



October 16, 2020

For Immediate release

Miami County Public Health COVID-19 Update

Miami County – Miami County is currently at an Orange #2 COVID-19 Risk Level. This is due to Miami County meeting the criteria for 3 of the 7 Alert Indicators:

- 50+ cases /100,000 population within last 2 weeks
- New cases trajectory increase over a 5 day period
- More than 50% of new cases are from non-congregate care living

This risk level indicates increased exposure and spread of COVID-19. It is advised that community members exercise a high degree of caution and follow all current health orders. Limit events over ten people and non-essential activities as much as possible. In addition to the 3 indicators met, Miami County is listed as a High Incidence area. This means that a county is flagged as high incidence when more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents over the last 2 weeks.

For more information on the Public Health Advisory System visit:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

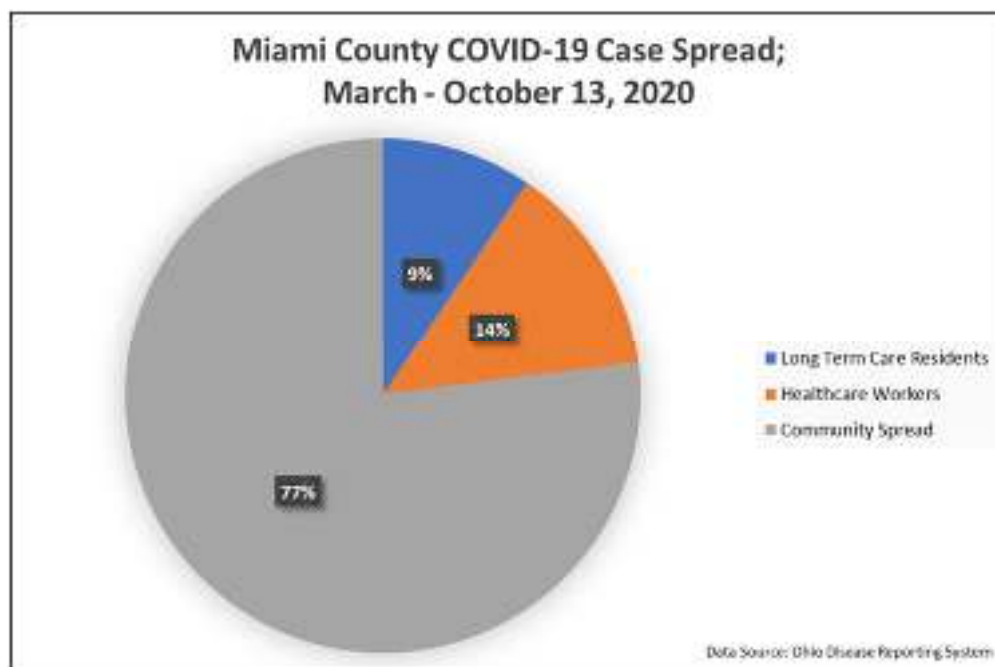
Since October 2nd, 2020, there have been **324** new COVID-19 cases, 26 new hospitalizations and 1 new death reported. This brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in Miami County to 1879, with 1620 confirmed cases and 259 probable cases, 171 hospitalizations and 56 deaths, with 1417 presumed recovered.

MCPH would like to acknowledge the great work schools throughout Miami County are doing to keep students and staff safe. The hard work and dedication by school administration is a testament that the safety measures implemented to slow the spread of COVID-19 works. Due to this proactive approach of stringent mask usage by students and staff, social distancing, and



quarantining close contacts of confirmed positive individuals, there has not been any significant spread of the virus in any of the schools in Miami County.

Elsewhere in the community, mask usage and social distancing practices appear to have declined significantly. This is a major contributing factor to the substantial increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the county. Currently, Miami County is ranked #10 in the state for highest case rate occurrence, with 225 cases per 100,000. The data indicates this rise in cases is not from schools, nursing homes, or other congregate settings, it is coming from community spread. It is spreading among family and friends and social gatherings where safety precautions are not being taken.



As positive cases increase, both hospitalizations and deaths will also increase. The only way to slow the spread of COVID is by following the safety guidelines of proper social distancing, wearing a masks or facial covering when interacting with people that do not live in your home, and limiting social gatherings. If you are sick or if you live with someone who is sick, stay home, please do not attend school, sports activities, social gatherings, or other events.



Anyone can become infected with COVID- 19 and spread it to others. There are recent reports of former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie spending a week in the ICU after contracting COVID-19. His experience prompted this message:

“I was wrong to not wear a mask at the Amy Coney Barrett announcement and I was wrong not to wear a mask at my multiple debate prep sessions with the President and the rest of the team,” Christie said. “I hope that my experience shows my fellow citizens that you should follow CDC guidelines in public no matter where you are and wear a mask to protect yourself and others.”

MCPH encourages everyone to follow the former governor’s advice and adhere to all the safety guidelines.

MCPH will continue working to keep the community safe and informed as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in Miami County.

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