



WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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For Immediate Release

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Governor DeWine announced today that new public health data has led the Ohio Department of Health to designate Warren County as being in a Red Alert Level 3 Public Emergency for COVID-19 as defined by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.

Risk Level 3 means there is very high exposure and spread; residents should limit activities as much as possible to reduce their risk of exposure; and residents must follow all current health orders established by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. Details of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System and alert levels are available at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

In Warren County, there has been a steady increase in Covid-19 cases since the end of September. The increasing spread of COVID-19 has been seen among residents having family gatherings, smaller groups of friends/neighbors getting together, weddings, funerals, sports team members going out together after games/practices, workplaces becoming more lax in following precautions and in individuals not wearing masks.

With the significant increase in community spread, citizens, businesses, and local officials in Warren County need to do everything they can to undertake the efforts we know that slows the spread of the virus—social distancing, wearing masks, good hand washing hygiene, and reducing interactions with anyone outside your household.

We all have an opportunity to protect each other. Many are struggling with mask fatigue. Wearing a mask is a simple step that can help protect others. Now is the time we need to increase our efforts in prevention measures to help keep our community healthy.

Action Steps for the Public to prevent spread of COVID-19:

- Limit activities as much as possible
- Follow all current Health Orders
- Wear a mask. This is a simple way to reduce the spread of droplets that could carry the virus.

- Wash your hands thoroughly. This is one of the most proven methods to prevent disease transmission.
- Take your temperature and monitor for symptoms.
- Avoid gatherings. Some people never develop symptoms or get symptoms so mild that they do not know they are sick, but we know that they can spread it to others.
- Stay 6 ft. away from others. Studies show that this is likely the maximum range the virus can travel in droplets spread from your mouth. Make this even more effective by wearing your mask.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Warren County Health District is not recommending the closing of businesses or cancellation of activities at this time. However, WCHD recommends that residents and visitors take time to reconsider plans for events and activities that may put themselves and others at risk. If all safety guidelines cannot be maintained, please reconsider your activity.

Everyone needs to do their part to slow the spread of the virus and protect themselves and their community. If people do more than the minimum to act safely, it will benefit everyone.

For more information, visit the WCHD website at www.warrenchd.com, the ODH at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov or the CDC at CDC.gov.

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