



## Public Information Release

### Ohio's Public Health Advisory Alert System

July 7, 2020

On July 2, 2020 Governor DeWine announced the new Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System (PHAAS). The PHAAS is a color-coded approach to inform Ohioans about their current risk associated with COVID-19 where they live and travel. The system uses seven data indicators to provide evidence-based actions that residents can take to protect themselves and their communities based on the level of risk.

At each PHAAS level, all Ohioans must follow all current health orders. The four emergency levels are:

- Level 1** (0-1 indicators triggered): Active exposure and spread. Continue following health orders.
- Level 2** (2-3 indicators triggered): Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution.
- Level 3** (4-5 indicators triggered): Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible.
- Level 4** (6-7 indicators triggered): Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services.

As of July 2, 2020 the Ohio PHAAS has been activated and a Public Health Emergency exists. Madison County is currently at Level 1. This means that the virus is spreading and Madison County residents should continue to follow current state and local orders. The seven data indicators are:

1. **New Cases Per Capita:** how many new cases have occurred in the last 14 days relative to the population.
2. **Sustained Increase in New Cases:** at least a 5-day period of increases of cases.
3. **Proportion of Cases Not Congregate Cases:** congregate settings for this indicator are defined as long-term care facilities (including nursing homes) and prisons. People with COVID-19 not residing in a congregate setting carry greater weight in a county's risk since they are more likely to interact with others in the community.
4. **Sustained Increase in Emergency Room Visits:** the trend in the number of people with COVID-19 symptoms that visit the emergency department and not diagnosed with another respiratory illness.
5. **Sustained Increase in Outpatient Visits:** the number of people visiting outpatient settings with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis shows how many people are sick enough to go to the doctor's office.
6. **Sustained Increase in New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions:** the number of county residents who are admitted to hospitals with COVID-19. This is by the county of residence (rather than the county of hospitalization) since residents of rural counties may seek care at hospitals in neighboring counties.
7. **Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Bed Occupancy:** this considers both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 use of ICU beds, as COVID-19 cases are just one portion of what hospitals must handle in their communities.

In the future the PHAAS will add three indicators including the number of tests per county, the percentage of those tests that are positive, and the rate of new cases who have a known close contact with an existing case.