COVID-19: Data Transparency and Patient Privacy
Protecting Against COVID-19

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is committed to releasing data to inform the public in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis while also protecting the privacy rights of Ohioans. In an effort to strike the appropriate balance, several procedures have been put into place.

What you need to know:

- Ohio law allows the release of aggregated or summary data, but not specific data.
- Ohio law does not permit the release of data that is so specific that it reveals a person’s identity or that could reveal a person’s identity if combined with other public data.
- The Ohio Supreme Court has affirmed that protected health information is an exception to public records law.
- ODH has developed several online data dashboards reflecting information from multiple sources, including the Ohio Disease Reporting System, hospitals, and local health departments. This is the broadest amount of daily information that ODH has ever made available on infectious diseases.
- Much of this data is updated daily and available for downloading at coronavirus.ohio.gov. It includes:
  - An overview of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by county and by the date symptoms first appeared. Counts are broken down by new daily cases and existing cases, and an age range and median age is provided.
  - Current trends in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, including reports received in the past 24 hours compared with the five-day average.
  - A breakdown of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by age, gender, race and ethnicity.
  - The cumulative number of intensive care unit admissions and the percentage of total cases this represents.
  - The number and percentage of cases impacting healthcare workers.
  - Positive cases broken down by those confirmed by laboratory testing and those identified through clinical diagnosis using new, expanded criteria from the Centers from Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov
Cases and testing completed for residents of state-owned facilities, such as prisons, youth detention centers, psychiatric hospitals, and developmental centers.

- The number of counties with at least one case, hospitalization, or death.
- The number of lab tests performed.

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For more information on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Ohio Department of Health

Prevention

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

- Stay home except for work and other needs
- Wear a face covering when going out
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet from others
- Shop at non-peak hours
- Wash hands often with water and soap (20 seconds or longer)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect "high-touch" surfaces often
- Don't work when sick
- Call before visiting your doctor

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