

Ohio Public Health Advisory System

Level 4, Purple

Public Emergency: Severe Exposure and Spread

Level 4, or Purple, is the highest level of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. When a county reaches Purple, it means it has met at least six of seven indicators of concern for COVID-19 spread for at least two consecutive weeks. **Residents should only leave home for supplies and services.**

Franklin County reached Level 4, Purple, of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System on Nov. 19.

A county that meets six of seven indicators for one week is placed on a "Watch List." Since the release of the Advisory System in July, few counties have been on the Watch List.

However, with the recent surge of cases, more counties are meeting additional indicators. While Franklin is the first to reach purple status, it will not be the last if current trends continue.



The Seven Indicators:

These measures are indicators of disease spread in the community; disease severity; community concerns about health and the virus; hospital burden; and capacity to manage a possible surge in critical COVID-19 patients.

1. **New cases per capita:** There have been more than 50 cases per 100,000 residents over the past two weeks.
2. **Sustained increase in new cases:** At some time during the past three weeks, there were at least five consecutive days when the number of cases (by onset date) increased.
3. **Proportion of cases not in a congregate setting:** The proportion of cases among people who are not residents of long-term care facilities, group homes, jails or prisons has been more than 50% in at least one of the past three weeks.
4. **Sustained increase in emergency department (ED) visits for COVID-19-like illness:** At some time during the past three weeks, there were at least five consecutive days when the number of COVID-19 ED visits increased.
5. **Sustained increase in outpatient visits for COVID-like illness:** At some time during the past three weeks, there were at least five consecutive days when the number of people making COVID-19 healthcare visits increased.
6. **Sustained increase in new COVID-19 hospital admissions:** At some time during the past three weeks, there were at least five consecutive days when COVID-19 hospital admissions increased.
7. **Intensive care unit (ICU):*** The percentage of occupied ICU beds in the region was above 80% for at least three days during the past week, **AND** more than 20% of ICU beds were being used for COVID-19 patients for at least three days during the past week.

**Meeting this indicator has been rare because hospitals have been able to make accommodations to meet increased numbers of COVID-19 ICU patients. However, if COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to increase, staffing and resources may not be able to keep up, putting the care of all hospitalized patients (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19) in jeopardy.*



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