August 6, 2020

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For Immediate Release

Athens County returns to “yellow” Ohio Public Health Advisory alert level 1.

On Thursday, August 6th, the Ohio Department of Health announced that Athens County has transitioned to alert level 1, yellow, in the most recent Ohio Public Health Alert System update. All residents, regardless of the alert level of their county, should continue to conduct daily symptom checks and stay home if sick. Ohio residents are required to wear a facial covering (with exceptions) in public, even when gathering outside and unable to keep a distance of at least 6 feet. We urge all residents to maintain regular handwashing and hand sanitizing practices and to frequently clean high touch surfaces such as door handles, key pads, and handrails. All residents should also avoid travel to high-risk areas.

Athens County has done well in following the governor’s orders and is carefully managing disease spread. Our thanks to all who are working hard to slow the spread of COVID-19. In Athens County, residents will be returning from vacation and a small number of students will be moving back to Athens in the coming weeks. In order to maintain our low risk level, everyone must continue to practice prevention measures to keep businesses open and the community safe.

The Ohio Department of Health and National Guard in cooperation with the Athens City-County Health Department are hosting a drive-thru testing site this Friday, August 7th at the Athens High School in The Plains from 1-6 pm. See the health department webpage or social media for more information.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) call center is open for specific questions about COVID-19, 1-833-4 ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). ODH updates the states numbers every day at 2pm. For Athens-specific questions regarding COVID-19, contact the Athens City-County Health Department at 740-592-4431 or visit the website www.athenspublichealth.org, Facebook page, and twitter @acchd_oh. Other information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention page, www.cdc.gov, and the ODH Coronavirus page, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. USE. TRUSTED. SOURCES. The potential for misinformation and rumors during times of high-profile global events/public health threats is high. Verify information before sharing.

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