Wood County Health Department

Community Talking Points
Sept. 28, 2020

- Wood County Health Department is helping the community live and work safely during the pandemic.
  - WCHD is working with business owners and event organizers to help them understand and follow COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations.
  - We continue to support school superintendents and nurses to give them the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, review application of guidance and communicate with them about cases and contact tracing.
  - We're taking steps to make information easier to get online. We've recently added a page to our website with FAQs and important links for restaurant and bar owners. You can see that information here: https://sites.google.com/view/wchdohio-coronavirus/home/restaurant-and-bar-guidance

- Wood County Health Department is helping events take place safely by working with organizers to understand and meet requirements and best practices.
  - WCHD is reviewing proposed events to ensure they are allowed and comply with COVID-19 guidelines.
  - Information about approved events and how organizers can contact us about their plans can be found on our website: https://sites.google.com/view/wchdohio-coronavirus/home/events
  - Some events do not require a plan and may not be listed on our website.
  - The events that require a plan are things like 5K races, car shows, charity walks, dance recitals or marching band shows.
  - If WCHD determines an event is allowed, it is placed in "Pending" status. Once the event organizer has met all public health guidelines, the event will be moved to the "Approved" list.
    - Organizers of approved events have demonstrated they are aware of the safety requirements and have plans to address them.
  - If you are aware of an event that requires a plan, and it is not listed on our webpage, contact the event organizer to encourage them to connect with us.

- Wood County Health Department is preparing for COVID-19 vaccine so we're ready whenever it gets here.

- Health departments have been preparing for emergencies like pandemics for a long time.
- COVID-19 vaccine presents new challenges, so we are adapting our plans to address the unique circumstances.
  - This includes preparing for things such as possible need for ultra-cold storage with dry ice and evaluating other supply needs.
  - We are updating our vaccination strategies to incorporate social distancing and other precautions.
  - We're talking with our partners about how they can help with vaccine planning and delivery.
- Healthcare workers, EMS, law enforcement and fire safety personnel, you might be in a priority group and could receive it sooner than others, so get your flu vaccine now.

- Getting a flu vaccine is a safe step people can take to prepare themselves and their family for any flu season, but is more important this year.
  - COVID-19 has made this year a challenge for everyone. You can reduce the chances of you or your family having to have to deal with flu this year by getting your flu shot now.
  - When you take steps to prevent getting the flu, it makes you less likely to have symptoms also common for COVID-19 that could keep you at home waiting for test results.
  - When the COVID-19 vaccine arrives, public health and health care professionals are going to be busy getting as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible. Getting your flu vaccine by the end of October is one way to can help us get ready.
  - We're want you to get a flu vaccine so you can get that out of the way. Set aside time in your busy schedule for your flu vaccine now so you are prepared when the COVID-19 vaccine is ready.
  - We encourage everyone 6 months and older to get a yearly flu vaccine as it is the first and most important step in protecting against the flu
  - Getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19; however, flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. Getting a flu vaccine this fall will be more important not only to reduce risk from the flu but also to help conserve potentially scarce health care resources.