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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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July 16, 2020

## **Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Reports Increase in COVID-19 Activity** *Lucas County Upgraded to Level Red*

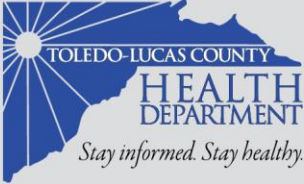
Today, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department reported an uptick in COVID-19 activity in the area. Lucas County has been upgrade to a Level Three on the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#). These alert levels are based off of new cases per capita, sustained increase in new cases for at least five days, proportion of cases not in a congregate setting, sustained increase in emergency room visits, sustained increase in outpatient visits, sustained increased in COVID-19 hospitalizations, and intensive care unit bed occupancy percentage.

A Level Three classification means there is severe exposure and spread in the county. Citizens should limit their activities as much as possible. They should continue to follow all standard precautions and health orders. **Lucas County is now under a mandatory facial covering mandate per the Ohio Department of Health order. Face coverings must be worn:**

- In any indoor location that is not a residence.
- Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet between people who are not members of the same household.
- When waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a private car service, or a ride sharing vehicle. (This does not apply to private or rental vehicles in which members of a single family are sharing a vehicle or to vehicles traveling through a listed county without stopping in that county.)

The requirement does not apply to people who:

- Are younger than 10 years old.
- Have a medical condition that makes wearing a face covering difficult. This could include a respiratory condition that restricts breathing, a mental health condition, or a disability.
- Are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability that requires an ability to see the mouth in order to communication.
- Are alone in any enclosed space, such as an office, that is not intended for use or access by the public.
- Are actively engaged in exercise in a gym or indoor facility AND there is a distance of at least 6 feet between people.



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- Are actively participating in an athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Ohio Department of Health order.
- Are actively engaged in a public safety capacity, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighting, and or emergency medical response.
- Are seated and actively consuming food or a beverage in a restaurant or bar.
- Are actively participating in broadcast communications.
- Are officiating a religious service.
- Are in a jail or prison facility.

The requirement also does not apply if:

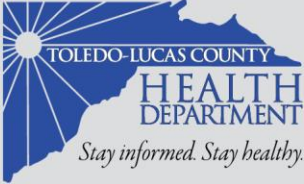
- Facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation.
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
- Facial coverings are in violation of a business's documented safety policies.
- The ODH order requiring masks in Level 3 and 4 counties does not supersede any local law that is more restrictive.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has been working tirelessly preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning. State and local officials are continuously monitoring the evolving situation, and strongly encourage all those who want to be tested to do so. Through monitoring and increased testing, officials will identify trends and any hot spots that need to be addressed in the recent increase. This will help keep more Ohioans and residents in Lucas County safe and healthy.

If you would like to be tested for COVID-19, you can find all available testing locations in the state [here](#). If you would like to find out more about how county alert levels are determined, click [here](#).

All Ohioans, regardless of their county's alert level, should continue to follow the below standard precautions to prevent the spread of infectious disease:

- Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-household members.
- Wear face coverings in public, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers.
- Avoid traveling to high-risk areas.



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- Follow good hygiene standards, including:
  - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Use hand sanitizer frequently.
  - Avoid touching your face.
  - Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow).
  - Symptom self-evaluation monitoring.

**The Lucas County COVID-19 numbers for today, are as follows:**

- 3143 total cases
  - 2941 confirmed cases
  - 202 probable cases
- 290 deaths
  - 252 confirmed deaths
  - 38 probable deaths
- 1277 male cases
- 1866 female cases
  - Ages range from <1 to 109
- 29,588 total tests performed\*\*

\*\*Includes all (resident & non-resident) COVID-19 viral nasal swab tests performed in Lucas County (hospital & community testing sites). This number does not include Lucas County residents tested in other jurisdictions.

The most up-to-date state alert level map, as well as guidance and recommendations for citizens in those counties, can be found [here](#). Ohioans can also call the ODH COVID-19 hotline with any questions or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). The call center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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