



March 30, 2021

SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Reminders for a Safe Spring Break & Easter**

[Akron, OH] – Summit County residents are encouraged to exercise caution when deciding to participate in Easter Holiday traditions, celebrations and gatherings that put them in close contact with people outside their households. Summit County Public Health would like to provide residents with some best practices for celebrating Easter and Spring Break amid increases we are currently experiencing in Summit County.

Based on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System dashboard, Summit County remains at Level 3: Red status, which is effective from March 25 to April 1. Since mid-January, most of the OPHAS indicators continue to exhibit decreasing trends. However, an upward trend was observed in the indicators in the past reporting week: The 7-day average for outpatient COVID-19 visits, new case rate and COVID-19 ED visits all met the OPHAS threshold for sustained increase. The most current new case rate during this latest period increased to 219.0 cases per 100,000. This is over twice the OPHAS high case incidence threshold of 100 cases per 100,000, indicating that widespread community transmission continues to occur throughout Summit County, and the risk for COVID-19 exposure in the community is very high.

Although the increase in COVID-19 activity over the past two weeks is relatively small, it is extremely concerning after two months of consistent decrease in Summit County- especially in the context of new COVID-19 variants with higher rates of transmission. As we continue to vaccinate the population, it is essential that we do not discontinue precautionary measures to prevent transmission: Mask wearing, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings (especially indoors), and hand washing. These practices will help us avoid another surge in COVID-19 cases before we reach herd immunity. In addition, we have included some tips for safely celebrating Easter and Spring Break:

- Have a small [outdoor meal](#) with family and friends who live in your community.
- Limit the number of guests to adhere to mass gathering guidelines.
- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.
  - Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
  - Have guests bring their own food and drink.





- If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.
- Always wear a face covering and stay 6 feet away from people who are not from your household.
- Sanitize hands frequently.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Consider those in your household who may be at greater risk for Covid-19 complications.

If you are having COVID-19 symptoms and are unable to be tested right away or are waiting for your results please stay home and do not go in public or expose your family members who are at higher risk for adverse complications of COVID-19. Isolate yourself even in your own household until you are able to be tested or receive your results. Protecting those who are at greater risk of COVID-19 complications should be the main consideration while celebrating any holiday tradition.

Additional guidance and suggestions can be found on the Ohio Department of Health website at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/resources-for-parents-and-families/holiday-celebrations>

If you have questions, call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F.

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