



Date: July 23, 2020

Time: 4:00pm

To: Local Media

From: Peter Schade, MPH, RS

### **Erie County Level 3 Public Health Alert**

The Ohio Department of Health has designated Erie County as a Red Alert Level 3 Public Health Emergency as defined by the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#). Level 3 indicates very high exposure and spread. You should limit all activities as much as possible. The following indicators justify the increased alert level:

**New Cases Per Capita** - During the past 14 days, 89 COVID-19 cases have been identified which represents 23% of the total number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic. This means Erie County exceeds the "high incidence" category, for COVID cases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Sustained Increase in New Cases** - Since July 1, Erie County's COVID-19 average daily cases increased from 4 cases to 9 cases by July 16.

**Proportion of Cases Not Congregate Cases** - In recent weeks, more than 97% of the cases are not in congregate settings, signaling significant transmission in the broader community.

**Sustained Increase in Emergency Room visits** - From July 1 to July 17, visits for COVID-19 to the emergency department grew from an average of 1 visit per day to 5.

Beginning today, July 23, at 6:00 p.m., a statewide mask mandate will go into effect for all Ohio residents. All individuals aged 10 years or older in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when at an indoor location that is not a residence, outdoors when unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members, and when waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation.

Exemptions to the mask mandate include: those with a medical condition or a disability or communicating with someone with a disability, those who are actively exercising or playing sports, those who are officiants at religious services, those who are actively involved in public safety, or those who are actively eating or drinking.

A [travel advisory](#) has been implemented for all individuals coming into Ohio from the following states: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, and Texas. Those returning or traveling to Ohio from any of these states should self-

quarantine for 14 days at home or in a hotel. In addition to donning a mask and avoiding travel to high-risk areas, Erie County residents should abide by the following guidelines:

- Decrease in-person interactions with others.
- Consider necessary travel only.
- Limit attending gatherings of any number.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk.
- Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible.
- Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic – Symptoms of COVID-19 may not be severe, and include: fever, chills, muscle aches, runny nose, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, fatigue, and conjunctivitis. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you must stay home. Enter symptoms into our [Symptom Collector](#). This tool helps public health officials track the spread of the virus in Erie County and allocate resources where needed. If symptoms worsen, contact your primary care provider or the Erie County Health Department / Erie County Community Health Center at (419) 626-5623 x174 to schedule an appointment.
- Follow good hygiene standards: wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer frequently, avoid touching your face, and cover coughs or sneezes.

For up-to-date local information, visit the Erie County COVID-19 Dashboard at [CovidErieOhio.com](https://www.coviderieohio.com). For questions about COVID-19, call the Erie County COVID-19 Information Center at 567-867-3243.

###

Please direct questions about this press release to:  
Peter Schade, MPH, RS, Erie County Health Commissioner, (419) 656-2796

# Ohio Public Health Advisory System

## Erie County

As of 07-21-2020

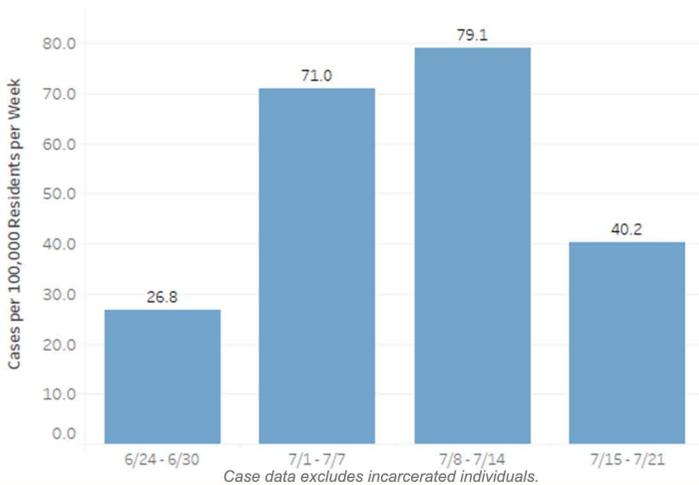
LEVEL 1 0-1 Indicators Triggered	LEVEL 2 2-3 Indicators Triggered	LEVEL 3 4-5 Indicators Triggered	LEVEL 4 6-7 Indicators Triggered
<b>Public Emergency</b> Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

### INDICATORS TRIGGERED

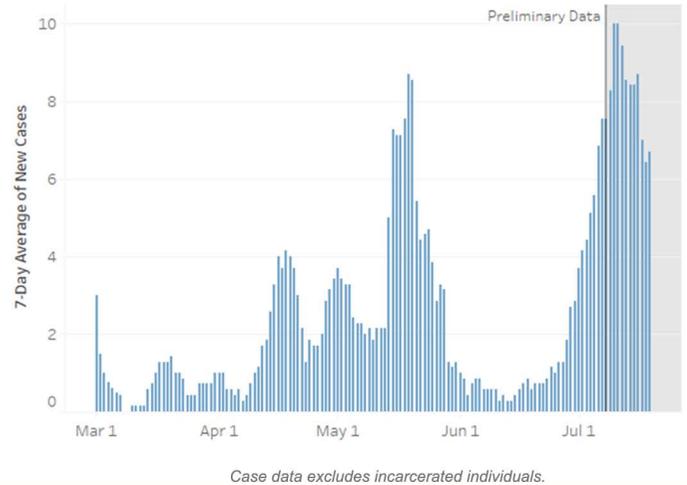
- X New Cases Per Capita
- X Increase in New Cases
- X Non-Congregate Cases
- X Emergency Room Visits
- Outpatient Visits
- Hospital Visits
- ICU Bed Occupancy

This is the first week that **Erie County** is being designated at a Risk Level 3. During the past 14 days, 89 COVID-19 cases have been identified, representing 23% of the total number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic. This means the county exceeds the "high incidence" category, for COVID-19 cases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since July 1, Erie County's COVID-19 average daily cases increased from four cases to nine cases by July 16. Due to clinical and reporting lags, these numbers may continue to grow for this reporting period. Erie County is also seeing an increase in the number of people seeking medical care due to COVID-19. From July 1 to July 17, visits for COVID-19 to the emergency department grew from an average of one visit per day to five. In recent weeks, more than 97% of the cases are not in congregated settings, signaling significant transmission in the broader community.

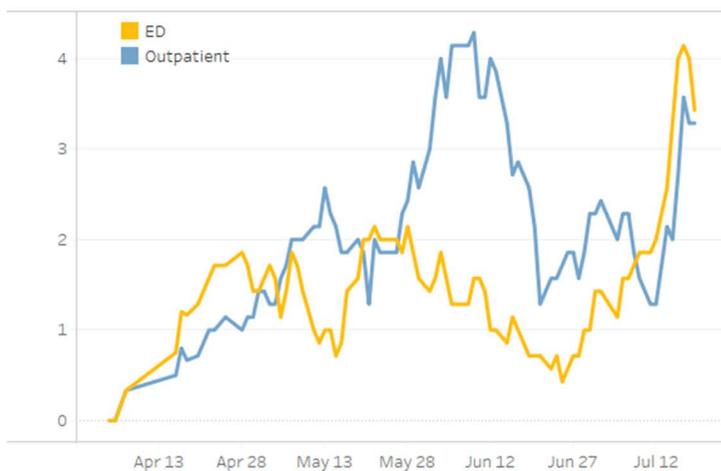
### New Cases: Past 28 Days



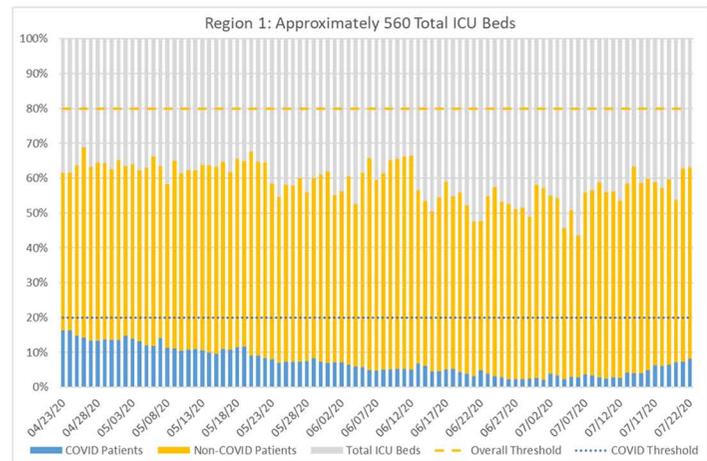
### 7-Day Average of New Cases



### 7-Day Average of COVID-Related Healthcare Visits



### Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Utilization



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**Ohio**

Department of Health

**Ohio**

Development Services Agency

[coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

\*Case data is displayed by symptom onset date. Additional data may continue to be reported for more recent days.