



Greetings and welcome to the first issue of ***O-Town News***, a new hardcopy newsletter that **Age-Friendly Oxford** hopes will be helpful to your household.

**Age-Friendly Oxford (AFO)** is a community initiative working to improve the quality of life for older adults and households with family members of all ages. One of our goals is to improve access to information. If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer not to use digital information, then this newsletter is for you!

***O-Town News*** will be mailed to your street address via first class U.S. Postal Service approximately every other week for the remainder of 2020. ***O-Town News*** will contain information, primarily from the City of Oxford, on local events, policies, services and updates on CIVID-19 from Butler County General Health District.

If you know someone who does not use digital communication or prefers paper/US mail information, they may call Oxford Seniors at 513-523-8100 to be added to the mailing list. We do not advertise or give contact information to outside groups.

Thank you to the City of Oxford for CARES Act funds and to Oxford Seniors, Inc. for their administrative support to AFO and for making this newsletter possible for readers in the greater Oxford area community. Stay Safe!

Helping you keep informed,

Age-Friendly Oxford

**P.O. Box 206**  
**Oxford, Ohio 45056**  
**513-523-8100**

***O-Town News: Issue #1***  
***News from Week of October 19, 2020***

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***City of Oxford – Announcements about Service, Events & Ordinances***

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**Oxford Night Lights** A beautification of public spaces with outdoor murals and backlight illumination is happening in the coming months. This will be something special to look forward to in the winter months.

**Drive Through Circus** Oxford Parks and Recreation Department is hiring a circus that you can enjoy from the comfort of your vehicle with aerialists and high wire walkers, fire performers, and more. Simply drive through the Tri Center on Thursday, October 29 from 5-8 p.m. at 6025 Fairfield Road.

**Trick-or-Treating** Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please keep these safety measures in mind so that everyone can have fun while also protecting themselves and others: Turn on your porch light so people know you're participating; Wear a mask and Wash your hands regularly.

**Annual Leaf Pick-up Program** Begins on Monday, October 19, 2020 and will run for several weeks. Please rake leaves to the gutter for pick up except in areas where it could create a traffic hazard. In this case, rake the leaves to the area between the curb and sidewalk. In areas of heavy, on-street parking, please rake leaves to a yellow “No Parking” zone for collection. Do not park on piles of leaves and bundle brush separately for regular yard waste pickup. Questions? Call the Oxford Streets & Maintenance Division at 523-8412.

**Face Mask Ordinance** For the safety of our community, the Oxford City Council passed a face-covering ordinance on July 14, 2020 which will remain in effect for the duration of the pandemic and/or while the State of Ohio Executive Order 2020-01D is in effect. All business employees and individuals in Oxford must wear facial coverings in public at all times when:

- At an indoor location that is not a residence.
- Outdoors, but unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members.

- Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, such as a taxi, a car service, or a private car used for ride-sharing.
- The order requires only those 6 years old or older to wear a mask. Additional exclusions include:
  - Those with a medical condition or a disability or those communicating with someone with a disability.
  - Those who are actively exercising or playing sports.
  - Those who are officiants at religious services.
  - Those who are actively involved in public safety.
  - Those who are actively eating or drinking.

**Mass Gatherings (Including House Parties) Ordinance** The Oxford City Council passed an emergency ordinance to limit mass gatherings to 10 individuals. “Mass gatherings” means any social gathering, event or convening that brings together greater than ten (10) non-household persons at the same time, to include both indoor and outdoor gatherings. “Non-household” means any individuals who do not reside within the same housing unit or dwelling. There are exemptions and these include:

- Operations of businesses and schools
- Athletic and sporting events
- Religious gatherings and/or gatherings for the purpose of the expression of First Amendment protected speech, weddings, and funerals.

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## *City of Oxford Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about COVID-19*

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**Q: What new efforts have been made to help protect our community?**

**A:** The City of Oxford, Miami University, and local retailers have taken several new steps to protect everyone in Oxford.

**City of Oxford:** Increased efforts in promoting COVID-safe behaviors in Uptown areas through our Health Ambassador Program. Volunteers help patrol the City streets in high-traffic times to reward and recognize those wearing masks, as well as provide masks to those not currently wearing them.

**Local Businesses:** Several local restaurants have expanded outdoor seating options, introduced curbside pick-up and encouraged online ordering to help reduce the number of guests in their stores. Our local **Kroger** expanded its **Senior Hours** program to 8-10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday to help protect those in our community who fall into higher risk categories. The efforts of all our local businesses to protect our community and economy through mask policies and limiting guest numbers have helped reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Oxford.

**Miami University:** Has begun a mandatory mask policy for all its campuses effective Friday October 2, 2020. Masks will be required at all times when on any of Miami's campuses both inside facilities and outdoors as well. In an effort to reduce student travel to and from Oxford Miami has also removed Spring Break from the Spring 2021 Semester calendar. Additional days off from academic classes will be spread throughout the Spring Semester.

**Q: How are you planning a coordinated response to COVID in our community?**

**A:** There are several coordination meetings held each week to help us plan for and respond to COVID in our community. Groups include:

**Leadership Team:** Meets weekly and includes the City, Miami, McCullough Hyde, the Chamber, the Township, Talawanda School District, and the Visitors Bureau. This team reviews Board of Health numbers, hospital capacity, strategies to support our local businesses, and reviews how to support our residents at the highest risk.

**Safe Return to Campus Committee:** Meets weekly and includes City of Oxford, Miami University, and Butler County General Health District Staff. This committee reviews how Miami and Oxford need to work together to keep our community safe.

AFO has been invited to provide feedback, suggestions, and express concerns during Miami's planning. We have worked hard to balance the risks and benefits for our community in each decision.

Miami does have its own jurisdiction, funding, and responsibilities for its students and employees. However, they cannot ban off-campus students from returning to Oxford. These students have signed leases and are residents of the City of Oxford.

The decision to allow sophomores to move off-campus was made to allow for more distancing in housing on campus.

**Q: How are you coordinating enforcement of COVID restrictions?**

**A:** The City of Oxford has passed both a face covering and mass gathering ordinance. The Oxford Police Division is enforcing both of these emergency ordinances.

Tickets written to off-campus students are reported to the Miami Office of Community Standards for discipline.

Oxford officers are dispersing mass gatherings that violate the city ordinance. Citations are being issued for violations and fines range from \$150 for absent facial coverings to \$500 for mass gatherings. We have asked the Miami University Police Department to help patrol on busy evenings and weekends and they agreed.

For face coverings, we have worked with business owners for indoor enforcement. The ordinance allows for individuals to be outside without a mask if they can maintain 6' distance from a non-household member.

Both Miami and the City have online reporting tools for COVID violations. We use these reports to track risk areas and respond appropriately.

**Q: What else are you doing to keep Oxford safe?**

**A:** We are taking many additional actions to keep our community healthy

The City of Oxford has received portable hand sanitizing stations from the Butler County EMA. These have been installed in all public facilities and in any business that requests one.

We are providing starter kits of masks to businesses that request them.

We have increased picnic tables and seating in public parks.

We've allowed businesses to expand on to sidewalks and alleys to increase patio dining.

Miami University is making changes to their dining facilities, classrooms, and residence halls.

**Q: What about testing?**

**A:** Miami tested every student as they arrived and continues a broad testing program for both on and off-campus students.

Miami is conducting tests on students who are symptomatic and also doing wide net and surveillance testing. Wide net testing is anyone a student may potentially come in contact with. Surveillance testing is a random sample of students. This aggressive testing outreach has led to an increase in reported positive cases. However, these positive cases are not resulting in hospital stays. Our local hospital continues to have the capacity to serve our region if needed.

Testing for Oxford year-round residents (non-Miami students) is under the jurisdiction of the Butler County General Health District. The City of Oxford is actively working with the Health District to research community COVID testing options for Oxford residents.

**Q: What kind of Education Campaign have you created?**

**A:** We are working together to make sure our messaging is complementary. Miami is taking the lead to educate their students and the City of Oxford is working to educate residents.

Miami has created a *Let's Stay Healthy Together video* and a mini video series that will be shown on social media.

There is signage around town on business doors and a High Street banner that is branded : *Please Wear A Mask, Don't Make Us Ask!*

Electronic signage boards have been placed in high traffic areas stating Masks Required.

The COVID page of the City Website is updated regularly.

Miami University Student Life is educating students and has a strong messaging campaign on their Instagram page.

**Q: How is Oxford supporting those most in need?**

**A:** \$643,296 in CARES Act funding money will be used to support our local nonprofits and support public health.

The Oxford City Council voted for the CARES Act funding to be given to the following organizations:

**Basic Needs:** Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services  
Oxford Family Resource Center  
Talawanda School District

**Public Health:** Oxford Senior Center; Oxford Butler Behavioral Health

**Educational Assistance:** Talawanda School District  
Oxford Community Arts Center  
Economic Sustainability

Council reports that \$200,000 in gift cards have been purchased from local businesses by the Oxford Community Improvement Corporation.

Additional Economic Sustainability efforts are pending based and will be determined after City Council's first round of CARES Act allocations.

**Q: How many Miami students are in Oxford this year?**

A: There are approximately 8,000 students living off-campus in Oxford and we expect about 4,000 students to move in on campus. The on-campus density is down by 40%, the overall student population in Oxford is down 20%.

**Q: I have general questions about COVID-19, who can I contact?**

A: Ohio Department of Health: 833-427-5634

**Q: I have a local area question about COVID-19, who do I contact?**

A: Butler County General Health District: 513-863-1770.

**Q: I have a question about the City of Oxford's COVID-19 response, who do I call?**

A: Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager: 513-524-5210

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## ***Butler County General Health District COVID-19 Update***

*(Issued 10/22/2020)*

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### *Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases Reported to Butler County\**

#### *Butler County Residents - Issued 10/22/2020*

Total # of Cases (10/12): 7998\*

Permanent Butler County (10/12): 5778

Miami University (10/12): 2220

Confirmed Deaths (10/12): 115

First Case Reported: 3/11/2020

Last Case Reported (so far): 10/12/2020

Confirmed Cases: 7754

Probable Cases: 244

Age Range: <1-101

Median Age: 30

Mean Age: 37.0

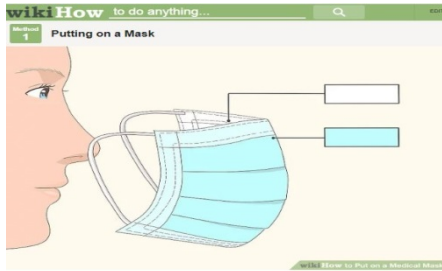
Incidence: 2,087.5 per 100,000

\*All figures show reported cases of COVID-19 in Butler County as of 1700 EDT 10/19/2020. Due to delays in reporting, the numbers of confirmed and probable cases on Figure 1 are subject to change between reports and confirmed and probable case counts are likely to increase.

\*This should not be assumed to be the total disease burden of COVID-19 in Butler County. Only those that have been laboratory confirmed OR meet ODH probable case criteria are reported to Public Health.

\*Data is provisional – only confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases are included in counts. Report reflects time period since the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into humans, measured in days. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/19/2020 at 1700 EDT.





**4** Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outwards. The inside of most medical masks are white in colour, while the outside has a colour of some sort. Before applying the mask to your face, make sure the white side of the mask is facing towards your face.<sup>15</sup>