

Rumor: While you guys weren't looking, Ohio & FEMA teamed up to create a way to take our children to FEMA camps without parental consent!

Reality: This one is a very intentional misinterpretation of the information designed to sow fear and distrust in the public health response to COVID-19. The images shared regarding disaster preparedness planning from the CDC, and the State of Ohio's continuing orders regarding non-congregate sheltering plans, were placed side by side deliberately to create an illusion that there is a grand plan to separate children from their parents. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!**

Governor Dewine addressed this during his 9/8/2020 news briefing calling it, "absolutely ridiculous."

The CDC's page is designed to help kids be prepared and safe in the event of a need to shelter in place at school. Around the nation, weather disasters such as flash floods, snowstorms, or tornadoes can create a need for children to shelter in place while routes to the school are cleared for parents to reunite with their kids. In the worst case scenarios, an overnight stay at school could be necessary. This is what the CDC's graphic that's being circulated is about.

The State of Ohio order regarding non-congregate sheltering options were more for things like the governor mentioned – doctors who are exposed but don't want to risk exposing their families may stay in designated non-congregate shelters. Additionally, if homeless people needed a place to safely recuperate (not needing hospitalization) these non-congregate shelters could be used for this.

When something this outlandish is posted, it can only be seen as a direct attempt to instill fear in those reading it. A deliberate attempt to undermine the trust in the very officials dedicated to promoting health and safety throughout our communities.

The CDC, FEMA, The Ohio Department of Health, and all of us here at Summit County Public Health are working to keep our communities as safe as possible during a pandemic. Any information you receive to the contrary should be viewed with skepticism. As always, feel free to contact your local health department when you see issues of concern like this. We appreciate the opportunity to dispel these misconceptions!!