For Immediate Release

Athens County Moves to Red in the Ohio Public Health Emergency Alert Level.

Athens County has been elevated to Ohio Public Health Emergency Alert Level Red. A “red” alert level is defined by very high exposure and spread. Residents living in red-level counties are instructed to limit activities as much as possible and follow all current state health orders. The change in the alert level in Athens County is a response to the sustained increase in COVID-19 cases, the nature of the cases occurring as community spread and not in congregate settings, and an increase in the number of visits to the emergency department. According to a recent order by the Ohio Department of Health Interim Director, residents of red-level counties are required to wear a facial covering in public. The order carries a criminal penalty.

Everyone who can, must wear a facial covering and maintain safe distances of at least 6 feet from others. Through contact tracing of active cases, we now recognize how important it is to limit gatherings of any kind. They have been a significant contributor to the spread of the virus. Thank you for your diligence in helping us slow the spread of COVID-19 and appropriately respond to this public health emergency in Athens County.

In response to the elevated Ohio Public Health Advisory System alert level, the Athens City-County Health Department will be closed to walk-in traffic starting Monday, July 20th. The application for birth and death records can be placed in a drop box outside the front door or mailed to the Athens City-County Health Department. Applications for requesting documents can be found on our website at www.athenspublichealth.org. Immunizations will be by appointment only and administered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the health department to make an appointment at 740-592-4431. Currently, the Athens City-County Health Department is experiencing a high volume of requests, please be patient as we respond when time permits. The Athens City-County Health Department will be providing additional COVID-19 data on our website and social media starting the week of July 20, 2020.

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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