For Immediate Release

Governor DeWine announces new Public Health Advisory Alert System.

During Governor DeWine’s press conference today, he outlined a new Public Health Advisory Alert System that considers 7 data indicators to determine a COVID-19 risk category for Ohio counties. The data indicators include information related to sustained number of COVID-19 cases, community spread, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions, and emergency room visits. Counties with 0-1 indicators will be considered to be Alert Level 1 or “Yellow”. Fifty-three Ohio counties fall into the yellow category including Athens County. Orange Alert Level 2 will identify counties with 2-3 of the 7 indicators; 28 Ohio counties are orange. Seven counties in Ohio fall into the Red Alert Level 3, triggering 4-5 of the seven indicators. Currently, there are no Ohio counties that fall into Alert Level 4 or “Purple” category. The Public Health Advisory Alert System has been developed to assist communities and individuals in assessing risk for COVID-19 and respond to conditional recommendations.

A Public Health Advisory System map, showing county alert levels, can be found on the Ohio COVID-19 website, coronavirus.ohio.gov. Governor DeWine stated that all 88 counties have community spread and he encouraged Ohioans to prevent exposure to the virus by wearing a facial covering, maintaining a distance of 6 feet, and washing hands frequently at every alert level. On July 1, the governor extended current orders until July 7th.

The Ohio Department of Health call center is open for specific questions about COVID-19, 1-833-4 ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). The Ohio Department of Health 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 Athens City-County Health Department 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 Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus page, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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