



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County  
General Health District**

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For Immediate Release

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

**Medical Director Issues Plea to Stay at Home**

HAMILTON, OH - As our country continues to battle the new novel coronavirus, it is nearly impossible to turn on the news without being inundated with the latest statistics about positive cases, deaths, hospital resources, financial losses, and layoffs.

Yet, in Butler County where we have had only 31 confirmed cases as of Monday afternoon, it is easy to feel a sense of disbelief. While most of us are feeling the effects of kids growing restless at home, grocery store shelves becoming bare, and the stress of lost wages, most of us have yet to see the true impacts of the virus itself. So far, most of us likely haven't seen our family members, neighbors, or coworkers endure days of fevers, debilitating coughing, and shortness of breath. Most of us have not had personal stories of friends or family being admitted to the hospital or requiring intensive care.

As a community pediatrician here in Butler County, I too have not yet seen the coronavirus personally affect my family, coworkers, and patients; I too am listening intently as Gov. Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton deliver the daily update of statistics and changes to come for our state; I too am feeling restless with continued social distancing and staying at home. However, each day as our state and local cases continue to rise, and we get closer and closer to the projected surge of cases it begins to hit a little closer to home.

So, while we have all heard our state and local leaders say over and over again how important it is to 'flatten the curve' by staying home and social distancing, it is now more important than ever. Each day that we make the hard choice to keep our kids home, attend church remotely, or settle for a phone call with friends instead of meeting for lunch, we are making a small sacrifice that will have a much greater impact.

Slowing the spread of the coronavirus is not just about ensuring enough hospital beds and ventilators, it is about protecting our families, our neighbors, and our community. We are all in this together and the choices we make now will shape our collective future.

'So, please, everyone, for the safety and continued health of all those around you, make the choice to stay home until this is over.' **#StaytheHeckatHomeBC**

Sincerely,

Michelle Burch, MD FAAP  
Pediatrician  
Medical Director, Butler County General Health District

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