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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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October 15, 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 a notable increase in COVID-19 activity in the area. Lucas County has been upgrade to a Level Three on the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#). Lucas County's transition to an elevated alert level is based off of the following indicators:

- New cases per capita (79.8 cases per 100,000 residents)
- Sustained increase in new cases (23.7 average cases on 10/4 to 29.9 by 10/10)
- Proportion of cases not in a congregate setting
- Sustained increase in outpatient visits (34.8 average visits on 9/27 to 70.3 on 10/9)

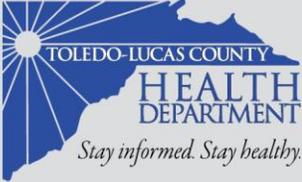
The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has been working tirelessly preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning. The Health Department is continuously monitoring the evolving situation, and strongly encourage all those who want to be tested to do so. If you would like to be tested for COVID-19, you can find all available testing locations in the state [here](#).

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.

The Health Department is strongly urging individuals to intensify efforts when following the 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.

-more-



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- Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers.
- Avoid traveling to high-risk areas.
- 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).

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

- 7739 total cases
 - 7464 confirmed cases
 - 275 probable cases
- 371 deaths
 - 332 confirmed deaths
 - 39 probable deaths
- 3317 male cases
- 4422 female cases
 - Ages range from <1 to 109
- 59,665 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.

To report concerns, such as businesses not adhering to sector specific operating requirements/guidelines, including appropriate social distancing and/or violations of the statewide mask mandate, please call 419-213-4161 to leave a message or email boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us.

For local information, confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Lucas County, and a map of testing locations, may be found at: <https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirusupdates/>.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Responsible RestartOhio website is <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home> and the ODH COVID-19 hotline is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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