



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Trumbull County

Trumbull County Combined Health District

176 Chestnut Ave NE

Warren, OH 44483

www.tcchd.org

Frank J. Migliozi, MPH, REHS/RS, Health Commissioner



November 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As many of you are aware, Trumbull County is currently experiencing a high number of COVID-19 cases. Previously during this pandemic, we were averaging 15 to 20 new cases per day and around 125 cases per week. As of November 7, 2020, we are now averaging roughly 60 to 100 new cases per day and about 468 cases per week, which is our highest volume of COVID-19 instances to date. Based on our assessment for the week of November 8, 2020, we are on track to exceed 600 new cases. The majority of these cases are from community spread and mainly being transmitted from family member to family member. The community spread transmission is happening at house parties, social gatherings, wedding receptions, funerals, and other mass gatherings. People tend to let their guard down during these events and are not wearing their masks or social distancing by maintaining six feet or more between individuals living in different households.

Due to the high number of cases and community spread of COVID-19, the virus is directly impacting our school districts, healthcare systems, and first responders and imposing on their ability to operate effectively during the pandemic. A profound impact is happening to our school districts, who have experienced a significant increase in students and staff testing positive or being quarantined. From the beginning of the school year, there have been 93 cases in Trumbull County. Of those cases, 33 have occurred in the past week. This translates to 35% of all school cases that have happened this week. This surge has caused 13 of our 23 school district staff and students to be directly affected in Trumbull County.

Schools were designed to open for in-person learning in the fall, considering that what happens in the community could impact schools but would be manageable. From the beginning, our school districts have been doing a fantastic job designing classrooms and measures to keep a safe environment, minimize exposure, and conduct health assessments with ill individuals and remove those individuals from the school building. The recent surge is stressing our school's ability to manage as they now spend a significant amount of time conducting contact tracing to limit exposure to the virus. As cases continue to surge and contacts are identified and removed from the school setting, many districts will not have enough staff to provide in-person education.

As such, ***in-person learning is now in jeopardy***, as more and more schools will be forced to transition to full remote education due to a lack of staff to teach, transport, or support the school district's operations. Your help is needed to work together to conduct some simple but effective mitigation measures at home known to reduce our community's spread significantly.

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...Building a Healthy Community

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These simple mitigation measures include:

- Wearing a mask/facial covering that covers your nose and mouth whenever you or anyone in your household leaves the house.
- Practicing social distancing where your household members maintain six feet of distance or more from individuals not in your household.
- Avoid mass gatherings of 10 people or more as much as you possibly can.
- Don't hold house parties or social gatherings with individuals not in your household.
- Practice proper hand hygiene of washing and/or sanitizing your hands.
- Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
- Avoid leaving your house when you are not feeling well.
- Avoid sending your child to school when he/she is not feeling well.
- Fully cooperate with school and public health officials when contacted regarding isolation and quarantine requirements.

Per Governor DeWine's speech Wednesday night, "What each Ohioan does in his or her life impacts every citizen and every place we desperately want and need to keep open – our schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and businesses." As this virus is now spreading rapidly, your actions are deeply affecting our school districts' ability to provide in-person learning. This virus is very real and needs to be taken seriously. Additionally, people need to be diligent in practicing mitigation efforts.

Your actions matter in keeping our schools open, so please critically think about how your efforts will affect your children and their education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Migliozi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Frank Migliozi, MPH, REHS/RS
Health Commissioner
Trumbull County Combined Health District