

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Branden Jackman, Public Information Officer
Highland County Emergency Operations Center
branden@pcjefd.org,
(C) 937.402.0172

What's in store for May

Throughout all of this, it is the actions of the residents of Highland County that have made a difference. It's your actions that have helped to flatten the curve and to not overwhelm the local healthcare.

Now as we move into the phase where we start to see a glimmer of what life was before COVID-19 happened we need to remain vigilant. As you did with flattening the curve, your help will be needed to implement No mask, No Work, No Service, No Exceptions!

The 3 big dates coming are May 1st, May 4th, and May 12th.

May 1st will allow for healthcare to start opening back up. Any and all procedures that do not require an overnight stay will be allowed to be scheduled. This will greatly increase traffic and as such, our area hospitals are going to start requiring people to wear masks upon entering their facilities. Keep this in mind should you find yourself needing to enter Highland District Hospital or any of the Adena campuses.

On May 4th all manufacturing, distribution and construction that was not already open will be able to re-open with stipulations. The stipulations to open are the points we've been talking on for weeks. All businesses that wish to re-open with have to maintain physical distancing either through physical space or barriers. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently. Sanitize high touch surfaces. Stagger lunch and break times. Immediately isolate and employee should they show signs of COVID-19 and to immediately contact Highland County Health Department at 937.393.1941.

These also apply to general office spaces as they attempt to reopen under this plan with the added requirement of limiting the number of people inside the building to 50% of their total occupancy set by the Ohio Fire Code. Your local building officials and fire departments are working diligently to try and obtain these numbers if you don't already know them, please be patient as we work through this process.

May 12th will see us opening consumer retail and services. Some of which have been closed for over a month. These businesses will be subject to the same conditions as we mentioned for other sectors as well as limiting occupants of the building to less than 50% of their total occupancy allowed.

We had hoped to have the written order from the state of Ohio prior to this press release. The written orders have much more detail and allow us to pass more precise information.

Some things moving forward, if you are making cloth masks and would like to donate those to the Highland County Emergency Operations Center, you can email us at donations@pcjefd.org to have those picked up. Any and all masks you donate will return to the community through our partners after being laundered and sanitized for use. As Governor DeWine mentioned, masks are not going to be mandatory but just as many things have been throughout this, it is highly recommended to wear a mask to protect yourself and your fellow Highland Countians from spreading the Coronavirus

As always, we like to update you on the numbers in Highland County. We currently stand at 12 total cases. Of those, 6 are marked as recovered. Of the 6 who are actively sick, 3 are lab confirmed, 3 are probables under the CDC guidelines and 1 is hospitalized.

Please remember as we prepare to start another month. We're all in this together, be nice.

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