

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### Canton City Public Health

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#### **MEDIA RELEASE – Wash Up, Mask Up, Back Up**

The City of Canton and Canton City Public Health continue to work diligently to not only protect the health of our residents but also to protect the health of our businesses.

“The challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect everything and everyone and it is up to each of us to take the necessary precautions for the health and welfare of all,” says Mayor Thomas Bernabei. “It is important that we continue to follow the recommendations of our health department in order for our businesses to operate safely and our residents to feel confident when shopping, dining out or going out in public in general.” Continuing, Mayor Bernabei added, “Several major Ohio cities are experiencing an alarming surge in the rate of new COVID-19 cases that have lead them to take actions making face coverings mandatory. Canton and Stark County are not at that point yet and hopefully, we won’t experience increases that would lead us to take similar measures.”

Jim Adams, Health Commissioner for Canton City Public Health, states “COVID-19 is exquisite in its ability to exploit any and every weakness it can find. Fighting and winning the battle against COVID-19 is not complicated. It is, however, a battle that must be fought by each of us, in a united front, to protect ourselves and those around us.”

Adams continues, “It’s all about accountability. There are four simple steps that must be followed in order for our businesses to return to full function, our schools to open and the spread of the disease to be reduced. These steps are:

- Wash Up - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Mask Up - Wear a face covering when in public, unless medically unable.
- Back Up - Maintain 6 feet social distance.
- Stay home when you are sick.”

Mayor Bernabei added, “Now is the time for each of us to lead by example. I encourage everyone to take these recommendations seriously, to wear a face covering in public if able and practice social distancing. The health of our community is everyone’s responsibility. Let’s work together to keep moving forward, not backwards.”

