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For Immediate Release

Athens County has been elevated to Public Health Advisory Alert Level 2.

On Thursday, September 3rd, Athens County was changed to an alert level “orange” as COVID-19 cases increase. Athens County now meets two of the seven indicators used to determine risk level which led to the elevated change in status. As we prepare for a long holiday weekend, we ask people to practice all the safety measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The Athens City-County Health Department strongly encourages community members to take extra care when in public, at sporting events, entertainment venues, and family and friend gatherings- especially over the Labor Day weekend. Please continue to wear a facial covering in public places including in stores, picking up to-go food, at gas stations, walking in and out of buildings, at work, and outside when it is difficult to maintain a safe distance from others. Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. Clean high touch surfaces often. Most importantly, keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others and avoid large gatherings of people. We need everyone working together to prevent further spread of the virus. We appreciate all of the effort that community members are making to slow the spread of COVID-19.

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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