



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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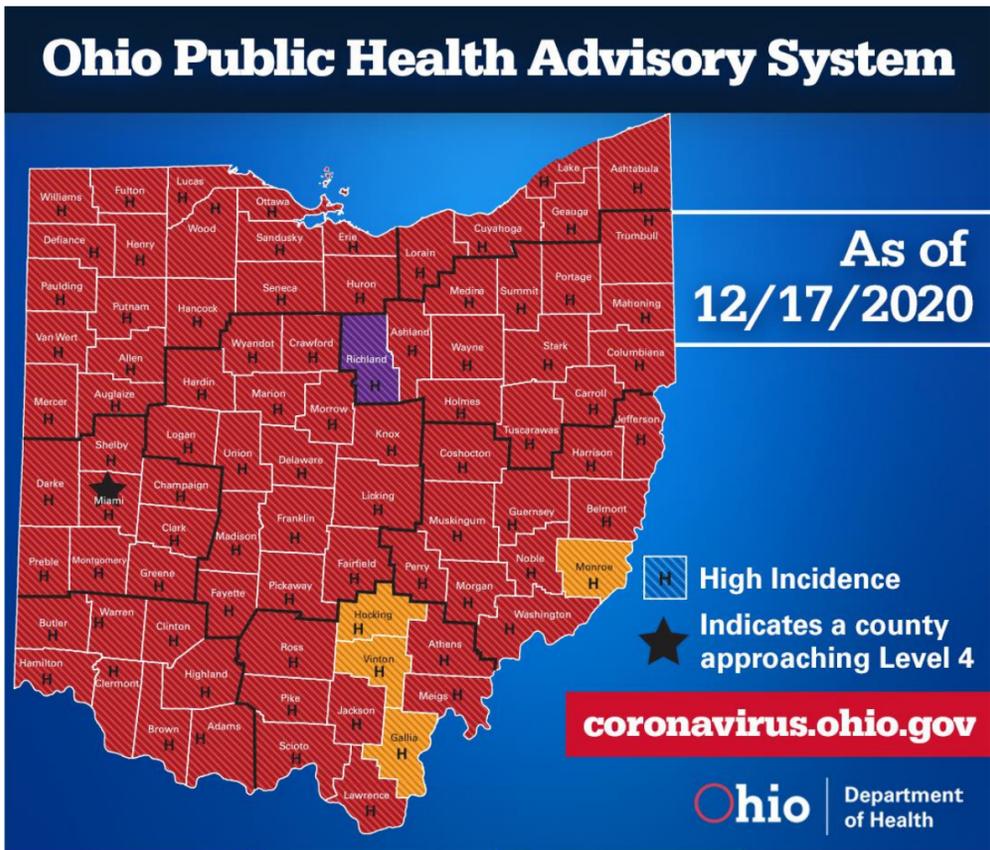
COVID-19 Update: Vaccines, New Advisory System Map, New Nurse PSAs

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OHIO PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM

New health data compiled by the Ohio Department of Health shows sustained severe exposure and spread (Purple Level 4) in Richland County. Medina, Portage, Stark, and Summit counties all moved from Purple Level 4 to Red Level 3 this week. Governor DeWine cautioned that a decrease from Level 4 to Level 3 does not indicate that the situation in these counties is improving, but rather that healthcare indicators, such as hospitalizations, are plateauing at a very critical level.

"Red and purple are not all that different," said Governor DeWine. "They both mean that a county has a very high level of cases and a very high level of COVID activity in the healthcare system. Purple simply indicates counties where things are worsening noticeably, but red counties are also at very worrisome and unsustainable levels."



A county-by-county breakdown outlining the presence of COVID-19 in all of Ohio's 88 counties can be found on the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System's website](https://www.ohio.gov/coronavirus).

When seeking to determine the level of risk in each county, Governor DeWine encouraged Ohioans to look more closely at the chart below which shows the number of positive cases per 1,000 residents. All 88 counties have a level of spread that is at least three times more than what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers high incidence. The top 20 counties show rates of nine to 13 times the high-incidence level.

All 88 Ohio Counties Ranked by Highest Occurrence COVID-19 Cases

The 14-day period used for this table covers data from Dec. 2 to Dec. 16. The data were pulled on Dec. 16 and exclude incarcerated individuals. Shaded counties meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention definition of "high incidence" of COVID-19.

COUNTY	Cases Per 1,000 (12/2 to 12/16)	Cases (12/2 to 12/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 1,000 (12/2 to 12/16)	Cases (12/2 to 12/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 1,000 (12/2 to 12/16)	Cases (12/2 to 12/16)	POPULATION	COUNTY	Cases Per 1,000 (12/2 to 12/16)	Cases (12/2 to 12/16)	POPULATION
Adams	1,216.2	387	31,715	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Ashtabula	1,201.7	548	45,452	Henry	653.1	252	38,688	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Belmont	1,201.4	824	66,395	Butler	525.7	3,982	7,574	Clark	808.4	1,151	1,424	Yamhill	808.4	1,151	1,424
Butler	1,192.8	388	32,472	Madison	624.2	889	142,887	Hamilton	851.4	4,492	5,214	Augustine	599.5	276	46,092
Champaign	1,171.8	462	39,374	Allen	572.3	542	94,221	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861	Monroe	682.1	289	42,372
Columbiana	1,171.8	333	28,399	Crawford	574.2	387	67,068	Washington	826.1	274	33,271	Lake	671.9	1,245	1,848
Cuyahoga	1,155.5	989	85,275	Delaware	552.0	11,276	20,370	Stark	625.0	159	25,424	Wayne	662.5	765	114,770
DeWitt	1,139.1	1,528	1,331,564	Champaign	605.9	1,889	3,106,429	Wood	614.1	1,285	2,087	Union	646.0	283	44,388
Franklin	1,098.4	381	34,882	Shelby	588.7	1,882	3,177	Rea	613.0	529	8,588	Whigs	647.7	747	11,587
Hamilton	1,072.8	871	80,882	Shelby	582.0	688	118,885	Lucas	612.7	3,497	5,676	Champaign	529.4	236	44,885
Lake	1,057.2	428	40,128	Warren	546.1	120	21,928	Clinton	606.8	282	46,528	Harrison	552.0	184	33,368
Lorain	1,015.2	724	71,226	Perry	522.0	523	10,128	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861	Stark	625.0	159	25,424
Madison	988.9	2,228	2,248,882	Washington	622.0	120	19,871	Lorain	787.1	425	53,882	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Marion	988.1	323	32,752	Adair	604.4	425	70,489	Portage	784.0	1,288	1,648	Knox	682.0	349	50,522
Medina	975.0	737	75,214	DeWitt	622.2	228	36,287	Guernsey	784.0	280	35,871	Adair	604.4	425	70,489
Monroe	974.6	3,871	370,826	Licking	600.0	1,088	1,802	Hancock	775.0	384	49,782	Champaign	529.4	236	44,885
Portage	971.1	227	23,428	Madison	574.0	120	20,921	Columbiana	762.0	124	16,388	Adair	604.4	425	70,489
Richland	965.1	2,227	2,228,882	Seneca	671.5	482	71,128	Washington	784.0	124	16,388	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Stark	962.8	404	41,888	Franklin	671.0	121	17,882	Franklin	782.0	380	48,871	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Summit	944.2	588	62,288	Talbot	622.0	788	12,887	Madison	622.0	1,228	1,978	Adair	604.4	425	70,489
Talbot	940.1	5,140	5,401,812	Lorain	604.0	2,877	4,682	Franklin	782.0	380	48,871	Franklin	888.3	387	43,861
Washington	940.0	488	51,381	Montgomery	602.0	4,288	7,188	Trumbull	722.0	1,422	1,978	Hancock	775.0	384	49,782

coronavirus.ohio.gov

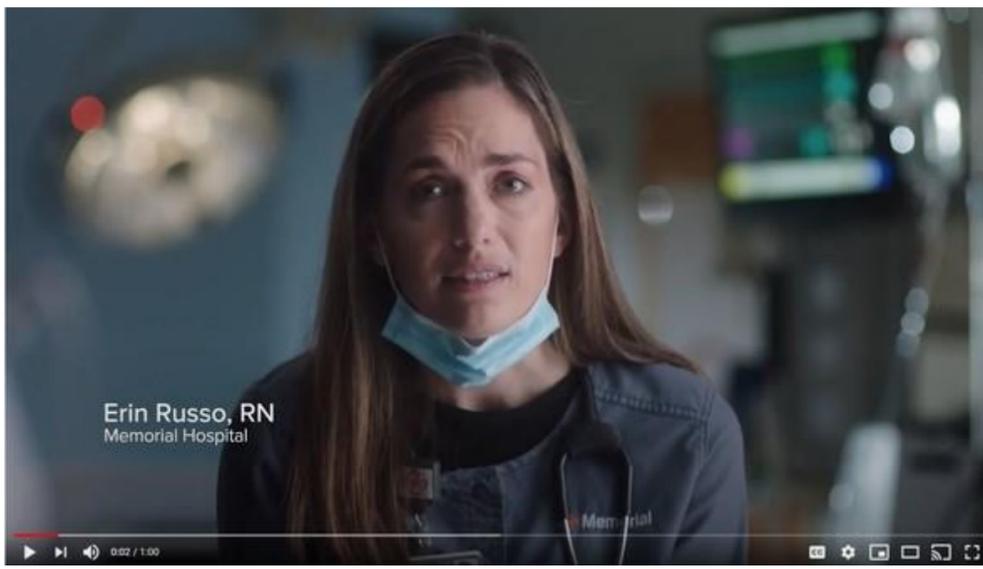
VACCINE UPDATE

Tomorrow, as part of the federal program to vaccinate nursing home residents and staff, facilities in Ohio will be among the first in the nation to receive vaccines through Walgreen's, CVS, PharmScript, and Absolute Pharmacy. Ohio was invited by the CDC to participate in the scaling up of the federal program.

NEW PSA FEATURING OHIO NURSES

Governor DeWine unveiled a new public service announcement featuring four of Ohio's frontline nurses. The nurses describe what it's like taking care of COVID patients in Ohio's hospitals.

The featured nurses are Erin Russo of Memorial Hospital in Marysville, Dara Pence of OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital, Jasmine Shavers of Miami Valley Hospital, and Lisa Burich of St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.



CURRENT CASE DATA

In total, there are 596,178 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 reported in Ohio and 7,894 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 33,745 people have been hospitalized throughout the pandemic, including 5,382 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language translation, can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's YouTube page](#).

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.