



September 2020

# THE READY REVIEW

*Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency*

## National Preparedness Month

If Coronavirus has taught us anything, it is that being prepared for the unexpected is **essential**. September is National Preparedness Month in Hamilton County, which makes *now* the perfect time to prepare your household for emergencies and disasters.

### Know the Hazards that Could Impact You

When living in Hamilton County, families should be prepared for a variety of hazards, including: severe weather, hazardous material spills, power outages, and public health emergencies.

### Have Multiple Ways to Get Alerts & Warnings

Having multiple ways to get alerts and warning helps ensure that you will be notified when a dangerous situation is occurring in your area. A few examples of methods you can use to be notified include: a NOAA weather radio, signing up for Alert Hamilton County, downloading reliable weather apps, and

### Identify Your Household's Needs

Each family has unique needs. When creating an emergency plan or building an emergency preparedness kit, think about the following questions:

- Does anyone in the home have special medical needs?
- Does anyone in the home have mobility concerns?
- What room in the house is best to seek shelter during a tornado warning?

### Build a Kit

When an emergency happens, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being "prepared" means having a collection of basic items your family needs. A basic emergency preparedness kit includes:

Water, 1 gallon of water per person per day  
Food (non-perishables)  
NOAA Weather Radio  
Flashlight & batteries  
First aid kit  
Whistle  
Moist towelettes  
Can opener  
Local maps  
Medicine

### How Will You Communicate?

If you and your family are not together at the time of an emergency, how will you communicate? Before emergency strikes, have a group message ready to message to communicate that you are safe.

Remember: during an emergency, keep phone lines open! Use text messages unless it is a true emergency.

### Practice Your Plan

Once you have created a plan with your family, practice it!

# BACK TO SCHOOL DURING COVID-19

Going back to school this fall will require schools and families to work together even more than before. Help prepare your student to go back to school with these tips to prevent the spread of germs:

- Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness.
- Keep your student home if they are showing signs of illness or if they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19.
- Make sure your child is up-to-date with all recommended vaccines, including flu.
- Pack a water bottle.



- Have multiple face coverings ready, so they can be washed daily.
- Label your student's masks clearly.
- Model mask wearing behavior for your child.

## COVID-19 MYTHS & FACTS

*Myth: Face coverings don't prevent the spread of COVID-19.*

**Fact: Coverings CAN stop the evaporation of droplets that carry viruses. Droplets get far less momentum & cannot travel as far when exhalation is blocked by a mask.**

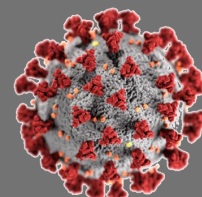
*Myth: Data is skewed because sometimes a person who has COVID-19 is tested more than once, so they are counted more than once.*

**Fact: In Ohio, a person with COVID-19 is only counted ONCE even if that person is tested multiple times.**

*Myth: COVID-19 is a hoax.*

**Fact: Millions of people around the world have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and hundreds of thousands have died. Based on global data collected through midday July 27, 2020, nearly 4% of those diagnosed have died. By comparison, it is estimated that seasonal flu kills far less than 1% of people who have it.**

[coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)



# SHELTER IN PLACE



What would you do if there was a dangerous hazardous material spill? What about a law enforcement incident? Do you know what "Shelter in Place" means? What will you do if you get a Shelter in Place alert?

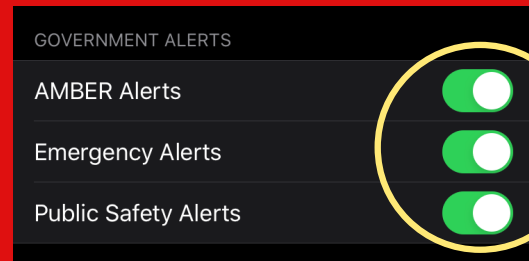
**What Does it Mean?** Shelter in Place means that there is a dangerous situation occurring that urges you to **go indoors immediately**.

## What Should You Do?

- Go Indoors Immediately!
- Close all doors & windows.
- Turn off all air conditioning & heating systems.
- Tune in to local media for updates & information.
- Seal windows with plastic sheets & duct tape.
- Stay inside until told it is safe OR if told to evacuate.

## How Will You Be Notified?

Have multiple ways to get alerts & warnings. Sign up for Alert Hamilton County, follow trusted social media sites, tune in to local media & enable Local Government Alerts in your phone's Notification Settings.



- Keep freezers & refrigerators closed.
- Only use generators outdoors & away from windows.
- Have flashlights & extra batteries ready.
- Disconnect appliances & electronics to avoid damage from electrical surge.
- Sign up for local alerts at [www.alerthc.org](http://www.alerthc.org).



# POWER OUTAGE SAFETY TIPS

- If you require a medical device, have a plan for where you can go to power up your device if your power is out.
- Charge your phones/devices BEFORE a storm hits.
- Text **REG** to **57801** to get text alerts for power outage information from Duke Energy.



[ALERTHC.ORG](http://ALERTHC.ORG)



[@Hamilton.CountyEMA](https://www.facebook.com/Hamilton.CountyEMA)



[@HCEMA](https://twitter.com/HCEMA)



[@HC\\_EMA](https://www.instagram.com/HC_EMA)

# ALERT HAMILTON COUNTY *HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED?*

How will you be notified of severe weather warnings & emergency information? Sign up for Alert Hamilton County to receive weather updates and emergency alerts via text, phone call and/or email. With the ability to include as many addresses in the system as you would like, you can now be notified of a potential hazard at home, at work, or even at your child's school!

Alert Hamilton County allows you to choose from 43 weather alerts and gives public safety officials the ability to reach you when it matters most!

By signing up for Alert Hamilton County, you will also be signed up for Smart911, a life-saving technology that allows you to give vital information to 9-1-1 call takers BEFORE an emergency.

**Sign Up at [WWW.ALERTHC.ORG](http://WWW.ALERTHC.ORG)**



## SMART911: PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Smart911 allows users to provide key information to 9-1-1 call takers and first responders BEFORE an emergency happens. With Smart911, users are able to create a Safety Profile that includes the information needed to help you faster during an emergency. Smart911 is a nationwide system, so if you are traveling in an area that subscribes to Smart911, your Safety Profile will be available to that 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center when you dial 9-1-1.

### What Should You Include?

**Family Medical Info**    **Vehicle Information**  
**Contact Information**   **Pet Information**  
**Pictures**                **Important Addresses**

## IMPROVE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SAFETY WITH RAVE FACILITY

Emergencies occurring on school campuses, healthcare, and other commercial properties present first responders with unique challenges, which can impact their ability to provide assistance. These facilities can be difficult to access. They may be locked or have gates; they can be confusing to navigate once accessed; and often the 9-1-1 caller is not very familiar with the facility's layout.



With **Rave Facility**, you can take an active role in protecting your employees, students, guests, and property by providing any information about your facilities that you want 9-1-1 and first responders to know, ahead of any emergency.

<https://www.smart911.com/corporateprofile>