



September 24, 2020

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Summit County Rises Back to Risk Level 2/ Orange**

[Akron, OH] –Summit County Public Health was notified Thursday afternoon that Summit County has moved up to Risk Level 2/ Orange from Risk Level 1/ Yellow in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. The Level 2 Risk designation means that there is increased risk and exposure of Covid-19 in Summit County. SCPH would like to thank the residents of Summit County for their diligence in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and helping us move to Level 2.

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 Congregate Cases – 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 2 is reached when a county triggers 2-3 of the above indicators. The indicators triggered in Summit County are as follows:

1. New Cases Per Capita
2. Sustained Increase in New Cases
3. Proportion of Cases Not Congregate Cases





Residents should follow the recommended guidelines for Risk Level 2 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.
- It is very important to remember if you have had a COVID-19 test and are awaiting the results **please stay home** and limit outings until you have received your tests results so you do not unknowingly spread the virus.

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.

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