



HealthLine

A newsletter of the Darke County Health Department

SPECIAL EDITION - COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Message from the Health Commissioner

Dr. Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS

Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health has recently rolled out a Public Health Alert System by county based on COVID-19 data. The system consists of 4 Risk Levels and the levels are defined by a number of statistical indicators. Tracking of the indicators is being done at the local level to ensure the risk level for the county as indicated by ODH is consistent with local data. The health department will keep the community aware of any change in Darke County's Risk Level on our website and facebook which are updated at least Monday - Friday. For more specific information go to our website or coronavirus.ohio.gov.



Terrence L. Holman, DVM, RS
Health Commissioner

The health department has been working very closely with school administration officials regarding plans for the new school year. There has been great communication and a lot of planning put into getting kids and teachers safely back to school.

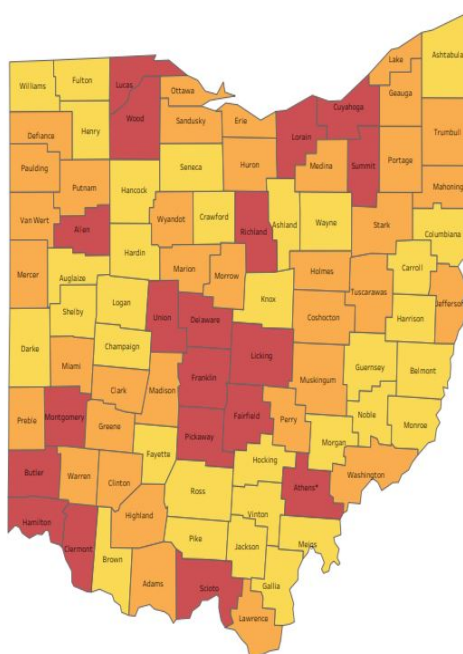
Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

LEVEL 1-4 REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL HEALTH ORDERS

Over 60% of Ohioans are considered high-risk based on CDC guidance. High-risk individuals* are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19, including following higher risk level guidance outlined below. Consult a doctor about your risk.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). Symptom self-evaluation monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Level 1. Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk. High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions. Decrease in-person interactions outside household. Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Levels 1-2. Decrease in-person interactions with others. Consider necessary travel only. Limit attending gatherings of any number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same guidelines as in Level 1-3. Stay at home/ necessary travel only.



Last Published: 7/16/2020

- Level 1 Public Emergency: active exposure and spread. Yellow
- Level 2 Public Emergency: increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Orange
- Level 3 Public Emergency: very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Red
- Level 4 Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Purple

For All Public Emergency Levels, Follow All Current Health Orders

*The Health Department is on Facebook & Twitter.
Please "Like us" to receive up to date messages.*

Nursing Division News

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Nicole Brocius,
Contact Tracer



Hi! My name is Nicole and I am a student at Ohio State University. I will be a junior this coming fall. I am majoring in psychology with minors in neuroscience and communications. Outside of school, I love reading, running, and hanging out with my family and friends.

Kelly Mangen,
Help Me Grow Home Visitor



I am Kelly I have a background in early childhood education and have over fifteen years working with children and families. I am married with two children. My hobbies include gardening and creating craft projects in my spare time. I am looking forward to working you and your family.

Hi...my name is Kim and I have been a RN since 1996 with majority of my career in long term care. I joined the Help Me Grow team on June 15th and am excited to serve the community that has been my home all my life. I reside here in Greenville and have been married to my husband for 6 years. I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren and they make my life complete.

Kim Hall,
Help Me Grow
Home Visitor



What if I get a call from the health department and they tell me I have been in contact with someone who is positive for coronavirus?

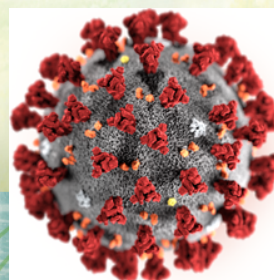
For any Darke County resident who tests positive for COVID-19, we do contact tracing. What this means is that we would call the positive patient and find out every person they've been in contact with in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset.

Then we call all of those people and quarantine them for 14 days after their last contact with the positive case. So, if you were in contact with a positive COVID-19 patient, we would call you and notify you. However, due to HIPAA laws we have to protect the patient's privacy and we aren't always able to give out as much information as is requested.

We would then put you into a computer system called Ohio Contract Tracing System. This program would send you a text every day for the 14 days to monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms and also log temperatures. If you report symptoms during the 14 day quarantine then we would work with you and your family doctor to get you tested.

During the 14 day quarantine, it is important that you stay home and not have contact with anyone outside of your household. This is important so that if you do get COVID-19, you don't expose anyone else since you are contagious 48 hours prior to symptom onset. If you do not have symptoms during the 14 day period, then you are released from quarantine with no testing needed.

We hope everyone will cooperate who may end up involved in this process as it can make a big difference to help slow the spread of COVID.



Vaccination Clinics are now by appointment only.

Please call 937-548-4196 ext. 224

How are we making it as safe as possible?

Call when you arrive. Check-in process is completed over the phone.

Masks are required to enter the building and temperatures are taken before entering the clinic area.

Nurses are wearing masks and face shields. Paperwork is filled out by the nurse to reduce contact with other objects.

The waiting room is closed so it is requested that only the patient and parent/guardian come in for service.

Exam rooms are cleaned in between each use.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

COVID-19 Business Checks

On May 1st, the former director for the Ohio Department of Health signed the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order. This order outlined practices, such as wearing face coverings, that businesses had to follow in order to reopen. By following these practices, businesses would be able to reopen and have customers in their store while reducing the risk of COVID-19 infections to their customers and staff. Following this order, the Darke County General Health District (DCGHD) did receive an influx of complaints from concerned members of the public. These complaints were based in the issue that some businesses were not in compliance with some or all of the practices introduced by the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order.

When the first complaint is received on a business, the DCGHD will call the business and just confirm that the owner knew what is required from the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order and that the business was in the process of coming into compliance with the order. If the DCGHD would receive further complaints on this business, a member of the DCGHD would visit the business and work with the business in coming into compliance with the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order. Specifically, the member of the DCGHD would ensure the business was performing health checks on the employees, that there were sanitizing agents available to employees, and that employees had masks on and/or were social distancing in the workplace.

In response to major outbreaks in the facilities of industries in nearby counties, the DCGHD also decided to do business inspections on local industries in Darke County even if they had not received a complaint. Through working with these local industries, the DCGHD hoped to help these businesses develop and integrate practices that would prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their facility. These practices would include things such as mask wearing and social distancing as well as having a plan in place in case a COVID-19 outbreak did occur within the facility.

By doing this, the DCGHD hopes to improve public health in our county while also bolstering the local economy by ensuring these businesses were prepared for potential COVID-19 outbreaks within their facility.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Hello everyone, my name is Darnell Dunson and I am a new sanitarian in training. I will be working mostly in the solid waste area but I will also be apart of the food and parks programs. I graduated from Chaminade-Julienne High school in Dayton, Ohio. Before becoming a sanitarian, I was a soil scientist with the USDA where I spent two years as an intern and two years as an official soil scientist. I attended Alabama A&M University where I studied plant and soil science while being a member of the track team. I also played football my freshman and sophomore years of college. I am very ecstatic to be apart of the Darke County Health Department. I am looking forward to being an active part of the community and provide adequate service.

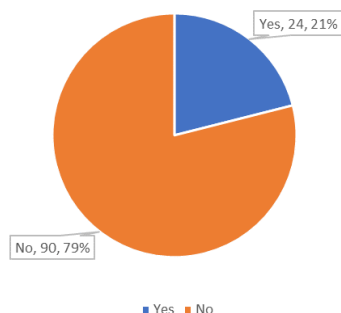
Hey everybody! I'm Roy Kolbinsky, one of the new SITs. I'll be starting out in the sewage department. I earned an Associate's degree in environmental engineering technologies from Cincinnati State and a Bachelor's of Science in environmental studies from the University of Cincinnati. I recently moved from the Queen City to Greenville. Working in public health administration is definitely uncharted territory for me, but that's what I like. I want to explore new places and I'm keen on making new friends.

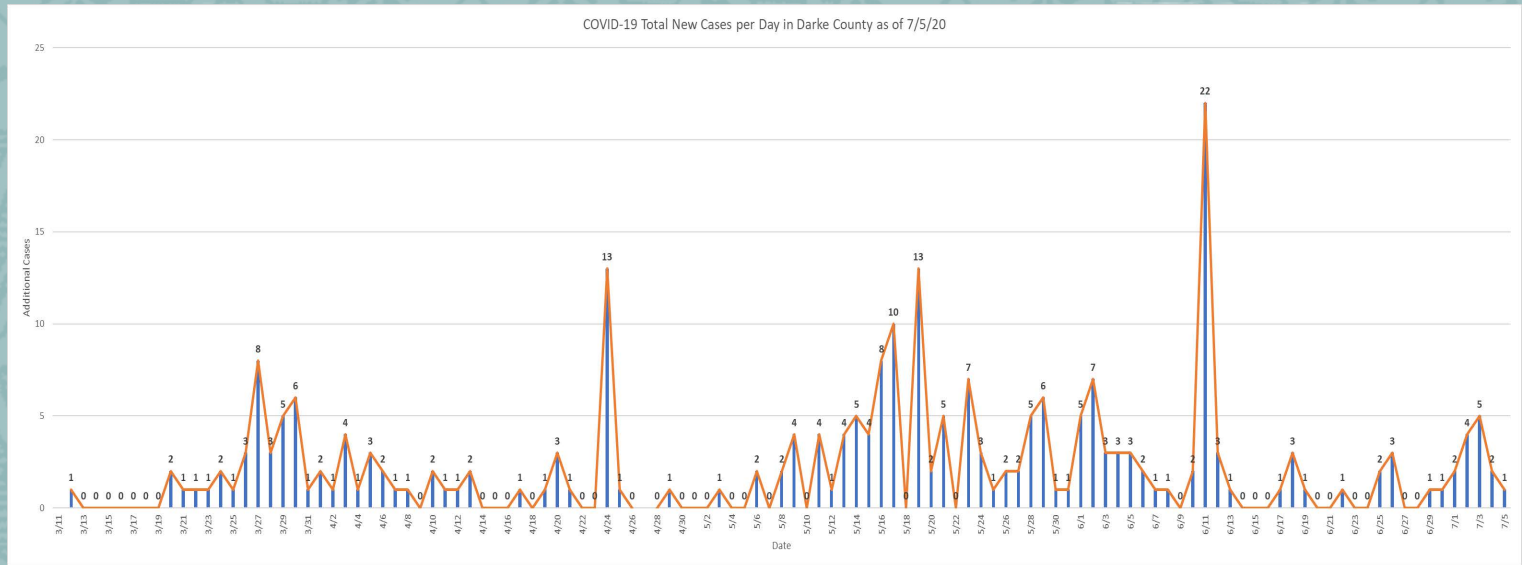


My name is Caitlin and I live in Brookville, OH where I graduated from high school. I then went to Wright State where I got my Bachelors degree in public health. I look forward to working here in Darke county and helping keep the public safe. I like to spend my time outdoors kayaking and swimming when the weather is nice. When I'm not doing that I like to spend my time with my boyfriend and our bengal cat.

Facebook Poll posted on June 16th

Responses of 114 Survey Participants asked the question:
"If you are a darke county resident, have you been tested for COVID-19?"





This graph shows the number of new cases per day since the first case was reported in March through July 5th, 2020. Please note that days with large spikes are due to facility testing, and do not reflect a surge in community cases.

coronavirus.ohio.gov



We are looking for persons qualified to be Contact Tracers on an as needed basis. This position is temporary and hours will vary each week.

Contact Traci if you have questions:
937-548-4196 ext. 232
traci.owens@darkecountyhealth.org

2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

DARKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

All meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am unless noted otherwise. If you would like to be put on the agenda, we request that you contact us on or before the Friday of the week prior to the meeting. Please call Jody Hocker, 937-548-4196 ext. 200.

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|-------------|--------------|
| January 14 | August 11 |
| February 11 | September 8 |
| March 10 | October 13 |
| April 14 | *November 17 |
| May 12 | December 8 |
| June 9 | December 18 |
| July 14 | |



The health department is starting to accept homemade cloth mask donations again. Feel free to drop them off or call Traci if you have questions. 937-548-4196 ext. 232