



## Putnam County at Red Alert Level for COVID-19

Public health data related to COVID-19 has led to the Ohio Department of Health to designate Putnam County as a **Red Alert Level 3** county in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. **Level 3 means that there is very high exposure and spread; residents should limit activities as much as possible to reduce their risk of exposure; and residents must follow all current health orders.**

As of September 3, 2020, COVID-19 data for Putnam County has triggered four of the seven alert indicators:

- ✓ **NEW CASES PER CAPITA**  
This indicator is flagged if there are greater than 50 cases per 100,000 in the last two weeks. Putnam County's rate is 268.7, which is over 5 times the threshold.
- ✓ **SUSTAINED INCREASE IN NEW CASES**  
The number of daily new cases in Putnam County is continually increasing. On 8/15/20, Putnam County was seeing an average of 3.6 cases per day, while on 8/26/20 that increased to 9.3 cases. This indicates that the virus is spreading more in the county.
- ✓ **PROPORTION OF CASES NOT IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS** (ex. nursing homes, prisons/jails, etc.)  
In the last 3 weeks, well over 50% of Putnam County's cases were considered non-congregate.
- ✓ **SUSTAINED INCREASE IN EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS**  
An increase in emergency room visits for COVID-19 symptoms is an early warning sign of how COVID-19 could impact hospitals down the road. This looks at those that visit an emergency department with symptoms and are not diagnosed with other respiratory illnesses. On 8/21/20, there was an average of .6 visits per day to emergency departments for COVID-19 related illness. This increased to 2.4 visits per day on 9/1/20.

In Putnam County, contact tracers have contributed many of the cases to large gatherings (family events, fundraisers, etc.) and spread within families. Some students in the county have been identified as positive for COVID-19. This has resulted in the quarantine of other students and close contacts.

Putnam County residents are asked to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- ✓ Wear a mask when out in public

- ✓ Maintain social distancing (6 feet apart)
- ✓ Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer
- ✓ Stay home when feeling sick
- ✓ Avoid large gatherings

Please #DoYourPart!



Our mission is to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community