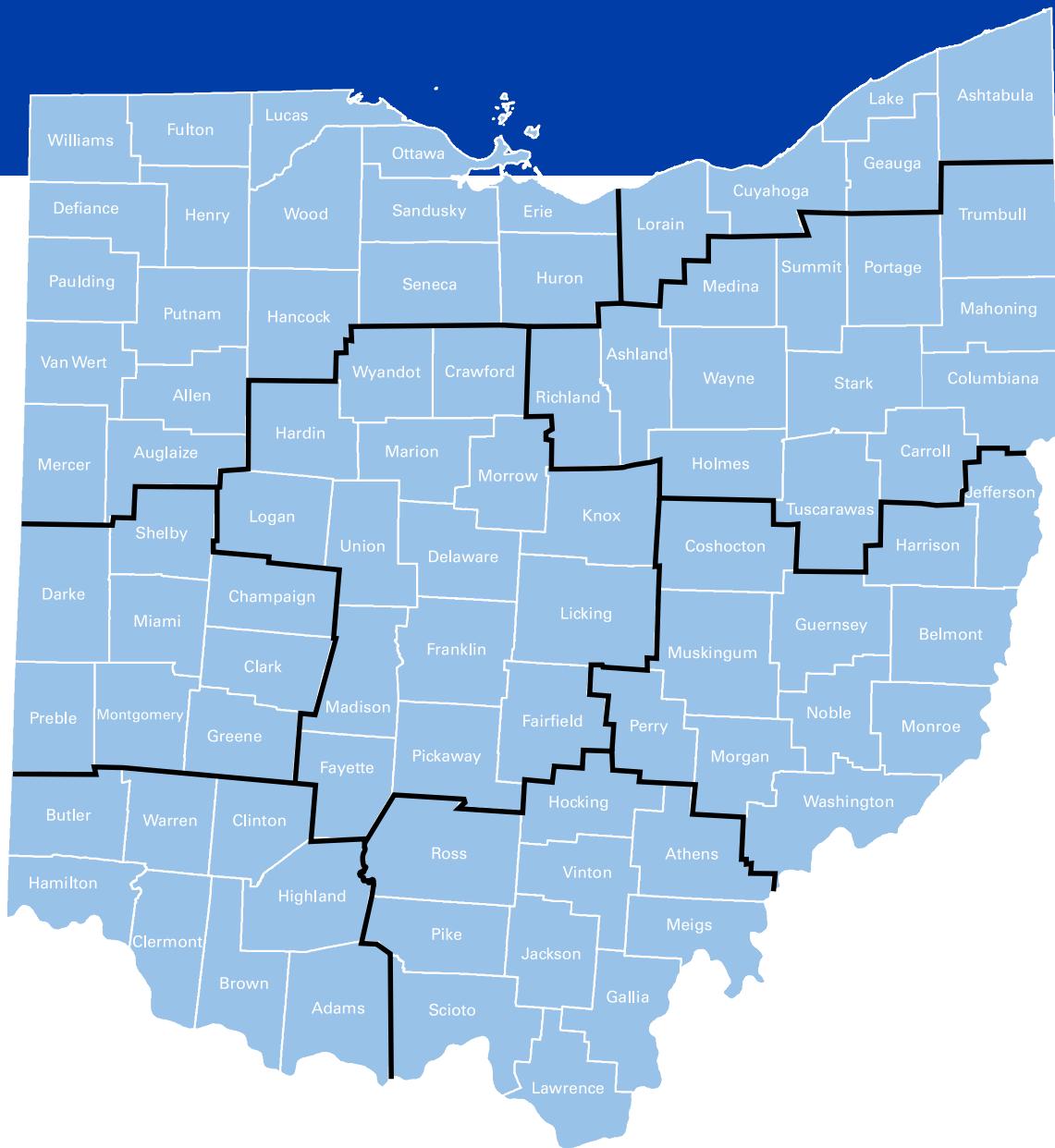


COVID-19 Resource Guide FOR LOCAL LEADERS



LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

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Overview: Ohioans Helping Ohioans

As Ohio communities continue to face the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that they have the resources they need to help keep residents safe.

One of those resources is the "[Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#)."

The Advisory System is not meant to instill fear or point fingers. COVID-19 knows no boundaries, and we must all pull together to assist threatened communities in any way we can. What the system does do is give communities the information they need to protect themselves, prepare, and respond to the potential suffering this disease can bring. This guide offers specific resources that can help communities create and enforce prevention and safety plans, assist residents with health, financial, and other needs, and save lives.

In these pages, you will find details on the public health decision-making and enforcement structure and state laws allowing state and local authorities to act during epidemics and pandemics; information on various state-level programs available to assist in pandemic preparation and response; and educational resources.

Ohioans have a long history of pulling together, tapping into our resourcefulness, and rising above in times of illness, hardship, grief, and disaster. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been no different.

Please use this guide as a tool as we continue to help one another and persevere until we are on the other side of this crisis.

We are all in this together, Ohio.

What is the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System?

The Ohio Public Health Advisory System was developed to provide local health departments, community leaders, and the public with specific county-level data on the severity of COVID-19 spread in the counties in which they live. This arms them with the information they need to determine what measures may be necessary to prevent illness and death and preserve healthcare resources.

The system assigns an alert level number (1 to 4) and color (orange, yellow, red, or purple) to each county based on the number and type of elevated risk factors/indicators revealed in the data. Epidemiologists analyze the data and release their findings weekly. **More specific guidelines for the public on all alert details on risk factor/indicator tipping points can be found below.**



Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

LEVEL 1-4 REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL HEALTH ORDERS

Over 60% of Ohioans are considered high-risk based on [CDC guidance](#). High-risk individuals* are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19, including following higher risk level guidance outlined below. Consult a doctor about your risk.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic.** Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-household members. Wear face coverings in public, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain. Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers. Avoid traveling to high-risk areas. Follow good hygiene standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer frequently. Avoid touching your face. Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow). Symptom self-evaluation monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Level 1. Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk. High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions. Decrease in-person interactions outside household. Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Levels 1-2. Decrease in-person interactions with others. Consider necessary travel only. Limit attending gatherings of any number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Level 1-3. Stay at home/necessary travel only.

Households should assume that if one person is sick every person living there is as well and should take appropriate measures to control the spread, which should include self-quarantining and contacting a doctor.

Click here for public health orders and sector specific guidance

The public health orders in place serve as the baseline for what counties must do to combat this disease. If local officials determine it's necessary to implement additional safeguards, they can and should benefit everyone.

*Per CDC, among adults the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. People of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness: chronic kidney disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; weakened immune system from solid organ transplant; obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher); serious heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies; Sickle cell disease; and Type 2 diabetes mellitus. Children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children. People who need to take extra precautions include racial and ethnic minority groups; people experiencing homelessness; women who are pregnant or breastfeeding; people with disabilities; and people with developmental and behavioral disorders. More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>.

**Per CDC, symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list of symptoms can change as more is learned about COVID-19, and CDC updates this list on its website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

7/1/2020



Department of Health



Development Services Agency

coronavirus.ohio.gov

Summary of Alert Indicators

INDICATOR	WHAT IT TELLS US
1 New cases per capita	Flagged if greater than 50 cases per 100,000 residents over the last two weeks. Allows for counties with different population sizes to be appropriately compared.
2 Sustained increase in new cases	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 consecutive days in overall cases by onset date over the last 3 weeks. Reflects disease spread in the population.
3 Proportion of cases not in a congregate setting	Flagged if proportion of cases that are not in a congregate setting goes over 50% in at least one of the last 3 weeks. Used as indicator of greater risk of community spread.
4 Sustained increase in Emergency Department (ED) visits for COVID-like illness	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 consecutive days in the number of visits to the emergency department with COVID-like illness or a diagnosis over the last 3 weeks. Provides information on the health care seeking behavior of the population and a sense of how concerned residents are about their current health status and the virus.
5 Sustained increase in outpatient visits for COVID-like illness	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 consecutive days in the number of people going to a health care provider with COVID symptoms who then receive a COVID confirmed or suspected diagnosis over the last 3 weeks. Provides information on the health care seeking behavior of the population and a sense of how concerned residents are about their current health status and the virus.
6 Sustained increase in new COVID hospital admissions	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 consecutive days in the number of new hospitalizations due to COVID over the last 3 weeks. Important indicator of hospital burden and disease severity.
7 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed occupancy	Flagged if percentage of the occupied ICU beds in each region goes above 80% for at least three days in the last week, AND more than 20% of ICU beds are being used for COVID-19 positive patients for at least three days in the last week. Provides an indication of the capacity available to manage a possible surge of severely ill patients.

ADDITIONAL MEASUREMENTS

8* Rate of new cases from contacts of known cases (still under development)	Portion of cases that can be linked to known transmission chains. Indicates the extent of community transmission and containment.
9* Tests per capita (still under development)	The number of COVID-19 tests performed per 100,000 people per day. Provides an indication as to whether there is enough testing to detect most of cases in the population.
10* Percent positivity (still under development)	The percentage of COVID-19 tests performed for residents of a county that are positive. Important indicator for determining whether the trajectory in cases is related to changes in testing patterns.

*Data not yet available

COUNTY ALERT LEVELS

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.
0-1 Indicators met; or low incidence threshold of under 10 cases per 100,000 over a two-week period.	2-3 Indicators met.	4-5 Indicators met; or if previously at Level 3 , a county stays at Level 3 until it drops below the high incidence threshold of over 100 cases per 100,000 over a two-week period.	6-7 Indicators met for two consecutive weeks. The county will remain at Level 3 and be on a watch list the first week.

As of 7/29/2020



Department of Health



Development Services Agency

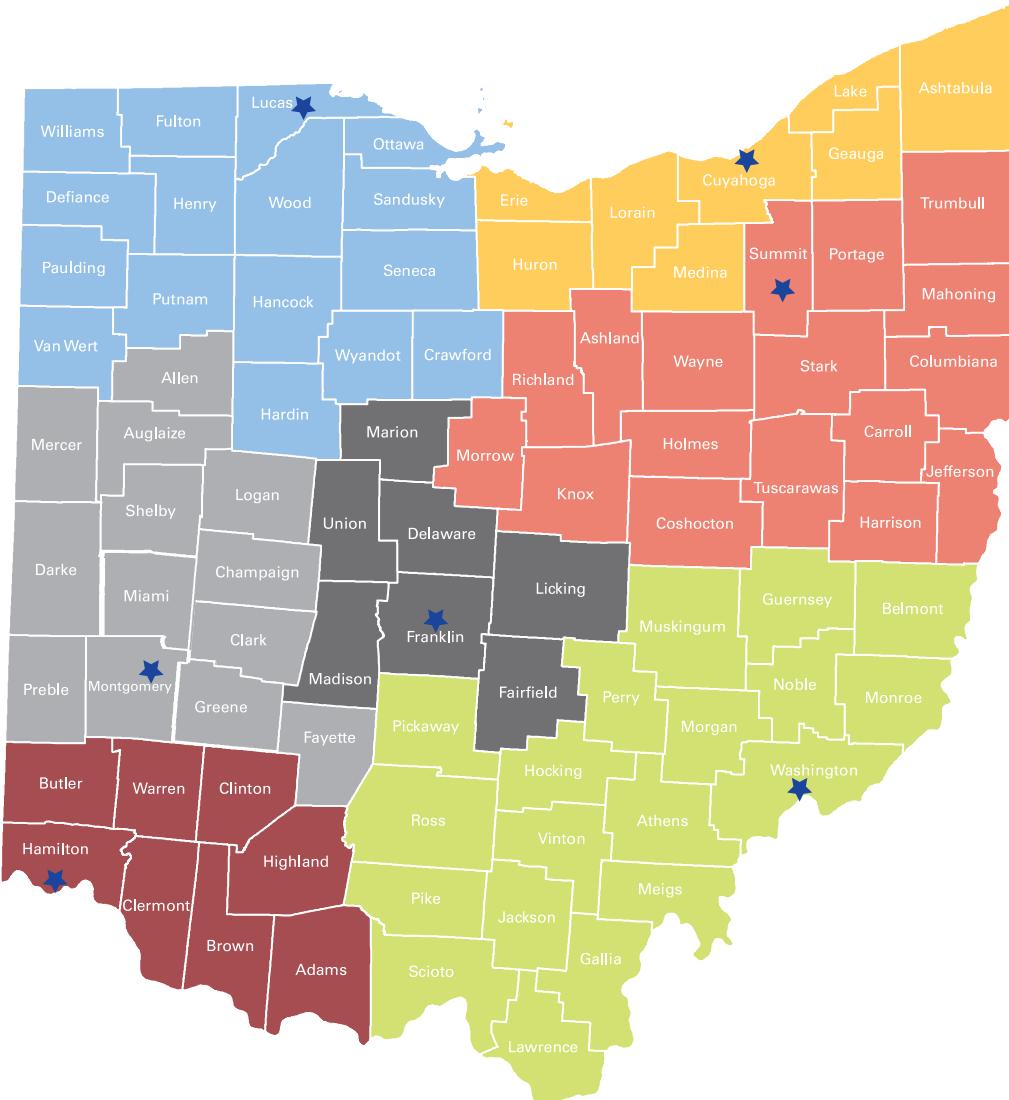
coronavirus.ohio.gov

Governor Mike DeWine's regional liaisons serve to connect local elected officials, community leaders, and constituents across Ohio to the DeWine Husted Administration. If you are not sure who to contact, they are a great resource to get you connected to the right place.



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Governor's Regional Liaisons



Northwest

Christa Luttmann
(419) 245-2544
Christa.Luttmann@governor.ohio.gov
Lisa.Martin@development.ohio.gov

Western

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Lisa.Martin@development.ohio.gov

Southwest

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Jason.Gloyd@governor.ohio.gov
Lisa.Martin@development.ohio.gov

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Felicia.King@governor.ohio.gov

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Elizabeth.Goodwin@governor.ohio.gov
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(740) 373-5150
Bonnie.Ward@governor.ohio.gov
Julia.Wharton@development.ohio.gov

Central

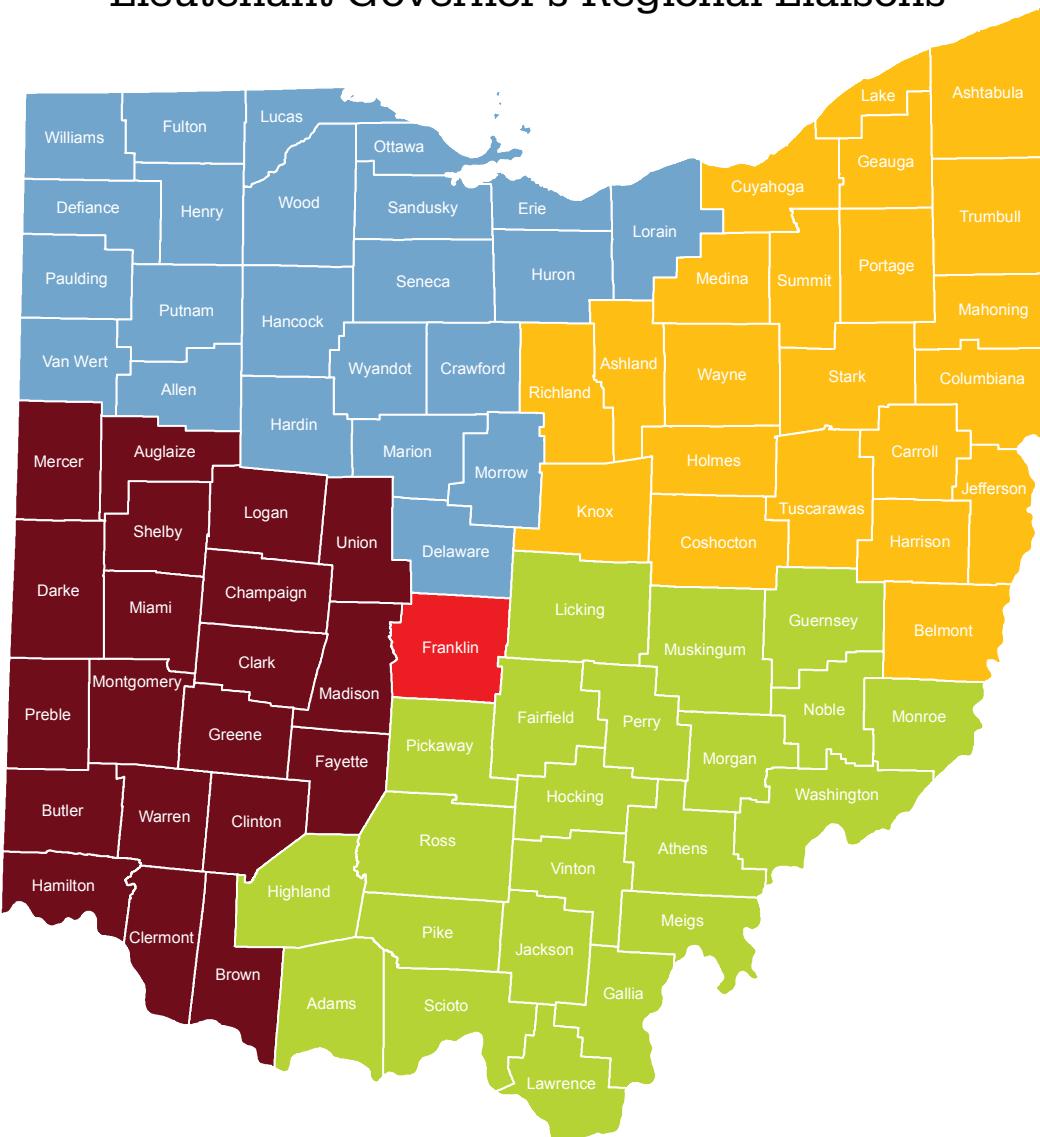
Kathleen Young-Riley
(614) 687-1093
Kathleen.Young@governor.ohio.gov

Lt. Governor Jon Husted's regional liaisons serve to connect local elected officials, community leaders, and constituents across Ohio to the DeWine Husted Administration. If you are not sure who to contact, they are a great resource to get you connected to the right place.



JON HUSTED
L.T. GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Lieutenant Governor's Regional Liaisons



Northwest

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Luanne.Cooke@governor.ohio.gov

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Monica.Blasdel@governor.ohio.gov

Central

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Katie.Hegarty@governor.ohio.gov

Southwest

Katie Hegarty
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Katie.Hegarty@governor.ohio.gov

Southeast

Bryn Stepp
(614) 560-4827
Bryn.Stepp@governor.ohio.gov

COVID-19 Fast Facts

Remember the basics:

- Wear a mask when you are out in public, or not with people who live in your household.
- Keep your distance.
- Wash your hands often.
- Keep your building well-ventilated.
- Stay home if you are not well.
- Avoid travel to areas with high spread of COVID-19 and take appropriate precautions if you must.
- Cooperate with your local public health officials if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to somebody who has COVID-19.

If you are in a high incidence county:

- Reconsider hosting or attending gatherings of any size-- this includes with friends and family.
- Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars if you are in a high-risk category for COVID-19.
- Avoid non-essential activities outside of your home.
- Reduce in-person shopping; order online or curbside pick-up.
- Work remotely if possible.
- Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce mask mandate and other guidelines.

Employers should:

- Allow employees to work from home, when possible.
- Send employees periodic communication urging them to take personal precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Require customers to wear masks unless an exemption applies.

WEAR A MASK



WASH HANDS OFTEN



SOCIAL DISTANCE



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Ohio

Department
of Health

Ohio

Development
Services Agency

coronavirus.ohio.gov

What Local Governments Can Do

About State and Local Health Departments in Ohio

Ohio has a decentralized public health governance structure and local governments have authority over many decisions. Local health departments/boards of health (BOHs), however, have a strong, collaborative relationship with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The agency is available to share resources on matters related to the health and well-being of Ohioans, including decisions about quarantine and isolation during an epidemic or pandemic.

Ohio Department of Health

The director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has the authority to issue statewide orders to prevent spread of disease and preserve health and life.

While ODH director orders are binding statewide, the agency recognizes the authority of local boards of health to implement additional local orders in many areas, including the issuance of quarantine or isolation orders, the closure of specific locations, and determining questions/issues regarding what services are prohibited under a particular state order.

Quarantine or isolation orders from the Ohio Department of Health are enforced by local agencies, including boards of health and, law enforcement agencies. A violation of an order from the director of health is a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and/or up to \$750 fine.

See Ohio Revised Code sections [3701.13](#), [3701.352](#), and [3701.99](#).

Local City and General Health District

City health districts: Each city constitutes a city health district.

General health districts: The townships and villages in each county form a general health district.

Authority of City and General Health Districts

The boards of health of both city and general health districts may make orders to preserve public health and prevent or restrict disease. This includes the declaration of emergency orders that become effective immediately.

Local boards of health have the authority to:

- Impose isolation and quarantine of people with infectious or contagious disease, either in home or in a hospital or other designated place.
- Employ sworn quarantine guards with police powers to enforce isolation and quarantine orders.
- Impose quarantine or isolation costs on an affected individual or the local government if the person is unable to pay.
- Restrict attendance at school and public gatherings: A BOH can Restrict an isolated or quarantined person from attending school or any other public gatherings.
- Inspect and close schools and prohibit public gatherings during an epidemic or threatened epidemic.

When an order of the local board of health of health district is violated, the board may petition the court of common pleas for injunctive or other appropriate relief requiring compliance. A violation of a local isolation or quarantine order is a minor misdemeanor for the first offense and a fourth-degree misdemeanor for each subsequent offense. Violating a local public health order is punishable by a fine of up to \$100, a jail term of up to 90 days, or both.

See Ohio Revised Code sections [3707.48](#), [3707.99](#), [3709.08](#), [3709.09](#), [3709.14](#), [3709.16](#), [3709.20](#), [3709.21](#), [3709.211](#), [3709.22](#), and [3709.26](#).

Resources For Individuals and Families

This section offers resources for individuals and families and resources for the community agencies that assist them.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For assistance in locating a homeless shelter, dial 211 or visit cohio.org/covid-19/.

For communities, Ohio Development Services Agency staff are readily available to provide guidance and support for programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program, and the Homelessness and Supportive Housing Program. The field representatives can work with communities to realign dollars to address community needs or provide program information.

PROGRAM AREA	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Community Housing Impact and Preservation	Barbara Richards	Manager	barbara.richards@development.ohio.gov	614-466-8941
	Marvin Rudd	Field Representative	marvin.rudd@development.ohio.gov	614-466-1888
	Teressa Hickson	Field Representative	teressa.hickson@development.ohio.gov	614-466-4305
	John Saunders	Field Representative	john.saunders@development.ohio.gov	614-466-3048
Community Development	Mary Oakley	Manager	mary.oakley@development.ohio.gov	614-644-9226
	Benjamin Kepple	Field Representative	benjamin.kepple@development.ohio.gov	614-466-1880
	Wesley Watkins	Field Representative	wesley.watkins@development.ohio.gov	614-466-9336
	Tiffany Laffitte	Field Representative	tiffany.laffitte@development.ohio.gov	614-466-0060
	Haley Lupton	Field Representative	haley.lupton@development.ohio.gov	614-466-9105
	Jared Jodrey	Field Representative	jared.jodrey@development.ohio.gov	614-752-4574
Homelessness & Supportive Housing	Scott Gary	Manager	scott.gary@development.ohio.gov	614-466-2285
	Amy Bullard	Field Representative	amy.bullard@development.ohio.gov	614-752-8096
	Patrick Hart	Field Representative	patrick.hart@development.ohio.gov	614-466-8292
	Shannon Prince	Field Representative	shannon.prince@development.ohio.gov	614-466-1809
	Vernon McNeil	Field Representative	vernon.mcneil@development.ohio.gov	614-644-8391

SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

For assistance in locating a domestic violence shelter, visit actionohio.org/dvshelter.htm.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Development Services Agency support staff for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) providers and Community Action Agencies are available to assist and help community organizations navigate the process. Energy assistance providers can help those in need with energy assistance programs (i.e., HEAP and Percentage of Income Payment Plan, or PIPP), and Community Action Agencies that assist low-income individuals in their territories with Community Services Block Grant and other programs.

To reach the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) /Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), call **(800) 282-0880**.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Development Services Agency TechCred and the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program can help with getting Ohioans reemployed if they lose their jobs. Learn more at techcred.ohio.gov or development.ohio.gov.

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation has developed a website specifically geared toward matching essential businesses with Ohioans who are able and willing to work as essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Job Search site can be found at jobsearch.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jobsearch/.

FAMILY COPING TOOLKIT

A free Family Toolkit to help cope with the concerns and changes brought on by COVID-19 is available from the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County at mharslc.org/familytoolkit/. Spanish-speakers: para padres y maestros, libro digital GRATIS [aquí](#).

Additional family and coping resources can be found at [Resources for Parents and Families](#) and [Coping With COVID-19 Anxiety](#).

INFORMATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

Ohio's parents, grandparents, caretakers, teachers, and child care providers can access information related to early childhood in Ohio's state agencies at boldbeginning.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/bold/.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children under the age of 3 with developmental delays or disabilities. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family served in EI will have a local EI team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, and your family.

For more information on early intervention, community resources, and COVID-19 guidance, visit: ohioearlyintervention.org/covid-19.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE

County boards of developmental disabilities play a crucial role during this time. Your local county board of developmental disabilities is the place to start for determining eligibility, assessing your needs, and coordinating which services can best support you. You can find your local board's contact information at dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/your-family/all-family-resources/4-find-your-county-board.

Ask for the service and support administrator, who will facilitate a team process for you and your family.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has been engaged with stakeholders to consider potential ways to maintain needed adult day support (ADS) and vocational habilitation (VH) services for people with disabilities during this time. Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Start Toward Emerging Possibilities (STEP): As an alternative to services in day service centers, the STEP model uses the three modes of service delivery, including in person in a client's home, in person in an integrated setting (not a client's home or day service site), and teleservice (using technology to directly interact with the client).

For more information on adult day services, visit

dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/news-guidance-service-modification.

ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

The behavioral health system will remain open for business in the event of any stay-home orders. For local information and updates, contact your local Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board or visit its website, available at oacbha.org/. Providers may offer both in-person and virtual options for meetings and appointments via telehealth services. Contact a local provider for more information. For assistance locating crisis services in your area, visit oacbha.org/docs/Community_Help_and_Crisis_Lines.pdf.

Additionally, to find treatment services in your area visit the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Finder** at findtreatment.samhsa.gov or contact the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Help Line at **1-877-275-6564**.

For assistance in locating **recovery housing**, visit ohiorecoveryhousing.org/.

Ohio also has a robust **peer and mutual support network** for adults, children, and families. To find support available in your community visit:

- OhioPeers.org, ohiopeers.org/peer-run-organizations-pro.
- Ohio PRO, ohiopro.demomysite.us/.
- Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery, oca-ohio.org/.
- Ohio Family and Children First, fcf.ohio.gov/.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness, Ohio chapter, namiohio.org/.

CRISIS CARE

The **COVID CareLine** at **1-800-720-9616** is available 24/7 to provide confidential support in times of personal crisis when individuals may be struggling to cope with current challenges in their lives.

Disaster Distress Helpline: For 24/7 immediate crisis counseling related to disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, call **1-800-985-5990** or text “**TalkWithUs**” to **66746**. Spanish-speakers, text “**Hablamos**” to **66746**.

Crisis Text Line: Text “**4Hope**” to **741741** to connect to a trained crisis counselor, available 24/7 for anyone who may need help dealing with a stressful situation.

The **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at **1-800-273-8255** provides 24/7 free, confidential support for people in distress.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Facilities that provide medication-assisted treatment, such as opioid treatment programs, are considered essential health services for Ohioans dealing with substance use disorder.

To locate a provider, visit findtreatment.gov/.

OVERDOSE REVERSAL KITS

Naloxone (brand name Narcan), the medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, is widely available throughout Ohio. For more information or to access a free naloxone kit, contact one of the organizations below.

Project DAWN	odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/projectdawn/
Local ADAHHS Boards	oacbha.org/mappage.php
Harm Reduction Ohio	naloxoneforall.org/hro

Resources For Health and Wellness Providers

This section offers resources to assist healthcare and other providers in their efforts to care for some of our most vulnerable residents.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health, Department of Medicaid, and Department of Aging have collaborated to create a Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit that includes concept diagrams and tools related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

It is at this critical time that all providers evaluate and reevaluate their needs and their capacity to address future quarantines of people who have been exposed, isolation of people who are tested or presumed positive, and planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE).

See LTSS Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit,

dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/news-guidance-ltss.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in congregate settings, access by non-essential personnel should be limited. Indoor and outdoor visitation should be suspended until the county returns to red or orange status. Consider temporarily only allowing essential resident activities away from the residence and provide technology options for loved ones to communicate.

For additional guidance, visit, Guidance: ICF Situational Response,

dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/guidance-covid-19-situational-guidance.

For related COVID-19-specific state requirements and guidance, visit [Responsible RestartOhio: Nursing Homes](#).

SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROVIDERS

Department of Developmental Disabilities Regional Support Teams include Community Resource Coordinators (CRC), the Office of System Support and Standards (OSSAS), Community Life Engagement (Policy-CLE), and regional liaisons for dual diagnosis in mental illness and intellectual disabilities (Policy-MI/IDD).

You can find your regional support team by visiting: dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/support-team.

For related COVID-19-specific state requirements and guidance, visit [Responsible RestartOhio: Assisted Living Facilities & Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities](#).

RESOURCES ON TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Trauma-informed care means that every part of an organization or program understands the impact of trauma on the individuals it serves and adopts a culture that considers and addresses this impact. For more information, visit mha.ohio.gov/Health-Professionals/About-Mental-Health-and-Addiction-Treatment/Trauma-informed-Care.

TEMPORARY CHILD DAY CARE SERVICES

The Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance (DIC), is available to assist with the creation or conversion of structures into temporary day care services to assist parents in communities where day care is in short supply. The approval of facilities to be used for emergency day care can be accommodated by submitting the division's "Application for Inspection Without Requiring Sealed Plans". Please note that the process must also comply with the parameters set forth by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. **For more information on the building construction or conversion process or to request a copy of our temporary day care checklist, please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Geoff Eaton	Division Superintendent	geaton@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3948

For more information on the licensing process with ODJFS, contact Tracey Chestnut, Tracey.Chestnut@jfs.ohio.gov
For related COVID-19-specific state requirements and guidance, visit [Responsible RestartOhio: Child Care](#).

Resources For Businesses

This section offers resources that businesses can use to plan for, respond to, and recover from pandemic-related hardship.

PREVENTION/RESPONSE/RECOVERY

Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) assists private and public sector entities with returning to normal operations in the wake of a disaster by sharing critical information with OP3 members. Currently, there are more than 10,000 OP3 members that belong to this comprehensive network of businesses, associations, government agencies, higher education and non-profits, to jointly participate in disaster prevention, planning, response, and recovery efforts. **To join, visit homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/op3.stm.**

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Development Services Agency assets, like the Small Business Development Centers (including export advisors), Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers, can help businesses weather the storm of economic uncertainty that has been caused by the pandemic. Specifically, they have expertise in navigating any federal aid programs that are established related to the pandemic.

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Sharon Smith	Ohio PTAC Manager	Sharon.Smith@development.ohio.gov	(614) 644-1637

E-COMMERCE SUPPORT FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES

Development Services Agency Minority Business Assistance Centers are working with businesses to provide resources to assist them with expanding their e-commerce presence to help adjust to a what is becoming a more "touchless" economy.

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Jeffrey L. Johnson	Chief of Minority Business Development Division	Jeffrey.Johnson@development.ohio.gov	614-728-3012

WORKFORCE RESOURCE FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation has developed a website specifically geared toward matching essential businesses with Ohioans who are able and willing to work as essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Job Search site can be found at jobsearch.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jobsearch/.

HEAVY HAUL PERMITTING

When appropriate, the Ohio Department of Transportation can issue special hauling permits for vehicles/loads that exceed the statutory maximum legal weights and dimensions. During the pandemic, this has been helpful for public and private entities to supply essential supplies. **For information on special hauling permits, please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Mike Moreland	Administrator, ODOT Special Hauling Permits	Mike.Moreland2@dot.ohio.gov	614-351-5530
Josh Thieman	Supervisor of Permit Issuance / Section Manager	Josh.Thieman@dot.ohio.gov	614-351-5530

For permit application forms and FAQ's:

dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Operations/Maintenance/Permits/Pages/default.aspx

BUSINESS-RELATED COVID-19 STATE REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE:

[Responsible RestartOhio: Consumer, Retail, Services & Entertainment](#)

[Responsible RestartOhio: General Office Environments](#)

[Responsible RestartOhio: Manufacturing, Distribution & Construction](#)

[Responsible RestartOhio: Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services](#)

Guidance for more specific sectors can be found at [Education and Sector Requirements](#).



Resources For Local Agencies

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Assistance is available to local health departments and local prosecutor's offices to help with the enforcement of Ohio Department of Health orders. The Ohio Department of Health can provide funding for local health departments to contract with investigators to assist in the investigation of complaints against individuals and businesses who repeatedly and blatantly fail to comply with Ohio Department of Health orders. These investigators would receive an appointment to carry out their duties from the state director of health. Although it is preferred that these contract investigators be certified peace officers doing the contract work as extra-duty officers, retired peace officers, or "reserve" officers, these investigators will not be making arrests, and are not expected to have arrest authority. Therefore, they are not required to hold a peace officer commission.

Ohio Revised Code section 3701.28 allows the director of health to appoint assistants to enforce orders necessary to prevent a contagious or infectious disease that is, or threatens to become, an epidemic. The intent of this program is for these contract assistants to be hired by the local health department to do the investigative groundwork necessary for the prosecuting attorney to file a criminal complaint or civil action against repeat "bad actors." These investigators would be funded through an Ohio Department of Health grant. At the time of the grant award, the Ohio Department of Health would enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local health department to appoint the investigator to enforce Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 pandemic orders pursuant to Revised Code section 3701.28. These investigators would gather the evidence necessary for a prosecutor to file civil actions or criminal complaints for violations of sections 3701.352 and 3701.99. (Both sections can be found below.)

ORC § 3701.352 Violations prohibited.

"No person shall violate any rule the director of health or department of health adopts or any order the director or department of health issues under this chapter to prevent a threat to the public caused by a pandemic, epidemic, or bioterrorism event."

ORC § 3701.99 Penalty.

"****(C) Whoever violates section 3701.352 or 3701.81 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree."

In most Ohio counties, misdemeanor prosecutions are handled by the municipal prosecutor or city law director (as opposed to the county prosecutor's office). This may be causing some confusion, as the county prosecutor's office is the statutory attorney for the county health departments. The fact that an enforcement action is not instituted through an injunction or nuisance action filed by a county prosecutor's office does not prevent a county health department from taking enforcement action through a municipal prosecutor's office using Revised Code sections 3701.352 and 3701.99.

Here is an example of how confusing this can be. The Clark County Prosecutor's Office is the statutory counsel for the Clark County Combined Health District. If the Clark County health commissioner wants to file an injunction to shut down a local business that is failing to comply with ODH's orders, the Clark County Prosecutor's Office would file a civil action in court seeking an injunction against the business. However, the Clark County prosecutor does not typically handle misdemeanor criminal cases. Misdemeanor criminal prosecutions in Clark County, are typically handled by the Springfield City Prosecutor's Office. The City of Springfield prosecutor files those cases in the Clark County Municipal Court. If a person in South Vienna, Ohio (still Clark County), was prosecuted for violating an ODH order, the Clark County Prosecutor would have no role or say in that case. If the Clark County Prosecutor were opposed to enforcing ODH orders, it would not matter because that case would be initiated and prosecuted by the municipal (city) prosecutor. There are many counties throughout Ohio that are set up so that countywide jurisdiction for the prosecution of misdemeanor cases is handled by the municipal prosecutor, not the county prosecutor. There are some counties in Ohio where the county prosecutor's office retains jurisdiction to handle misdemeanor prosecutions in municipal/county court. It varies county by county. Under the enforcement assistance proposal, the contract investigator would work closely with the prosecutor's office that has jurisdiction over the misdemeanor prosecution.

The proposal would also allow for funding to flow to prosecutors' offices that have jurisdiction over these misdemeanor prosecutions. This funding would pay for attorneys who would serve as special prosecutors on these order enforcement cases. Once the contract investigator established probable cause that a repeat and blatant violator had failed to comply with an ODH order, the contract investigator would provide the business or individual notice that they were in violation of ORC 3701.352/3701.99.

The investigator would then file an affidavit with either the clerk of courts or the local prosecutor having misdemeanor jurisdiction to prosecute the case. Whether the affidavit is filed with the clerk of courts or with the prosecutor should be determined by local practice. The affidavit would function as a supporting probable cause statement and an official request for charges by the local health department. As set forth below, the affidavit must undergo an official review by either a judge, a magistrate, or a prosecuting attorney before a criminal complaint and summons can be issued by the court. The purpose of this review is to ensure that there is sufficient probable cause to support the filing of the criminal complaint. This review is typically done by the prosecutor having jurisdiction over the criminal action.

2935.09 Person having knowledge of offense to file affidavit - official review before complaint filed.

(A) As used in this section, "reviewing official" means a judge of a court of record, the prosecuting attorney or attorney charged by law with the prosecution of offenses in a court or before a magistrate, or a magistrate.

(B) In all cases not provided by sections 2935.02 to 2935.08 of the Revised Code, in order to cause the arrest or prosecution of a person charged with committing an offense in this state, a peace officer or a private citizen having knowledge of the facts shall comply with this section.

(C) A peace officer who seeks to cause an arrest or prosecution under this section may file with a reviewing official or the clerk of a court of record an affidavit charging the offense committed.

(D) A private citizen having knowledge of the facts who seeks to cause an arrest or prosecution under this section may file an affidavit charging the offense committed with a reviewing official for the purpose of review to determine if a complaint should be filed by the prosecuting attorney or attorney charged by law with the prosecution of offenses in the court or before the magistrate. A private citizen may file an affidavit charging the offense committed with the clerk of a court of record before or after the normal business hours of the reviewing officials if the clerk's office is open at those times. A clerk who receives an affidavit before or after the normal business hours of the reviewing officials shall forward it to a reviewing official when the reviewing official's normal business hours resume."

Where there is sufficient probable cause that a repeat or blatant violator is failing to comply with Revised Code Section 3701.352/3701.99, an affidavit requesting charges should be filed with the appropriate clerk of courts or prosecutor. In addition to, or in lieu of, criminal prosecution, a local prosecutor may choose to file a civil enforcement action. The filing of an affidavit shows that enforcement action is being taken by or on behalf of the local health department. The concept of funding contract investigators, appointing these assistants pursuant to Revised Code Section 3701.28, and funding special prosecutors to handle these cases is intended to assist local jurisdictions in carrying out these actions.

For more information, contact Andy Wilson, Andy.Wilson@governor.ohio.gov.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Established under Chapter 5502 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the central point of coordination within the state for response and recovery to disasters. The primary focus of the agency, when it is not in a response or recovery mode, is to ensure that the state and the 11 million people residing in it, are prepared to respond to an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters.

Chapter 5502 of the ORC designates the executive director of Ohio EMA as the state coordinator during emergency response and stipulates that the executive director: "Shall coordinate all activities of all agencies for emergency management within the state, shall maintain liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government, shall cooperate with those agencies subject to the approval of the governor, and shall develop a statewide emergency operations plan that shall meet any applicable federal requirements for such plans."

During an emergency response or recovery effort, all sections and branches are focused on the event. As the governor's emergency management organization, Ohio EMA can activate the State Emergency Operations Center to better coordinate emergency response with state agencies and volunteer organizations.

Ohio EMA maintains the **COVID-19 Information Portal** to provide information about hot topics to emergency managers in Ohio during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio EMA has compiled a topic-oriented list of guidance documents, forms, fact sheets, and checklists that can be found at ema.ohio.gov/COVID19_InfoPortal.aspx. Additionally, the **ESF-5 Resource Portal** allows local jurisdictions to access real-time data on COVID-19 response as well as Ohio's other hazards.

Ohio EMA also offers several services to help local communities develop emergency plans and test their capabilities through **tabletop exercises**. This can be found at ema.ohio.gov/Exercise_TableTop_Toolkit.aspx.

Escalation of response: Effective emergency management systems are a tiered effort. When an emergency exceeds the capacity of local government, assistance and response coordination is taken on by the county emergency management agency. If county resources are exhausted or additional assistance is necessary, the county EMA requests support from the state through Ohio EMA and the State Emergency Operations Center. If an emergency exceeds the capacity of the state, aid is requested from the president through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Connecting with your emergency manager: Each county has an office and director of emergency management. Ohio EMA keeps a current listing of county directors at the following [site](#).

Finding personal protective equipment: If a county encounters a shortage or need for personal protective equipment (PPE), local officials should note a myriad of resources compiled by state agencies that may be useful in provision of this critical equipment. By going to the Businesshelp.ohio.gov website, officials may find existing opportunities for supplies while supporting Ohio-based businesses. In cases of emergency need, Ohio's 88 county emergency managers may be able to assist with existing caches of PPE established as a safety net. Additionally, county EMAs have access to the State Emergency Operations center, where missions can be submitted to meet emergency needs that exceed local ability to respond.

For more information, contact Andrew Elder, adelder@dps.ohio.gov or **614-889-7178**.

SUPPLIES DELIVERY

The Ohio Department of Transportation has dozens of engineers and planners who are experts in using geological information systems (GIS), GPS, and routing technologies, and can assist as necessary other state departments, local governments, and the Ohio National Guard.

ODOT has more than 1,000 licensed drivers capable of operating tractor-trailer rigs and other heavy equipment. They are available to assist as necessary in making deliveries throughout the state and in counties. In partnership with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, we can assist the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments with delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing materials and other critical items. **For more information on ODOT's assistance with equipment resources per EMA protocol, please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Carl Merckle	ODOT EMA Liaison	carl.merckle@dot.ohio.gov	614-949-8584
Leslie Prater	ODOT Emergency Response team	leslie.prater@dot.ohio.gov	614-795-8969

TEMPORARY USE OF BUILDINGS/TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

The Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance (DIC), has the capability to expedite the approval and inspection of buildings to be used temporarily for purposes other than the current occupancy. The "Time- Limited Occupancy" process allows the division to stipulate special conditions for the temporary use of buildings. **For more information, contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Yeong Jiang	Plans Examiner Supervisor	yjiang@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3492
John Naples	Plans Examiner	jnaples@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3446

Form: com.ohio.gov/documents/bdcc_CertificateOfUseAndOccupancy.pdf.

Apply and submit electronically at icportal.com.ohio.gov/web/ohio/login.

The approval of temporary structures, such as tents, to be erected for testing facilities, segregation purposes, or housing of personnel, can be accommodated by the division's "Application for Inspection Without Requiring Sealed Plans." **For more information, contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Yeong Jiang	Plans Examiner Supervisor	yjiang@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3492
John Naples	Plans Examiner	jnaples@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3446

Form: com.ohio.gov/documents/bdcc_ApplicationForSpecialsRevision.pdf.

Apply and submit electronically at icportal.com.ohio.gov/web/ohio/login.

The division has worked closely with an intrastate task force on the potential expansion of temporary healthcare facilities and is available to assist with building services related to that expansion. The Division has created a general safety system checklist for buildings or structures that are temporarily converted to emergency care facilities. **For more information on the building construction or conversion process or to request a copy of the checklist, please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Geoff Eaton	Division Superintendent	geaton@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3948
Aaron Johnston	Division Counsel	aaron.johnston@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3297

STAGING AND TEMPORARY SITING

The Ohio Department of Transportation operates on a 24/7 basis full-service maintenance facilities (at least one in each of Ohio's 88 counties). These buildings and their grounds can be used to stage operations and serve as pick-up/drop-off sites for emergency health activities and other operational needs. The Ohio EMA provides protocol for the deployment of ODOT resources in emergencies. **For more information on emergency use of ODOT facilities, please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Carl Merckle	ODOT EMA Liaison	carl.merckle@dot.ohio.gov	614-949-8584
Leslie Prater	ODOT Emergency Response team	leslie.prater@dot.ohio.gov	614-795-8969

BUILDING DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE SHORTAGES

Local certified building departments can request support for ad hoc contracted plan review and/or inspection services by the Department of Commerce, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing (REPL). These services can be provided for short-term or long-term needs for departments suffering from employee shortages that may be related to COVID-19. **For more information on contracting with the Division for building services please contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Geoff Eaton	Division Superintendent	geaton@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3948
Aaron Johnston	Division Counsel	aaron.johnston@com.state.oh.us	614-644-3297

ASSISTANCE WTH LIQUOR PERMIT VIOLATIONS

If you have reason to be concerned about a particular permitted premise, but have not actually observed a violation, the Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control (ODLC), will send a warning letter to that permitted premise upon your request. Holding a liquor license in Ohio is not a right, it is a privilege. ODLC will contact the permit holder to remind them of the risk they take on their license if health code violations are found. **Contacts for ODLC are as follows:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Frank Chung	Eastern Ohio Region	Frank.chung@com.state.oh.us	614-546-8492
Shaun Powers	Western Ohio Region	Shaun.powers@com.state.oh.us	614-546-5658
Andre Smith	Eastern and Western Regions	Andre.Smith@com.state.oh.us	614-282-3256
Cassandra Hicks	Deputy Superintendent	Cassandra.Hicks@com.state.oh.us	614-282-3256
Jim Canepa	Superintendent	James.Canepa@com.state.oh.us	614-561-8797
Dominic Panzera	Legal Counsel	Dominic.Panzera@com.state.oh.us	614-306-5106

Violations of health orders on premises that have a liquor permit may be cited by either local law enforcement or the Department of Public Safety, Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU). OIU Investigative agents regularly inspect and visit permit establishments to determine compliance with Ohio laws and health orders. OIU maintains six districts:

Toledo	(419) 866-9907
Cleveland	(216) 898-1870
Cincinnati	(513) 942-0610
Columbus	(614) 644-2413
Akron	(330) 497-5411

Contacts for OIU are as follows:

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
George Pitre	Akron AIC	gjpitre@dps.ohio.gov	330-497-5411
Erik Lockhart	Athens AIC	eglockhart@dps.ohio.gov	740-357-5840
Adam Johnson	Cincinnati AIC	asjohnson@dps.ohio.gov	513-942-0610
Greg Croft	Cleveland AIC	gacroft@dps.ohio.gov	216-898-1870
Sam Love	Columbus AIC	hslove@dps.ohio.gov	614-644-2413
Sawn Tatter	Toledo AIC	STatter@dps.ohio.gov	419-866-9907
Michelle Thourot	Central Office AIC	mlthourot@dps.ohio.gov	614-644-2415
Anne Vitale	Associate Legal Counsel, Department of Public Safety	ADOIUCent@dps.ohio.gov	614-387-0414

COMMUNICATION

Strategically located dynamic message boards on interstate highways: Ohio Department of Transportation overhead digital billboards can be used to communicate COVID-19 and other emergency related messages to the public in high traffic areas. Our Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Columbus works with local governments, the Ohio EMA, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and others to coordinate messaging on these signs. **For information on dynamic message billboards, contact:**

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Dominic DelCol	Traffic Management Center, PM Supervisor	Dominic.DelCol@dot.ohio.gov	614-466-4224
Todd Seiter	Traffic Management Center, AM Supervisor	Todd.Seiter@dot.ohio.gov	614-466-4224

SCHOOL SAFETY

Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) supports all Ohio schools and first responders in preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety. OSSC operates the Safer Ohio School Tip Line through calls or texts to 844-SAFEROH or 844-723-3764. The line is monitored 24/7.

CONTROLLING CROWDS

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) maintains a statewide presence through its 59 posts located across the state. Special teams include the mobile field force and strategic response team. OSHP is ready to assist with civil unrest and issues caused by large crowd gatherings for planned or unplanned events. OSHP also offers services including aviation, canine, and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) assistance. **For more information, call 1-833-OH-WATCH.**

PROTEST INFORMATION/ASSISTANCE

As Ohio's primary fusion center, the Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (TACC) facilitates the gathering, analysis and sharing of critical information in a timely and effective manner. It operates 24/7, providing first responders and other partners with quick, accurate, actionable intelligence and information. This includes information on planned protests across the state and important COVID-19 data.

Ohio Homeland Security's Infrastructure Protection (IP) Unit protects critical infrastructure, key resources, and assets by sharing information, conducting assessments, and identifying vulnerabilities and consequences.

The IP Unit also provides threat and vulnerability assessments to local law enforcement through the Communication & Information Management System (CIMS). Additionally, the IP Unit can provide SkyWatch towers (for mobile observation) and drones to local law enforcement for large events. **For more information, call 844-647-2467 or email saicip@dps.ohio.gov.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is distributing CARES Act funding and Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to local law enforcement agencies, courts, corrections, and victim service providers for COVID related expenses. **For more information, call 614-466-7782.**

INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The Department of Public Safety Division of EMS is responsible for the certification of all emergency medical service and fire service providers in the state of Ohio. It also serves as the administrative arm of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services, which establishes training and certification for emergency medical services personnel. Additionally, the Division of EMS provides oversight of Ohio's trauma system. Local EMS and fire service providers should regularly visit the Division of EMS website at ems.ohio.gov for current COVID-19 information, including State Medical Director for EMS Guidance.

Information on responding to and coping with mental health issues is available for first responders at mha.ohio.gov/Schools-and-Communities/First-Responders.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 Health Toolkit

Protecting Against COVID-19



Department
of Health

The following are general COVID-19 resource

Ohio Coronavirus Website: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Ohio Coronavirus Hotline: [1-833-4-ASK-ODH \(1-833-427-5634\)](tel:1-833-4-ASK-ODH).

COVID CareLine: [1-800-720-9616](tel:1-800-720-9616), to assist with anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24/7.

Public Health Orders

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/public-health-orders/public-health-orders

COVID-19 What to Do if You Feel Sick

Contact your healthcare provider if you have the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 Myths vs Facts: [See attached](#)

COVID-19 Testing

- Request pop-up testing by emailing Mark.Hamlin@insurance.ohio.gov.
- Testing FAQ ([see attached](#))
- Interactive testing map: coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/

Ohio Public Health Advisory System

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/

- Summary of alert indicators: coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/OPHASM/Summary-Alert-Indicators.pdf
- County risk level guidance: coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/OPHASM/COVID-19-Risk-Level-Guidelines-GP.pdf

Sector Specific Guidance

Guidance is available for business sectors who are looking to operate in the safest way possible, [here](#).

Printable Posters and Signs

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/

- County Mandatory Face Coverings
- Employee Breaks Signage
- Face Coverings Signage
- Health Screening Questions for Use With Customers
- Customer Precautions Signage
- Playgrounds Signage
- Shopping Prevention
- Social Distancing Signage
- Symptoms Signage
- Contact Tracing
- Responsible Protocols
- This for That Prevention Infographic
- This or That Preparedness Infographic
- Welcome Sign

Foreign Language Resources

Ohio Public Health Advisory System, Risk Level Guidance in Spanish:

coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/OPHASM/COVID-19-Risk-Level-Guidelines-GP-SP.pdf

Resources for Farm Operators and Farm Workers in Spanish:

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/For-Farm-Operators-and-Farm-Workers/

Posters and Signs

coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs

- Employee Breaks Signage
- Face Coverings Signage
- Health Screening Questions for Use With Customers
- Customer Precautions Signage
- Playgrounds Signage
- Shopping Prevention
- Social Distancing Signage
- Symptoms Signage
- Contact Tracing
- Welcome Sign

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at [1-800-720-9616](tel:18007209616).

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Ohio | Department of Health

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

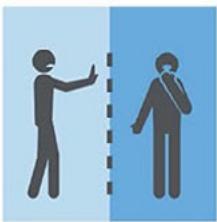
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME
EXCEPT FOR
WORK AND
OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE
COVERING WHEN
GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING OF
AT LEAST 6 FEET
FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT
NON-PEAK
HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR
MOUTH WITH A
TISSUE OR SLEEVE
WHEN COUGHING
OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK
WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE
VISITING YOUR
DOCTOR

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19: Myths Versus Facts



Department
of Health

MYTHS ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS

MYTH	FACT
<i>If I am outdoors, I do not need to practice social distancing.</i>	While it is less likely that you will catch COVID-19 in open areas, it is still important to stay at least 6 feet away from others. Some people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and can spread the disease through respiratory droplets.
<i>If I and everyone around me are wearing cloth face coverings, there's no need to practice social distancing.</i>	Wearing a cloth face covering is NOT a replacement for social distancing. Whenever you are outside your home or around anyone outside your immediate household circle, you should stay 6 feet away from others. Doing both provides two layers of protection against the spread of COVID-19.
<i>If I and everyone around me are social distancing, there's no need to use cloth face covering.</i>	As stated above, wearing a cloth face covering provides an extra layer of protection against the spread of COVID-19.
<i>A cloth face covering doesn't block the virus. I need a surgical mask or special "N95" mask.</i>	Experiments have shown that various coverings, including folded bandannas and cloth face coverings, block respiratory droplets.
<i>The tighter my mask is, the better it will prevent COVID-19 spread.</i>	A mask should fit snugly but still allow for ease of breathing and space to catch droplets. If a mask is too tight, there is a risk that respiratory droplets will be forced through the openings at the side of the mask.

MYTHS ABOUT WHO GETS COVID-19 AND TRANSMISSION

MYTH	FACT
<i>Young people do not get COVID-19, only older people and people with other medical conditions are at risk.</i>	Older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of serious illness. But anyone can become sick, and symptoms can range from mild to severe regardless of how old you are or if you have other medical conditions.
<i>I won't catch the virus that causes COVID-19 if I don't spend a long time next to someone who has it.</i>	While being around a person with the virus for longer periods increases your risk, it is possible you could catch the virus if you inhale the person's infected respiratory droplets, regardless of the length of time you are together.
<i>As long as I wash my hands a lot or use sanitizer, I'm safe.</i>	COVID-19 is spread through the respiratory droplets (saliva/spit or mucus/snot) of an infected person. When a person talks, sings, yells, sneezes, coughs, etc. the droplets are released into the surrounding environment. If you inhale those droplets, you could become infected. Washing or sanitizing hands is extremely important, but masking and staying away from others are also critical prevention methods. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends cleaning frequently touched surfaces (like light switches, handles and railings) every day in case the virus — after it is exhaled by an infected person — can live on surfaces and possibly be transmitted to a person who touches that surface.
<i>If I go to a hospital for another reason, I will get COVID-19.</i>	Hospitals in Ohio are taking precautions and using provisions to separate patients with COVID-19 from other patients. Before going to a hospital, contact your doctor for guidance on your specific situation.

MYTH	FACT
<i>COVID-19 spreads through food.</i>	There is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object, like a packaging container, that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. In general, because of poor survivability of coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging.
<i>I can get COVID-19 from my pet.</i>	We are still learning about this virus, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations, especially after close contact with a person sick with COVID-19. We know that cats, dogs, and a few other types of animals can be infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, but we don't yet know all of the animals that can get infected. There have been reports of animals being infected with the virus worldwide. Currently, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in the spread of SARS-CoV-2 to people.
<i>COVID-19 can be spread by mosquitoes.</i>	There has been no information or evidence to suggest that COVID-19 could be transmitted by mosquitoes. The respiratory virus spreads primarily through droplets from coughing or sneezing.

MYTHS ABOUT SYMPTOMS

<i>Having COVID-19 is just like having the flu.</i>	The virus that causes COVID-19 can lead to some flu-like symptoms, such as body aches, fever, and cough, and both can also lead to pneumonia. However, COVID-19 is more serious and estimates show it has a much higher mortality rate than flu.
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MYTHS ABOUT PREVENTION

<i>I can make my own hand sanitizer at home.</i>	The creation and use of homemade hand sanitizer is frowned upon over concerns regarding the correct use/concentration of ingredients and the need to work under sterile production conditions. Do not rely on "Do It Yourself" or "DIY" recipes, including those based solely on essential oils or formulated without correct compounding practices.
<i>I can clean and disinfect frequently touched objects with hand sanitizer.</i>	Use common, EPA-registered household disinfectants to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are visibly dirty, clean with soap and water or detergent first.
<i>Being in the sun or high temperatures prevents COVID-19.</i>	Exposing yourself to the sun or to high temperatures DOES NOT prevent COVID-19. The disease can spread no matter how sunny or hot the weather is.
<i>Regularly rinsing my nose with saline or gargling with saltwater can help prevent COVID-19.</i>	There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline or gargling with water protects people from infection with viruses that cause COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses.
<i>Spraying alcohol, chlorine, or another disinfectant all over my body will kill COVID-19.</i>	Spraying alcohol, chlorine, or another disinfectant all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes such as those in the eyes and mouth.

Updated July 27, 2020. For more information on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov
For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 Testing Guidance *Protecting Against COVID-19*



Department
of Health

Why should I get tested?

Testing for COVID-19 is critical to helping stop the spread of this virus. It saves lives. When we're able to test more individuals in a community it allows us to quickly identify infected individuals, isolate them, and investigate and trace the contacts of those infected. And in that way, it helps us contain and decrease the spread of illness. Testing helps us go on the offense against this virus.

Who can get tested?

The State of Ohio has given health care organizations guidance that allows them to order a test for anyone who wants a test, but some testing sites may have restrictions. Under our guidelines, it doesn't matter if you've been exposed, are at higher risk, or showing no symptoms, anyone can get a test. But it's also not a mandate that testing locations follow this guidance.

Testing standards differ among medical providers and retail locations. Many retail pharmacy locations, doctor's offices, and community health centers will screen an individual before they order or perform a test. They may ask if you have symptoms or if you're part of an at-risk population. It's important to call ahead to ask about their screening procedures and standards, including minimum age for testing, insurance requirements, and physician's order requirements.

Some federal qualified health centers (FQHCs) in underserved areas are doing testing and others are not. Again, calling ahead will help you determine if the ones closest to you on the map are testing.

Do I need a doctor's order?

A provider's order is required for all tests. However, the state allows providers to place a testing order for anyone who wants a test.

At the pop-up sites operated by the state, the tests are open to anyone and we will place the order on-site. You do not need an order before visiting one of these sites.

Privately-run sites may have different standards and requirements for testing. But typically, they will create the order on-site if you have symptoms, are in an at-risk population, or have been exposed to the virus.

In other cases, they might require you to visit a doctor in advance to get an order — like you would for an X-ray

Where can I get tested?

There are many locations around the state where you can be tested. Visit coronavirus.ohio.gov and click on the "Testing and Community Health Centers" tab. You'll find a map that identifies more than 500 testing locations throughout the state. These locations are a combination of state-sponsored and private testing sites. Contact information is included for most locations. It's important to contact the testing site you are interested in before visiting to make sure you understand all requirements.

How do I find a pop-up site near me?

When you visit the map, you can search by ZIP code and identify a pop-up location by its yellow pin. You can also visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/generalresources/get-tested-for-covid-19. We continue to increase pop-sites across the state, especially in areas that show an increase in cases, and continually update the list of available testing locations.

What happens at a pop-up site?

How does it work?

Pop-up testing is focused on underserved areas, particularly minority communities; communities that request testing assistance; and communities that have seen a recent increase in infection rate. Anyone can go on the day assigned to a community and get tested. They do not need a doctor's order ahead of time and they do not need to show symptoms.

Pop-up testing locations are one of the most convenient ways to get tested. You can walk up, drive up, or in some cases park your car and get tested. We continue to increase our pop-up locations.

Because some of these sites have experienced high demand for testing, we encourage you to make an appointment if that option is available. Appointments are not required.

In many cases, the testing site will have three stations. At the first station, you'll be evaluated for symptoms. The second station you'll fill out any paperwork needed to complete the testing, including a lab registration form.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 Testing Guidance *Protecting Against COVID-19*



Department
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What happens at a pop-up site? How does it work? cont.

When you get to the third and final station, you'll be given the test. Lab results will be sent to the provider that ordered the test.

In many cases, the testing site will have three stations. At the first station, you'll be evaluated for symptoms. The second station you'll fill out any paperwork needed to complete the testing, including a lab registration form. When you get to the third and final station, you'll be given the test. Lab results will be sent to the provider that ordered the test.

How do I know if it's a state-sponsored testing site?

All pop-up locations indicated on the testing map on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website are state-sponsored. You can find these locations by looking for the yellow pin on the website map.

What types of tests are available?

There are several different types of tests available. Which one you receive may depend on where you go. The state-sponsored pop-ups use nasal pharyngeal swabs to test for COVID-19. Other locations may use a standard nasal swab or take a saliva sample.

Will I have to administer the test myself?

Self-administered tests are used at some locations. These tests are administered under the supervision of a trained professional to ensure that they are done properly and give the test the best chance of producing reliable results.

Do I have to pay for my own test?

State testing sites provide testing with no out-of-pocket costs. However, the state does bill Medicaid or insurance if a person has either type of coverage. The state or federal government will cover the costs for those who are uninsured. While this may be the case at many other testing sites, the state cannot guarantee that all privately run testing sites will test without charging the patient.

How will I get my test results and how long does it take?

The current turnaround rate on a test depends on where you get it. The time frame varies from 48 hours to one week. However, in many areas, increased testing demand has led to longer turnaround times for the labs that process your test. You should ask the testing facility when and how you will be contacted with results.

Many times, your doctor will receive the test results and communicate them back to you. If your result is positive, it will be reported to the state and local health departments.

For additional guidance on what to do while waiting for your test results, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/Waiting-for-Test-Results.pdf.

What happens if I have a positive test?

If you have symptoms:

- Isolate until all three of these things are true: 1) your symptoms are better, 2) it has been 10 days since you first felt sick, and 3) you have had no fever for at least 24 hours without using medicine that lowers fever.
- Drink plenty of fluids and eat when you can. You may take medicine for pain or fever if you need to.
- Rest as much as you can.

If you do not have symptoms:

- Stay home for 10 days after the date you were tested.
- If you develop symptoms during those 10 days, stay home until all three of these things are true: 1) your symptoms are better, 2) it has been 10 days since you first felt sick, and 3) you have had no fever for at least 24 hours without using medicine that lowers fever.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 Testing Guidance *Protecting Against COVID-19*

The logo for the Ohio Department of Health, featuring the word "Ohio" in a white, sans-serif font with a red outline around the letter "O".

Department
of Health

What happens if I have a positive test? cont.

Follow care instructions from your doctor or other healthcare provider. Seek emergency medical care immediately if you have trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

Someone from the health department (case investigator or contact tracer) may reach out to you to check on your health and ask about other people you have been around or where you've spent time while you may have been able to spread COVID-19 to others. This person's role is strictly to map the virus to help identify people who may have been exposed to the virus and prevent its spread. The local health department will also provide guidance on how to stay safely at home to avoid spreading illness.

What happens if I have a negative test?

- Remember to wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, stay 6 feet from people you do not live with, and wear a cloth facemask when you go out in public.
- A negative COVID-19 test at one point in time does not mean you will stay negative. You could become ill with COVID-19 and/or test positive at any time.
- If you are a close contact of a confirmed or suspected case, continue to stay home and away from others until 14 days after your last exposure.
- If you do not have symptoms, and were not in close contact with a confirmed or suspected case, you can stop isolating.
- If you currently have symptoms of COVID-19, and were not in close contact with a confirmed or suspected case, you should keep monitoring symptoms and talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider about staying home and if you need to get tested again.
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and away from others and talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider about getting tested again.

Updated Aug. 19, 2020.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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