July 30, 2020

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For Immediate Release

Athens County downgraded to “orange” Ohio Public Health Advisory alert level 2.

After two weeks as a red alert level 3, Athens County returns to an orange alert level 2. The Ohio Public Health Advisory System has identified 7 risk criteria to determine the level of COVID-19 in each Ohio county. In Athens County, increases in new cases, new cases in non-congregate settings, emergency room visits, and outpatient visits, were among the criteria that kept Athens County red. Athens County status as an orange alert level 2 confirms that we still meet 2-3 indicators and citizens should continue to exercise a high degree of caution. An Athens County profile highlighting case trends and hospital activity related to COVID-19 can be found on the on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System link at coronavirus.ohio.gov website.

It is imperative to continue practicing the public health prevention measures of wearing a facial covering, physically distancing of at least 6 feet, and frequently washing hands and cleaning surfaces. These actions will be part of our everyday activities for the foreseeable future. Consistently including these habits of good health into daily routines will be the best we can do at preventing the spread of COVID-19. The state-wide order for wearing a facial covering is still a requirement (with exceptions) despite transitioning from red to orange.

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.

https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards

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