



UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Ensuring people have food to eat is a big concern on all fronts. The schools and local food pantries have done a great job to ensure children and families receive their food supplies. I can assure you, here in Fairfield County, we are staying the course to ensure the nutrition and social needs of our seniors are being met.

On the senior services front, **Meals on Wheels has been keeping up with daily delivery**, while **also providing emergency food rations** in the form of shelf stable meals so our clients have food to access in the event the agency is unable to get to a senior due to the ever-changing conditions. Each senior in our program has at least a 10 day supply of meals. While our congregate dining sites have closed, seniors in that program are being home delivered if they want that service. Our restaurant sites continue to offer grab and go service for MOW clients. The commodity food box program for low- income seniors delivered over 300 boxes of supplemental food on schedule.

The **Tele-friend service is being promoted** as a way for seniors to stay connected during self-isolation and we are **providing additional activities** in the newsletter and in the meal sacks (puzzles and word searches etc...)

Meals on Wheels has committed to providing **Emergency Food Packs to seniors** who cannot get out to shop for groceries during the state of emergency. These meal deliveries are separate from the regular MOW program and are delivered as needed.

As we monitor the situation and digest the information we receive from the Governor and Director of Health, we must take heed to the recommendations to keep our seniors, our staff and volunteers, and community safe.

It is abundantly clear that the next few weeks are critical to minimize the progression of the pandemic situation here in Ohio. With that said, Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County will be reducing delivery of home delivered meals to two days a week. We will home deliver meals on Mondays and Thursdays beginning Monday, March 30. The delivery will consist of a hot meal for the day and frozen meals to be used between deliveries. Client meal services are not being reduced, they are being delivered on a different schedule than normal.

By limiting the contacts for the next couple of weeks, we are minimizing the exposure to our seniors, to our staff and volunteers, and supporting community efforts to minimize our "circles" to reduce the progression of the pandemic here in Ohio. Several of our staff have self-isolated due to their age and/or pre-existing medical conditions. We have been re-assigning workers to fill various positions across the board. "Flexibility" has become a common word here at MOW.

The community, local businesses, and local churches have been amazing in reaching out to Meals on Wheels to help. Rest assured, as long as we can be here, we will be here for the seniors. We are taking all recommended precautions and safety measures for everyone concerned. In the meantime, please contact me if you require further information. 740-681-5050 or atobin@mowfc.org

Sincerely,

Anna Tobin, Executive Director

Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County