## **Williams County Health District**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## WCHD Encourages Williams County Residents to Continue to Follow COVID-19 Safety Precautions

MONTPELIER, OH – The Williams County Health Department purchased signs to display in Williams County that feature COVID-19 safety precautions that will help the county stay safe to stay open. The signs are on the sidewalks in front of local businesses in Bryan, West Unity, Montpelier, Edon, Pioneer, and Edgerton.

As winter draws near, the Williams County Health Department would like to remind our community that it is more important than ever to limit the spread of COVID-19. "We are trying to get ahead of the pandemic," states Jim Watkins, Health Commissioner. "We each need to take responsibility for our community's health and continue to social distance, wear masks, and wash hands. The Stay Safe to Stay Open signs are intended to remind residents to continue to follow COVID-19 safety precautions as the pandemic continues. This is the best way to stay open this winter."

It has been suggested by health experts that an increase in COVID-19 cases is expected this fall and winter. As the weather cools, people spend more time indoors in poorly ventilated spaces and social distancing can be difficult to maintain. In these conditions, COVID-19 can spread more easily. The more Williams County can control the spread of COVID-19 with social interventions now, the more control the county will have this winter.

To help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in Ohio and protect our friends, neighbors, and vulnerable populations, wash your hands, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. Williams County must work together to maintain public health, keep our schools and businesses open, and change the current projected impact COVID-19 may have in our community this winter.

Stay up-to-date with accurate information about COVID-19 by visiting the Ohio Department of Health's website (https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/). The Williams County Health Department will continue to update cases and provide COVID-19 resources on our WCHD website: http://www.williamscountyhealth.org/healtheducation/covid-19-coronavirus/.