Press Release

Greene County Public Health
A Safe Communities Grantee of Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division
360 Wilson Drive, Xenia, OH 45385

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

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Never Drive High on Thanksgiving or Any Day

XENIA, OH — Greene County Public Health's (GCPH) Safe Communities Coalition, along with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), is reminding drivers about the deadly consequences of drug-impaired driving. For a safe Thanksgiving night, drivers should plan a sober ride home. Remember: ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different***.

"It's a common and dangerous misconception that people drive better when they are high," said Kaci Warren, health educator with GCPH and coordinator of the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition. "The message is simple: Impaired driving is always dangerous, and it's always illegal. We partner with NHTSA and our local law enforcement agencies with the goal of ensuring that drug-impaired driving and its deadly consequences do not rob anyone of their life and chance to enjoy a safe Thanksgiving holiday. Remember: ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different***. If you are high, do not drive." Violating Ohio's drug-impaired driving laws can be costly.

Many people believe that being high doesn't affect driving abilities, but they are wrong. It has been proven that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.

Those who plan to use drugs should not drive. Even over-the-counter and prescription medications can have impairing effects. Before heading out, plan for a sober ride home—whether that's a designated driver, a taxi, or rideshare.

Thanksgiving is a great time to get together with friends and family. Consider handing keys over to a sober driver to ensure a safe trip home for anyone feeling too impaired to drive. Being a supportive friend also means stepping in when others have been using substances—taking the keys and arranging a safe, sober ride is a simple way to look out for everyone's safety. If anyone spots an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement.

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Join us in sharing the lifesaving message, ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different***. For more information on impaired driving, visit NHTSA.gov/DrugImpaired.

For more information about Greene County Safe Communities, please call Kaci Warren at 937-374-5673 or email kwarren@greenecophoh.gov.

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