
Public Health Update: COVID-19 July 16, 2020

Allen County at Red Alert Level 3 for COVID-19

Governor DeWine announced today that new public health data has led the Ohio Department of Health to designate Allen County as being in a Red Alert Level 3 Public Emergency for COVID-19 Spread as defined by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. **Risk Level 3 means there is very high exposure and spread; residents should limit activities as much as possible to reduce their risk of exposure; and residents must follow all current health orders established by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.** Details of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System and alert levels are at the end of this update.

As of July 15, 2020, Allen County COVID19 data triggered five of the seven Alert Indicators:

- **NEW CASES PER CAPITA**
During the last 14 days, 76 COVID-19 cases have been identified which represents 20% of the total number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- **PROPORTION OF CASES NOT IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS**
In recent weeks over 88% of cases in Allen County are not in congregate settings (such as long-term care facilities), signaling significant spread in the broader community.
- **SUSTAINED INCREASE IN EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS**
Between June 23rd and July 11th, visits for COVID-19 to the emergency departments grew from an average of .8 visits per day to nearly 4 per day.
- **SUSTAINED INCREASE IN OUTPATIENT VISITS**
Between June 23rd and July 13th, average outpatient visits grew from 2 to 11.5 visits per day.
- **SUSTAINED INCREASE IN NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS**
New hospitalization rates have not decreased, and are on a pace to exceed previous months.

In Allen County, our contact tracers attribute the increasing spread of COVID-19 to residents having large family gatherings, travelling to high-risk parts of the country and returning to Allen County, and a rising non-compliance with quarantine and isolation guidelines issued to residents that have tested positive for coronavirus or who have been exposed to a person who has tested positive.

Face Coverings Mandated

Per Governor Mike DeWine's orders, residents and visitors in counties designated as Red Alert Level 3 or Purple Alert Level 4 are required to wear a face covering:

- In any indoor location that is not a residence;
- When outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household; or
- While waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a private car service, or a ride-sharing vehicle.

- The order does not apply to children under the age of 10 or any other minor who cannot safely wear a face covering. The order also reflects the mask guidance in place for employees and businesses which does not require a person to wear a mask if their physician advises against it, if wearing a mask is prohibited by federal regulation, if communicating with the hearing impaired, when alone in an office or personal workspace, and other similar measures.

Everyone needs to do their part and follow all the preventive actions they can to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Our actions today determine how many people will be affected in the coming weeks. It is critical to take action now to slow the spread. Allen County Public Health recommends that residents and visitors take time to reconsider plans for events and activities that may put themselves and others at risk.

Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.
LEVEL 1-4 REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL HEALTH ORDERS			
Over 60% of Ohioans are considered high-risk based on CDC guidance. High-risk individuals* are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19, including following higher risk level guidance outlined below. Consult a doctor about your risk.			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic.** • Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-household members. • Wear face coverings in public, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain. • Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers. • Avoid traveling to high-risk areas. • Follow good hygiene standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. ◦ Use hand sanitizer frequently. ◦ Avoid touching your face. ◦ Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow). ◦ Symptom self-evaluation monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Level 1. • Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk. • High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions. • Decrease in-person interactions outside household. • Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Levels 1-2. • Decrease in-person interactions with others. • Consider necessary travel only. • Limit attending gatherings of any number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Level 1-3. • Stay at home/ necessary travel only.

The Ohio Public Health Advisory System is updated by the Ohio Department of Health and Governor DeWine's office. The level a county is placed in is determined by how many risk indicators that county triggers based on that county's coronavirus case data.

County Risk Level Alerts

LEVEL 1
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread.
LEVEL 2
Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread.
LEVEL 3
Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread.
LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread.

