



Community Talking Points

Oct. 26, 2020

- COVID-19 numbers are increasing across Ohio and remain high in Wood County, and we know how to fight this. We can work together to bring our local case numbers down.
 - We've already seen successes in Wood County that when we work together to consistently apply public health guidelines, the virus won't be spread as much and cases will go down substantially.
 - Wearing a mask when you're around other people and maintaining a safe distance from others are the most effective ways to reduce the chances this virus has to spread among us.
 - We're entering a season when people will be indoors more and potentially gathering for the holidays. We need everyone to continue to stay vigilant through these next few months.
- Your mental health is an important part of your physical health, both during normal times and during this ongoing pandemic.
 - Make sure you're caring for yourself, and stay resilient to the challenges COVID-19 has created for all of us.
 - Try to stick to a regular routine, including getting enough sleep, taking breaks from work, connecting with coworkers, family and friends, and making time to do things you enjoy.
 - Check in often with the people you love.
 - Ask if they're doing OK, and listen. Everyone wants feel like others care about their wellbeing, and we can help each other through this difficult time.
- We're preparing now for when a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.
 - While we know it will be a while before the vaccine is available to everyone who wants it, the CDC and FDA believe there will be at least one approved vaccine announced in November.
 - The announcement of the approval could be delayed while the reviewers ensure the trials have proven the vaccine is effective with no major side effects.
 - The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available. The plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers available so no one will have to travel far to be vaccinated, whether it's at your doctor's office, retail pharmacy, hospital, or federally qualified health center.
 - The initial doses of the vaccine will likely be prioritized to critical workforces, such as health care and public safety, and the most vulnerable people, such as residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate living settings.

- The vaccine will likely be distributed to the public through a combination of public vaccination events, employer-hosted vaccination events, by health care providers and at pharmacies.
- Vaccines go through extensive testing and review before they are approved. This includes several stages to make sure they're safe and effective, including lab testing and clinical trials.
 - As of mid-October, four COVID-19 vaccines had begun large-scale (phase 3) clinical trials in the United States.
 - All but one use two shots, with a period of time between doses. The other COVID-19 vaccine uses one shot.
 - At any stage if there are concerns about either safety or effectiveness, FDA may request additional information or studies, or may halt ongoing clinical studies. A vaccine is licensed only if it's determined to be safe and effective.
 - In the past, vaccines completed one stage before moving to the next. This was mainly done to avoid committing money and time on a vaccine that might not be approved or needed.
 - COVID-19 vaccine developers are overlapping stages to speed up the development, approval and distribution. This does not mean the safety and efficacy requirements are less than other vaccines.
 - After a vaccine is approved, many vaccine safety monitoring systems continue to watch for possible side effects that may not have been seen in clinical trials. If something unexpected is seen, experts quickly study it further to assess whether it is a safety concern and changes are needed. This monitoring is critical to help ensure that the benefits continue to outweigh the risks for people who receive vaccines.
- You can learn more about the development of a COVID-19 vaccine at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>