July 1, 2020

Nan Whaley, Mayor
City of Dayton
City Hall
101 West Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Mayor Whaley,

Following the statewide implementation of Responsible RestartOhio, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County has observed increased community spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 disease, an increase in infected individuals seeking medical care and outbreaks in businesses and congregate care / living facilities in Montgomery County. Clusters of COVID-19 cases are occurring related to people gathering at work, at church and in public spaces.

Despite the mandatory sector-specific operating requirements developed by the Ohio Department of Health, the phased lifting of restrictions has resulted in a surge of new cases due to increased person-to-person transmission. This surge is occurring because most individuals are not complying with Public Health recommendations on wearing face coverings and social distancing in public spaces.

Physical distancing of six feet and wearing a facial covering such as a cloth mask continue to be important to stop virus transmission. Recent analyses indicate that wearing a facial covering can reduce virus transmission by up to 75%. A facial covering such as a cloth mask is an effective way to prevent the spread of the virus from an infected person.

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County supports the City of Dayton’s resolution requiring individuals to wear face coverings in public spaces to limit the spread of the virus. We applaud the City of Dayton’s leadership in adopting this best-practice intervention to support Public Health’s efforts to control the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus within Montgomery County and the surrounding region.

Jeffrey A. Cooper
Health Commissioner

Mickey Dohn
Medical Director