



635 North Erie Street  
 Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317  
 419.213.4100  
 419.213.4017 Fax  
 boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH  
 Health Commissioner

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Contact: Shannon M. Lands  
 419.213.4143

November 12, 2020

**Health Department Highly Recommends Workplace Changes**

In response to recent increases in COVID-19 case rates, test positivity, and hospitalizations, the Toledo- Lucas County Health Department is highly recommending businesses, both governmental and non-governmental agencies, to modify service delivery and workflow. Allowing a hybrid/remote schedule, limiting person-to-person interactions, and staggering shifts are a few simple ways to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

As of November 12, Lucas County’s metrics are as follows:

Two-week incidence: 394.54 cases/100,000  
 Two-week positivity: 9%  
 Hospitalizations: Increasing

“We are urging our community to step-up prevention efforts once again to impact Lucas County’s disease transmission and help reduce exponential growth of COVID-19 to protect public health and to support our economy in the safest and most sustainable way possible,” said Dr. Eric Zgodzinski, Health Commissioner.

The Health Department reminds businesses of the following tips to prevent and reduce transmission among employees:

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home
- Identify where and how workers might be exposed to COVID-19 at work
- Employees who arrive or become sick should be separated immediately and sent home

“It’s easy to let our guard down around our ‘work families’ given how much time we spend together. High risk of transmittal comes from mask-less conversations with co-workers,” said Dr. Zgodzinski. “Now, more than ever, we must keep our guard and face coverings up while following all preventative measures in the workplace.”

Employers can report a positive employee through a HIPAA secure form and initiate contact tracing with the Health Department here:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/LCReportCovid>

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