



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Butler County General Health District, 513-863-1770

Public Health Commissioners in Butler County Strongly Encourage Staying at Home, Whenever Possible

BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO – Public Health Commissioners in Butler County all agree, if staying and working from home is an option, do it now.

“We are at a critical point in the response to the coronavirus pandemic,” says Jennifer Bailer Health Commissioner for the Butler County General Health District (BCGHD).

Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in Southwest Ohio have increased by 67% over the last 2 weeks and COVID-19 patients in the ICU have increased by 50% over the same time. Butler County has had a surge in COVID-19 cases and visits to the hospital since the beginning of October. “We had been setting records the last two weeks with around 200-250 cases reported each day. However, over the weekend Butler County had over 900 cases reported from Friday to Sunday, with a new record of 376 cases in a single day,” said Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, Epidemiologist. The City of Hamilton and City of Middletown Health Departments report similar trends.

"When the pandemic began in March, we were concerned about our medical facilities having enough PPE. Now it is the people. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities have been working tirelessly since March and feeling the impacts of staff shortages. They too are impacted by COVID and many need to stay home because they or their families are ill or in quarantine. We must protect our healthcare workers by doing our part and staying at home as much as possible, especially if you are sick, in quarantine or isolation, or waiting for test results," states Bailer.

I live in Butler County, what should I do?

- If you are sick:
 - Stay home for 10 days. After 10 days if your symptoms are better and you have had no fever for 24 hours without medicine, you are considered recovered and can go out.
- If you are waiting for a test result:
 - Stay home! Do NOT go out, to school or to work while you wait!
- If you have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case, or think you have:
 - Stay home for 14 days! Do NOT go out, to school or to work!
- If you are positive for COVID-19, notify all your close contacts to stay home for 14 days.

What else can I do?

- Avoid gatherings, limit contact with people outside of your household, and reconsider holiday plans
- Keep six (6) feet of distance from others
- Wear a mask
 - Including while inside around non-household members.
- Wash your hands

Butler County COVID Defense Team Established

What is being done across the county?

On Tuesday, Governor DeWine stressed the need to ‘slow down’ to avoid shutting down businesses. Kay Farrar Health Commissioner for the City of Hamilton Health Department emphasizes, “Public health is not trying to shut down the economy. We understand that jobs and a strong economy are necessary for healthy communities, healthy families, healthy individuals, and a healthy workforce.”

To support a healthy local economy, COVID-19 Education Specialists funded by the Butler County Commissioners are working with businesses across the county to put practices in place that are known to reduce COVID risk. Services include on-site consultations, educational signs and materials, and assistance following state orders. This free service is available to all businesses located in Butler County.

In addition, DeWine recently asked every Ohio county to form a COVID Defense Team. While all three local health districts (Butler County, Hamilton, and Middletown) have been working with many partners since March, we have formalized this teamwork and now call ourselves the Butler County COVID Defense Team. This team is made up of CEOs of health care systems, public health commissioners, Chambers of Commerce leaders, politicians, schools, and elected officials, among others.

Jackie Phillips Health Commissioner for the City of Middletown Health Department states, “Education on how easily this virus spreads and what residents should do if exposed is (so) vitally important. The COVID-19 Defense Team is a good opportunity for leaders in our community to get updates and get their questions answered directly. We need our community leaders to influence and encourage Butler County residents in the fight against COVID-19.”

If you are interested in signing up or learning more about the COVID-19 Education Specialists and/or the Defense Team, contact your local health department or BCGHD at boh@butlercountyohio.org or 513-863-1770. Be sure to leave the business name and contact information.

People with questions about COVID-19 can call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center, 7 days a week from 9AM – 8PM at: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or contact their local health department.

- City of Middletown residents call 513-425-1818
- City of Hamilton residents call 513-785-7080
- Butler County residents call 513-863-1770

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