

## **COVID-19 Health Advisory for the City of Columbus and Franklin County**

Issued: November 20, 2020

Ends: December 18, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbus and Franklin County are experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases from a seven-day average of 143 on October 1 to 742 on November 15.

**WHEREAS**, the number of hospitalizations in our region is the highest number of patients at any time during the pandemic, which left unchecked pose a risk to our healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, the local positivity rate has increased from 3.7 percent during the week of September 20, 2020 to 12.5 percent as of last week.

**WHEREAS**, additional guidance, advisement, warning and intervention is warranted to mitigate case growth and preserve hospital capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to stop and slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease; and

**WHEREAS**, taking the steps listed below is critical to preventing the spread of the virus, protecting the lives of you and your loved ones, and preserving our acute and other healthcare services and capacity;

**WHEREAS**, health commissioners shall keep the public informed in regards to all matters affecting the health of the district; now, therefore,

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health hereby state the following:

### **Section 1. Stay-at-Home Advisory**

Beginning on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 6 P.M., the Health Commissioner for the City of Columbus, Dr. Mysheika W. Roberts, and the Health Commissioner for Franklin County Public Health, Joe Mazzola, advise all residents of Columbus and Franklin County to stay at home due to the rapid rise of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the city and county. Residents are advised to only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs such as seeking medical care, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, picking up food, or receiving deliveries.

Additionally, residents are strongly advised to:

- a) Avoid traveling in and out of the state; and
- b) Forgo having guests in their homes during the upcoming holiday season.

This advisory shall remain in place for two consecutive incubation periods of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (28 days), or until such time as both health departments determine a change to the guidance is appropriate.

## **Section 2. Adherence to All Current Orders**

All orders set forth by Governor R. Michael DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, Franklin County, and the municipalities of Franklin County shall continue to be enforced and adhered to by all Columbus and Franklin County residents.

## **Section 3. Advisory on Indoor and Outdoor Meetings and Social Events**

From the effective date of this advisory, residents of Columbus and Franklin County are urged to limit meetings and social events to 10 individuals. The advice applies to both indoor and outdoor events that may occur at a residence, banquet hall, event venue or other similar space.

Per the Ohio Department of Health Director's Order *Re: Revised Order to Limit and/or Prohibit Mass Gatherings in the State of Ohio, with Exceptions* issued November 15, 2020, weddings and funerals are exempt; however, this advisory discourages these gatherings.

## **Section 4. Allowing People in Your Home**

Residents are strongly advised to not have any guests in their homes unless they are essential to health and safety.

## **Section 5. Response to Illness and Exposure – Isolation and Quarantine**

Residents of Columbus and Franklin County that are exhibiting any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 must shelter in their place of residence. They should not go to their workplace or congregate settings and should only leave their place of residence to seek necessary clinical care, or for essential life sustaining needs, such as obtaining medicine or food.

COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to, new onset of fever, cough, shortness of breath, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, body aches, or unusual fatigue.

Residents of Columbus and Franklin County diagnosed with COVID-19 by a laboratory test of their medical provider must isolate for 10 days from the date of their symptom onset, or from the date of test collection (if you are not experiencing symptoms). In the home, sick or infected individuals should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom, if available.

Residents of Columbus and Franklin County that have been identified as a contact to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must quarantine for one full incubation period (14 days) from the date of last contact. Individuals in quarantine should stay home, separate from others, monitor their health, and follow all instructions from their local health department.

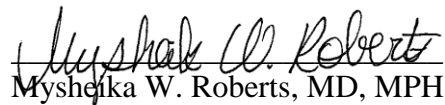
Residents who are either confirmed positive or a close contact should not wait to hear from the health department and immediately follow the guidance as described. Information about isolation and quarantine can be found on the website of the health departments.

**Section 6: Additional Guidance**

All sectors are advised to work from home to the maximum extent possible. All public and private businesses are advised to transition as many transactions and functions as possible to online.

All higher education institutions and local school districts are advised to maintain their current learning modalities.

All organizations and residents are strongly advised to suspend and discontinue extracurricular activities including sports.



Myshaka W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner  
Columbus Public Health



Joe Mazzola, MPA  
Health Commissioner  
Franklin County Public Health