

General COVID Vaccine Information:

If you are age 65 or older and live in Portage County, please register right away for your COVID-19 vaccine at <https://www.portagecounty-oh.gov/portage-county-health-district/covid-19>. For more information on vaccine availability in Ohio, please visit <https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

I already had COVID – can I get it again?

[Cases of reinfection](#) of the original strain of COVID-19 have been reported but are rare. In general, reinfection means a person was infected (got sick) once, recovered, and then later became infected again. Based on what we know from similar viruses, some reinfections are expected. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Scientists are now “focusing on a potential new threat: new variants of COVID-19 that could do an end run around the human immune response. Such “immune escapes” could mean more people who have had COVID-19 remain susceptible to reinfection, and that proven vaccines may, at some point, need an update.” <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/01/new-coronavirus-variants-could-cause-more-reinfections-require-updated-vaccines>

Should I wear one mask, two Masks...?

There has been a lot of talk lately in the media about “double masking.” The CDC still recommends one 3 layer cloth mask. If you are still using the HC red and black masks, the health center recommends double masking with those. The combination of the white masks distributed this semester with the HC masks is good. If you did not receive a white mask, please come to the health center to pick some up between 10-12 and 1-4 Monday to Friday. Bottom line at this time, the choice to wear one or two masks is a personal choice.

I just got my vaccine, I’m going to burn my masks!

NO BONFIRES YET! Some have asked if they need to wear a mask after they receive the vaccine. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. To protect yourself and others, follow these recommendations: • Wear a mask over your nose and mouth • Stay at least 6 feet away from others • Avoid crowds • Avoid poorly ventilated spaces • Wash your hands often

Why is there a person limit in each resident’s room?

Based on the recommendations from the CDC and orders from the Ohio Health Department occupancy in spaces on campus have been reduced. Each resident of a room/suite/townhouse is allowed to have one additional Hiram residential student as a guest in their room, provided both are wearing masks. We have made this decision to help keep the members of the campus and residence halls healthy. For instance, in a single room there should never be more than two people at a time.

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