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.

- 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.
- Forecast modeling of predicted cases.
- The number of lab test performed.

☑ Data to be released soon includes:

- Facility- and county-level information about positive COVID-19 cases among residents and staff in long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living centers. ODH will begin posting this data on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, and will update the data every Wednesday thereafter.
- County-level death data for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Collecting accurate data will require modification of the current reporting module.
- Case information for people who are direct-care providers at hospitals, including the names of the hospitals where the providers work. This data will become available due to modifications to the Ohio Disease Reporting System.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 ⬤hio | Department of Health

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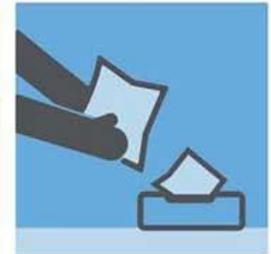
PREVENTION

STAY HOME

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

GET ADEQUATE SLEEP AND EAT WELL-BALANCED MEALS

WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)

DRY HANDS WITH A CLEAN TOWEL OR AIR DRY YOUR HANDS

COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING

AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES

CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN

CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE HABITS