



July 16, 2020

## **For Immediate release**

### **Miami County Public Health COVID-19 Update**

**Miami County** – Miami County has been elevated to an Orange #2 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
- More than 50% of new cases are from non-congregate care living
- Sustained increase in Outpatient visits for COVID-19 symptoms over the past 5 days

There have been 97 new COVID-19 cases and 8 new hospitalizations since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Many of these cases stem from various social gatherings, like graduation parties and 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. There are also reports of individuals attending social gatherings even though they have active symptoms of COVID-19. It is vital that individuals with symptoms, or if you live with someone with symptoms, stay home. Please do not attend social gatherings or events. These are the only steps we can take to slow the spread.

In an effort to keep Miami County from reaching a #3 Red risk level, MCPH is asking the community to take a proactive approach by limiting social gatherings, limit trips out in public, practicing safe social distancing, wearing a mask if you do go out and stay home if you are sick or live with someone who is ill. Currently, Miami County is only 1 more Alert Indicator from escalating to a #3 Red Risk level, so it is vital that we take steps now.

For more information on the Public Health Advisory System visit:

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

While there has been great debate on mask usage, the science behind covering your cough or sneeze is sound. With any respiratory illness, Influenza or COVID-19, it can be spread by infected individuals, before symptoms appear, through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing and even talking. COVID-19 is very contagious, and we are still learning how it affects





people and how to properly treat those infected. It is extremely important for community members to understand the significance of face coverings in combating this virus.

“We are not defenseless against COVID-19,” said CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield. “Cloth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus – particularly when used universally within a community setting. All Americans have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0714-americans-to-wear-masks.html>

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-face-masks-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-disease-2019-vs-the-flu>

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

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