



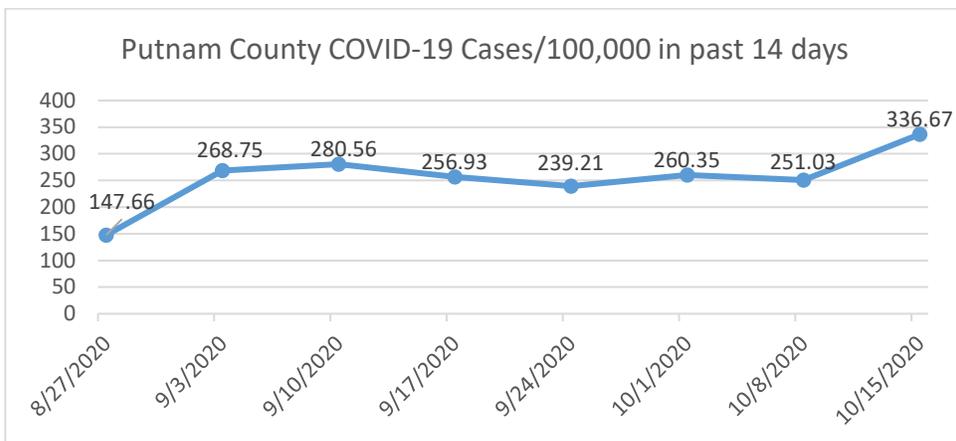
## Putnam County remains at Red Alert Level for COVID-19

Public health data related to COVID-19 from the Ohio Department of Health indicates that Putnam County remains at a **Red Alert Level 3** in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. **Red Alert 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. Putnam County will remain at a **Red Alert Level 3** until the rate of cases per 100,000 is under 100.

As of **October 15, 2020**, COVID-19 data for Putnam County indicates the following:

✓ NEW CASES PER CAPITA

In the last 14 days, Putnam County had 114 cases reported. This is a rate of **336.67/100,000**, which is **over 6 times the threshold**.



This indicator is triggered when the new cases per capita in last two weeks is over 50/100,000. Once a county is in the red level, it will remain at red until new cases per capita is below 100/100,000

✓ SUSTAINED INCREASE IN NEW CASES

Putnam County continues to see new cases each week. In the last three weeks, there was a **5-day period in which cases continually increased**. 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, **almost all** of Putnam County's cases were considered non-congregate.

While the following indicators were not triggered, there is still some concern regarding the data:

- ✓ 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. In the most recent days, there have been more visits to the ER for respiratory concerns.
- ✓ OUTPATIENT VISITS  
There has been a slow increase in outpatient visits (visits to doctor's offices) for COVID-19 related symptoms
- ✓ HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS  
After seeing a rather large increase in hospitalizations for COVID-19 in late September, this has decreased somewhat in the last week. However, Putnam County is still seeing more hospitalizations now than had been seen a few months ago. For example, from the beginning of the pandemic until 9/2/2020 there were 40 hospitalizations reported. On October 14, 2020, we reported a total of 82 hospitalizations. **The number of hospitalizations of Putnam County residents doubled in a 6-week period.**
- ✓ ICU BED OCCUPANCY  
This indicator looks at the region and the availability of specialized ICU care for the area. The region that serves Putnam County has not yet reached the 80% capacity of ICU bed use, and therefore this indicator is not triggered. This does take into account the use of ICU beds for all conditions, not just COVID-19. Currently, over 7% of the total ICU beds in use right now are COVID-19 patients.

## Contact tracing

In Putnam County, contact tracers have contributed **many of the cases to large gatherings** (family events, weddings, funerals, etc.) and **spread within families** (husband/wife, parents/children). Some students and schools staff in the county have been identified as positive for COVID-19 recently. This has resulted in the quarantine of other students and close contacts.

PCHD contacts individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and begin to conduct an investigation. Individuals are asked about their health, who are their close contacts and where they have spent time recently. **It is important to be honest when providing this information so that the PCHD can reach out to the contacts to discuss quarantine.**

The high volume of cases recently has made contact tracing very difficult and the PCHD is working diligently to contact everyone who may be at risk. However, **residents can also help**

slow the spread of COVID-19 by doing the following, even if you haven't been contacted by the health department yet:

- ✓ Stay home if you do not feel well...even if you think it is "just a cold or allergies".
- ✓ If you have been tested for COVID-19, stay home until you get the results.
- ✓ If you have been asked to quarantine, follow the guidelines that were provided to you.
- ✓ If you are a close contact of someone who is sick, it is important for you to avoid going out in public or to events, parties, etc. You may be infectious and not know it yet!
- ✓ If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, stay home until your isolation period is over.

## Prevention

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
- ✓ Avoid touching face, nose, mouth, eyes
- ✓ Stay home when feeling sick
- ✓ Avoid large gatherings

It is **vitaly important to take into consideration your risk when deciding if you should go out, attend an event/party/wedding/fundraiser, etc.** Because there is a great amount of spread related to many people gathering, oftentimes in small spaces, you are asked to **consider carefully before attending.**

**Please #DoYourPart to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community!**