



O-Town News

November 17, 2020, Issue #4

Greetings! Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced Tuesday, November 17, that every county in Ohio is seeing significant increases in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Governor DeWine put orders in place for a **21-Day Ohio Slow Down** to help slow down the virus. Ohioans are urged to follow orders which protect loved ones, keep hospitals manageable, and keep schools, workplaces and businesses open. These measures will hopefully bring the virus incidence down and bridge to the coming months when a vaccine may become available.

21-Day Curfew Ordered to Help Slow Virus Spread

Effective Thursday November 19, 2020 Ohio will be under a new curfew order between the hours of 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. daily for all retail establishments. Ohioans are asked to be home during these hours and all retail establishments must close at 10:00 p.m. Exceptions are those individuals who are commuting to or from work, emergencies, and essential errands. Retail delivery services may continue after 10:00 p.m. Other measures previously in place to reduce COVID-19 exposure and spread will remain in place on a 24/7 basis until further notice. These include:

- Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited.
- Facemasks are required in public and in retail establishments.
- Retail sites must have signs on doors stating that face masks are required and must enforce this rule for the protection of employees and customers.

Butler County Case Update as of 11/16/2020

Butler County COVID-19 cases are skyrocketing with 925 new cases reported over the weekend of Nov. 14-15. We share the latest Butler County case reports and news releases in O-Town News each week. Those who need more urgent information or have a public health emergency to report should call the Butler County Health District at (513) 863-1770. Those with internet access can find more frequent updates at <http://health.bcoho.us/>.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Butler County Confirmed Cases | 12,727 |
| Butler County Probable Cases | 131 |
| Butler County Total | 12,858 |
| Miami University Total Cases | 2,443 |

Ohio Department of Health Advisory

Ohio Department of Health has extended its travel advisories from 7 states last week to 12 states this week. Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. The affected states are: South Dakota (54.7%); Iowa (49.3%); Wyoming (41.8%); Idaho (41.5%); Kansas(41.3%); Alaska (24.7%); Montana (18.7%); North Dakota (18%); Utah (17.8%); Pennsylvania (17.0%); Wisconsin (16.0%); and Mississippi (15.3%).

What to Do During Self-Quarantine?

If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or have recently traveled from a high positivity state it is recommended that you:

- Remain at home and avoid all in-person activities. This includes work, grocery stores and pharmacies, public events, and public places.
- If you live in a home with other people who did not travel with you, stay in a separate room. If this is not possible, wear a face mask when you are in the same room and stay at least six feet away from others.
- Do not leave home except to seek medical care. If you need to see a provider for reasons other than a medical emergency, call in advance and discuss the care you need.
- In the event of a medical emergency, call 9-1-1. Indicate that you are in home quarantine for COVID-19 exposure. Keep a face mask on until you are asked by a health care provider to remove it.
- Do not have visitors in your home.
- Do not use public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.

COVID-19 and Your Mental Health

Stress, hardship and uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic can trigger new or worsen on-going mental health concerns. Dr. Lori Criss, director of Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services participated in Governor DeWine's press conference on Nov. 17. Dr. Criss urged Ohioans to pay attention to and take care of their emotional, mental and spiritual needs and to ask for help before they experience a mental health crisis or addiction relapse. Dr. Criss shared several resources that are at your fingertips.

Mental Health Support Is At Your Fingertips

CALL Ohio CareLine at 1-800-720-9616 for Free Professional Mental Health Support. The Ohio CareLine is a toll-free emotional support call service created by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Behavioral health professionals staff the CareLine 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They offer confidential support in times of personal or family crisis when individuals may be struggling to cope with challenges in their lives. When callers need additional services, they will receive assistance and connection to local providers. (Source: Ohio Department of Mental Health website).

TEXT the keyword "4hope" to 741741 (the Crisis Text Line) for Free Professional Mental Health Support. For some, even a phone call is too much. Ohioans can text to the Crisis Text Line for free mental health support on their mobile devices. All texts are answered by professionals and kept confidential.

DIAL 211 anytime, from anywhere for United Way 24/7 information and referral services.

United Way 211 is an information and referral hotline that provides access to services including basic needs, healthcare resources, services for children and older adults. For the Oxford area, the greatest needs of callers have been for utility assistance, food pantries, rent assistance, financial assistance and homeless shelters. 211 is not a crisis hotline. For emergencies dial 911.

Talawanda High School and Middle School **Return to Remote Learning Due to Staff Shortage**

Talawanda officials have made the difficult decision to fully transition THS and TMS to a remote learning plan from now until January 18, 2021. All elementary schools will continue face-to-face learning as long as there is adequate staffing. Talawanda is experiencing a severe spike in the number of COVID-19 quarantines and positive cases. All districts in Butler County are experiencing a shortage in substitute teachers, educational assistants, and cafeteria workers. Talawanda has already exhausted the small number of workers available for reassignment. Specifically, the district has become unable to operate kitchens at the secondary level due to staff quarantines.

By moving secondary schools to remote learning, the District hopes to utilize some employees from THS and TMS in the elementary schools. The District understands that childcare for younger children is a challenge for families, and hopes to alleviate this stress by doing everything they can to keep the elementary schools open. If you have any questions, please contact the administrator in your child's school.

Miami University Schedule

Miami University Oxford Campus Fall Semester classes will end on Friday, November 20, 2020. Residence halls will close on Wednesday, November 25 at 12:00 noon and will remain closed through January 18, 2021. Residence hall space will be available only for international students who cannot return home or for COVID-19 positive students who remain quarantined until cleared with a negative test to return home. Final exams will be remote from December 2-8.

Miami's J-Term is January 4 -22, 2021 and is expected to be conducted primarily by remote learning.

Spring Semester 2021 classes commence on January 25, 2021. Residence halls will re-open in stages beginning January 18, 2021.

Off-Campus Students who rent an apartment or home in Oxford may come and go at their prerogative, similarly to any resident. All are encouraged to follow COVID-19 protocols for travel, masking and restricting gatherings to less than 10 people over the winter break.

Need Some Retail Therapy?

It's Small Business Saturday!

Oxford Community and surrounding areas are invited to
Shop Small Shop Local this holiday season!
Saturday, November 28th, 2020



Local Businesses Provide Safe Shopping Options

Many area businesses are working overtime to offer safe shopping options such as personal shopping for customers via telephone, curbside pickup, no touch paying methods and even delivery. Each week between now and Christmas, O-Town News will feature local businesses that have shared COVID-19 and holiday shopping services with us. This week's features are:

The Apple Tree, 28 E High Street, 513-523-4345, offering clothing, jewelry and gifts is open everyday from Noon until 5 p.m. (curbside and local delivery options available).

You're Fired, 6 N Beech Street, 513-523-2734, offering paint your own pottery kits such as 6 Christmas ornaments that can be picked up curbside, then once painted, can be dropped off to be fired in the kiln and picked up curbside when finished. Open Mon/Tues/Thurs from 11am-8pm and Fri/Sat from 10am-10pm

Wildberry Gifts, 15 W High Street, 513-523-4345, offering clothing, jewelry, and novelty gifts is open Monday-Saturday from 10am-9pm and Sunday from noon-6 pm. Call for more information, curbside pick-up available with credit card payment.

City of Oxford's Climate Action Steering Committee
Invites Area Residents to Participate

The City of Oxford Climate Steering Action Committee invites organizations and individuals to join a communication network to address climate change in our community, stay informed as actions are taken and follow progress toward meeting the commitment of the Global Council of Mayors to address greenhouse gasses. Network partners may ask CASC representatives to speak to their organization and channel questions, comments, and concerns for their group. If you know of an organization or individual that would like to become part of this network, please contact Joan Potter-Sommer through Oxford Seniors at (513) 523-8100.

Please send future issues of O-Town News to this address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Return to Age-Friendly Oxford P.O. Box 206 Oxford, OH 45056
