

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Cuyahoga County Stay at Home Advisory Update

February 1, 2021

In response to a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases locally and in support of the State of Ohio's Stay at Home Tonight Order, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) released a Stay at Home Advisory effective November 18, 2020. This Advisory was subsequently extended through January 31, 2021.

We have now entered the next chapter of COVID-19 response by combining our on-going prevention activities with the vaccination of Cuyahoga County residents and workers. Along with hospitals and numerous local healthcare providers, CCBH has been vaccinating those identified in Phase 1A of the state's vaccination plan (healthcare workers, EMS, residents and staff in congregate living facilities, etc.). We have now begun vaccinating Cuyahoga County residents who are eligible under Phase 1B (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program>) of Ohio's Phased Vaccination Campaign. We will work with our community partners (<https://www.ccbh.net/covid-19-phase-1b-provider-list/>) to vaccinate our most at risk citizens and ask for your collective patience as local vaccine supplies are still limited.

After considering these factors, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health has determined that the current Stay at Home Advisory will not be extended at this time. We highly recommend that residents continue to follow the guidance that details the effective prevention measures that reduce the risk for COVID-19 transmission. We know these prevention measures work. We should not let our guard down or consider the threat of COVID-19 transmission to be a thing of the past. The Ohio Public Health Advisory is still reporting an incidence rate that is more than five times the rate considered to be "High Incidence" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It remains more important than ever to follow all guidance from local, state and federal officials in regard to slowing the spread of COVID-19. This includes compliance with Ohio's curfew (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/stay-at-home-tonight-fact-sheet>). Residents should still stay at home to the greatest extent possible and avoid crowds and environments that encourage larger groups of people to congregate. Large gatherings, parties and celebrations should still be postponed so we can continue to reduce the COVID-19 transmission rate while increasing the number of Cuyahoga County residents vaccinated against the virus. Please continue to wear masks, maintain a safe distance from those you don't live with, wash your hands and

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use hand sanitizer frequently, sanitize all commonly touched surfaces and stay at home when ill. Those infected with COVID-19 need to isolate themselves to protect their friends and loved ones and those exposed to someone infected should continue to quarantine, according to public health guidance.

In support of the progress we have made in slowing the spread of COVID-19 transmission, it is important that we stay vigilant and play both defense (wear masks, distance, wash our hands, etc.) and offense (increase the number of those vaccinated against COVID-19). On behalf of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, I would like to personally thank you for what you have done to help us get through these challenging times and for what you will do in the future by staying safe and getting vaccinated when given the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Terry Allan, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner

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