

Responsible RestartOhio



Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating

Ohio lifted most statewide pandemic-related health orders in June 2021. While these requirements have been lifted, Ohioans are still at risk for COVID-19 illness. The Ohio Department of Health urges all Ohioans to continue to follow safe protocols to protect themselves and others, especially those individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

The following are recommended best practices for ongoing safety and prevention against COVID-19.

Statewide Universal Recommended Best Practices

Vaccination

- If you are eligible (12 or older) and can safely do so, get vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - COVID-19 is a vaccine-preventable, respiratory illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The disease can spread rapidly among individuals who are not fully vaccinated* and result in serious illness or death.
 - The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and offer the best protection against serious illness.
 - If you get a two-dose vaccine, it can take five to six weeks for you to be fully protected: your first dose, your second dose three to four weeks later, and full protection two weeks after that.
 - If you get a one-dose vaccine, you are fully protected two weeks after that dose.

Masking

- If you are not fully vaccinated* against COVID-19, wearing a mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin will help you protect yourself and others. You should wear a mask when:
 - In any indoor location that is not a residence.
 - Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet or more between people who live in different homes/households.
 - Riding, driving, or operating public transportation, or a taxi, car service, or ride sharing vehicle. (This does not apply to members of a household sharing a private or rental vehicle.)
- Regardless of vaccination status, you may be asked to wear a mask in certain situations, such as when traveling on public transportation, in a healthcare setting, or if a business chooses to require masks.
- A mask should never be worn by/placed on anyone who:
 - Is younger than 2.
 - Cannot remove it without assistance.
 - Risks choking if wearing a mask.
 - Is sleeping/napping.
 - Is living with a medical condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask. This includes respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disabilities.
 - Is swimming. (Wet masks can cause difficulty breathing.)
 - Risks workplace health, safety, or job duty if wearing a mask.

Congregating, Social Distancing, and Sanitizing

- If you are not fully vaccinated:*
 - Attempt to maintain at least 6 feet of distancing from others.
 - Avoid gathering in groups with other unvaccinated people when possible.
 - If you gather with other unvaccinated people, maintain groups of no more than 10 people, separated from other groups by at least 6 feet.
- For everyone:
 - Regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
 - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Watch out for any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have fever, cough, or other signs of COVID-19, stay home and away from others.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case or Exposure to Someone With COVID-19

- Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should stay away from others and seek medical care if necessary.
- If possible, individuals with symptoms should get tested for COVID-19.
- If you have or likely have COVID-19, isolate from others for at least 10 days.
- Your local health district may contact you to obtain more information and to contact individuals who may be considered close contacts.
- If you are exposed to COVID-19 and not fully vaccinated,* quarantine as recommended by the local health department.
 - Optimal quarantine is 14 days but, if recommended by the local health department, may be reduced to seven days if a viral test collected on or after day five has come back negative.
- If you are exposed to COVID-19 and fully vaccinated,* quarantining or testing after exposure is generally not necessary unless symptoms develop.
- There are some exceptions for specific settings. Always follow the direction of the local health department.

**You are fully vaccinated if at least two weeks have passed since you received the second shot of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer) or since you received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).*