



September 10, 2020

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Summit County Becomes Risk Level 3/ Red**

[Akron, OH] –Summit County Public Health was alerted this afternoon that Summit County has moved from Risk Level 2/ Orange into Risk Level 3/ Red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. The Risk Level 3/Red designation means that there is very high exposure and spread of Covid-19 in Summit County. Summit County residents are encouraged to limit activities as much as possible and to follow all current health orders.

The Ohio Public Health Advisory System was established to increase the information available to Ohioans about Covid-19 risk at the county level. Seven indicators are analyzed to assess risk for each county. The indicators are as follows:

1. New Cases Per Capita – Flagged if greater than 50 cases per 100,000 residents over the last two weeks.
2. Sustained Increase in New Cases – Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in overall cases by onset date.
3. Proportion of Cases Not In a Congregate Setting – Flagged if proportion of cases that are not in a congregate setting goes over 50%.
4. Sustained Increase in Emergency Room Visits – Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of visits to the emergency department with Covid-like illness or a diagnosis.
5. Sustained Increase in Outpatient Visits - Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of people going to a health care provider with Covid symptoms who then receive a Covid confirmed or suspected diagnosis.
6. Sustained Increase in New Covid-19 Hospital Admissions – Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of new hospitalizations due to Covid.
7. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Bed Occupancy – Flagged if percentage of occupied ICU beds in each region goes above 80% for at least three days in the last week.

Level 3/Red is reached when a county triggers 4-5 of the above indicators. The current indicators triggered in Summit County are as follows:

1. New Cases Per Capita (56.9 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 2 weeks)
2. Sustained Increase in Emergency Department Visits for COVID-19 – like Illness
3. Proportion of Cases Not In a Congregate Setting
4. Sustained Increase in Hospitalizations





Residents should follow the recommended guidelines for Risk Level 3/Red to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- 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.
- Consider necessary travel only.
- Follow good hygiene standards, including:
  - 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.
- Decrease in-person interactions with others.
- Limit attending gatherings of any number.
- 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.

For more information about the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, visit <http://coronavirus.ohio.gov>. For more information about the coronavirus situation in Summit County visit <https://www.scph.org/covid-19>.

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.

###

