July 4, 2020

Contact:
Dr. James Gaskell, Health Commissioner, 740-592-4431 ext 5903, jgaskell@athenspublichealth.org
Ruth Dudding, Public Information Officer, 740-592-4431 ext 5912, rdudding@athenspublichealth.org

For Immediate Release

Athens County sees significant rise in COVID-19 cases.

Similar to other areas around the state, Athens County is experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases. Today, Saturday, July 4th, the Athens City-County Health Department recorded the highest daily increase to date. Most of the cases are community spread, which means that new cases have not identified contact with a known COVID-19 case. Athens County has seen an increase in 21 cases over the past week. Today we are reporting a total of 52 cases.

The Athens City-County Health Department strongly encourages members of our community to modify their personal behavior to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19. You should wear a face covering in public, which can be a mask, scarf, bandana, or other homemade fabric barrier. Maintain a 6-foot distance from others. Wash hands often and clean surfaces that are frequently touched by many people. Practicing these public health prevention measures are a demonstration of kindness and respect for others. The symptoms for COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, fatigue, nausea, or loss of taste and smell. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, stay home and isolate yourself from others. If your symptoms require medical attention, call your physician, urgent care, or emergency room before arriving.

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.

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.

###