

Responsible RestartOhio



Birding and Wildlife Viewing

Mandatory

Birders

- Birders should conduct symptom assessments prior to birding or wildlife viewing activities.* Symptomatic individuals should stay at home.
- Immediately return to home, isolate and/or seek medical care if you develop symptoms during an event.

Recommended Best Practices

- If you plan to bird with others outside of your household, discuss results of daily health checks before birding together.
- When birding close to others outside of your household, use face coverings.
 - Stay informed on proper use, disposal, and maintenance of face coverings.
 - **Disposable:** Plan to wear multiple coverings per day and dispose of properly.
 - **Reusable:** Plan to wear multiple coverings per day and stow properly for daily washing.
- Develop a checklist of personal items that you will need for each trip to avoid extra stops at other public areas.
- Bring all personal items for the day (e.g., food, drinks, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes) and do not share food, drinks, or coolers unless with immediate members of your household.
- Wear eye protection (sunglasses or goggles).
- Do not touch face or eyes.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Conduct deep sanitation of optics, other equipment, and vehicle prior to additional trips.

Physical Spaces

- **To the greatest extent possible, maintain a 6-foot distance from other birders or wildlife watchers outside of your household when birding, and when entering or leaving public area parking lots or trailheads.**

- Ideally, bird alone or with people that live in your home.
- Bird locally and plan an alternate location if your first choice is crowded.
- Seek access areas less prone to crowds or congestion.
- Choose days and times to bird or watch wildlife when public areas are less likely to be crowded (e.g., week days and early mornings).
- Consideration should be given to cancelling a birding trip for individuals who live with, or have traveled with, someone that is symptomatic.
- Instead of chasing rare bird sightings, try to see how many birds or other wildlife can be seen in your yard or other local areas.
- Avoid birding in or near large groups, particularly groups of individuals who are likely to have traveled from out-of-town.
- Avoid sharing spotting scopes and binoculars with others outside of your household. Photographers should maintain a 6-foot distance from others.

Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.
- Shut down affected areas for deep sanitation, if possible.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.
- Collect guest contact information as appropriate that can be shared with the health department for contact tracing purposes.

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.