



# COVID-19 Stay Safe Health Advisory

Issued: November 20, 2020

Ends: December 17, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the City of Findlay and Hancock County are experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, with very high exposure and spread; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of hospitalizations has doubled in the month of November; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence rate has increased to 599.08 cases per 100K residents. Which is six (6) times the CDC recommended incidence rate; and

**WHEREAS**, additional guidance, advisement, warning, and intervention is warranted to mitigate case growth and preserve hospital capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to control the spread of the COVID-19 disease; and

**WHEREAS**, taking the steps listed below is critical to preventing the spread of the virus, protecting the lives of you and your loved ones, and preserving our acute and other healthcare services and capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Commissioner, on behalf of the Board of Health, shall keep the public informed in regard to all matters affecting the health of the district.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

The Public Health Commissioner encourages action by all Hancock County residents to protect our colleagues, friends, family, and economy by following the below listed recommendations:

## **Section 1. Stay Safe Advisory**

Beginning on Friday, November 20, 2020, we advise that all residents utilize additional scrutiny in their daily behaviors to curb the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the city and county.

Residents are advised to avoid gathering with those outside of their family, only patronize businesses in which appropriate safety protocols are being practiced and limit any non-essential activities.

Additionally, residents are strongly encouraged to:

- a) Avoid traveling in and out of the State.
- b) Forgo having guests in their homes during the upcoming holiday season.

## **Section 2.** Response to Illness and Exposure – Isolation and Quarantine

Residents that are exhibiting any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to shelter in their place of residence. They should not go to their workplace or congregate setting and should only leave their place of residence to seek necessary clinical care, COVID testing, or for essential life sustaining needs, such as obtaining medicine or food.

COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to, new onset of fever, cough, shortness of breath, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, body aches, or unusual fatigue.

Residents diagnosed with COVID-19 by a laboratory test of their medical provider must isolate for 10 days from the date of their symptom onset, or from the date of test collection (until you are not experiencing symptoms). In the home, sick or infected individuals should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area, and use a separate bathroom, if available.

Residents that have been identified as a close contact to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 should quarantine for one full incubation period (14 days) from the date of last contact. Individuals in quarantine should stay home, separate from others, monitor their health, and follow all instructions from their health department.

Residents who are either confirmed positive or a close contact should not wait to hear from the health department and immediately follow the guidance as described. Information about isolation and quarantine can be found on the Hancock Public Health’s website: [www.hancockph.com](http://www.hancockph.com)

## **Section 3.** Adherence to All Current Orders

All orders set forth by Governor R. Michael DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, county, and the municipalities shall continue to be adhered to by all residents.

## **Section 4.** Advisory on Indoor and Outdoor Meetings and Social Events

Residents are advised to limit meetings and social events to 10 individuals from the issue date of this advisory. The advice applies to both indoor and outdoor events, birthday parties, and other events that may occur at a banquet hall, event venue or other similar space.

## **Section 5:** Employers and Schools

Employers are strongly encouraged to identify and accommodate as many employees as possible to work from home during this time. All businesses and local governments are advised to transition as many transactions and functions as possible to online. Universities are strongly advised to transition to online remote learning after the Thanksgiving holiday. Public and private K-12 schools are advised to follow current Health Department recommendations.