

# Williams County Health District



## COVID-19 Health Advisory

### Resolution 24.20

**WHEREAS**, On October 22, Williams County met high incidence for the first time by having 149.90 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents in the previous two weeks;

**WHEREAS**, On November 17, Williams County exceeded high incidence by having 752.21 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents in the past two weeks;

**WHEREAS** the number of hospital admissions, emergency department visits, and outpatient visits among COVID-19 patients has increased; and

**WHEREAS**, additional guidance, advisement, warning, and intervention is warranted to mitigate case growth and preserve hospital capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to slow and stop the spread of the COVID-19 disease; and

**WHEREAS**, taking the steps below is critical to preventing the spread of the virus, protecting the lives of individuals and their loved ones, and preserving our acute care and other healthcare services and capacity;

**WHEREAS**, health commissioner shall keep the public informed in regard to all matters affecting the health of Williams County.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

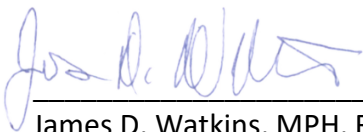
The Williams County Board of Health hereby states the following:

- **Limit interactions with people who do not live in your home** - The Commissioner of Health for Williams County advises all residents to consider limiting interaction with people outside your household to the greatest extent possible due to the rapid rise of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the county.
- **Avoid travel and hosting guests** - All residents are strongly advised to avoid traveling in and out of the state and to forgo having guests (those who do not live in their household) in their homes during the upcoming holiday season.
- **Wear masks in compliance with the Ohio mask mandate** – All residents should wear facial coverings over their mouth, nose, and chin to protect Williams County residents. Masks should be worn in businesses and restaurants to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect customers and employees, in indoor settings with people who live in different households, and in outdoor settings when social distancing cannot be maintained at all times.

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- **Limit gatherings in compliance with the revised mass gatherings order** - Residents are required to limit meetings and social events to 10 individuals. This applies to both indoor and outdoor events that may occur at a banquet hall, event venue, or other similar space. A meeting or social event that is outside of normal operations is advised to have no more than 10 individuals. Houses of worship are recommended to reduce the size of their in-person gatherings and must follow social distancing requirements for regular services and events such as weddings or funerals.
- **Watch for signs or symptoms of COVID-19** - COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to, new onset of fever, cough, shortness of breath, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, body aches, or unusual fatigue.
- **Follow isolation protocol if you are sick**- Residents that are exhibiting any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 must shelter in their place of residence. They should not go to their workplace or another congregate setting and should only leave their place of residence to seek necessary clinical care. Residents diagnosed with COVID-19 by a laboratory test of their medical provider must isolate for 10 days from the date of their symptom onset, or from the date of test collection (until they are not experiencing symptoms). In the home, sick or infected individuals should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **Follow quarantine protocol if you are exposed to a COVID-19 case** - Residents who have been identified as close contacts to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 should quarantine for one full incubation period (14 days) from the date of last contact. Individuals in quarantine should stay home, separate from others, monitor their health, and follow all instructions from their local health department. Residents who are either confirmed positive or a close contact should not wait to hear from the health department and immediately follow the guidance as described. Information about isolation and quarantine can be found on the website of the health department.
- **Allow employees to work from home if possible** - Employers are strongly encouraged to identify and accommodate as many employees as possible to work from home during this time.
- **Be courteous** – All Williams County residents should do their part to keep Williams County businesses and schools open and Williams County residents safe. Wear masks, maintain social distance, wash hands, don’t gather with others who do not live in the same household, and support safe practices in the community.
- **Adhere to all current orders** - All orders set forth by Governor R. Michael DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, County, and the municipalities shall continue to be enforced and adhered to by all residents.

Signed on behalf of the Williams County Board of Health



James D. Watkins, MPH, RS  
Health Commissioner

11/17/2020

Date