



## Greene County Public Health

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# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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### Don't Give Up – Wash Up, Back Up, Mask Up – for Everyone!

The officials of Greene County Public Health are working very hard to ensure that our families here in our county have the information and tools they need to make decisions that affect the health of each and every individual and family member of all ages. The COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll on our families and this is evident in the decreased mask use, social distancing, and increase in gathering with others outside of our households. Unfortunately, this has led to a significant increase in our positive cases throughout the county, increased hospitalizations, and deaths.

It is imperative that, together, we DON'T GIVE UP! We must “rally the troops” and fight back against this virus with what we know works:



### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Wear a mask if you are with ANYONE who is not in your immediate family. Your brother who lives in another city who visits you may be your family, but you have no idea what contact he has had with others.
- The innocent—our youngest children and the elderly—have no control over their environments. We need to do this for them. This heartbreaking story of this 4-year old who lost both of his parents to COVID-19 within 100 days of each other is an example: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/covid-kills-4-year-old-boy-s-mom-dad-san-n1247850>

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- Rethink how you do upcoming holiday gatherings – think small, immediate family. Think outdoors if possible. See the list of risk levels below.
- If we want our students to be in school IN-PERSON, then we need to take these steps so that can happen. If school staff is sick or has to quarantine, they cannot be physically in the classroom. Let's do everything in our power to keep our students learning in school, at school!
- Your personal interaction MATTERS. Greene County staff and students are doing a great job during the school day of following protocols. It is what is happening outside of school that is making the positive case numbers increase.

As the holidays draw closer and Greene County remains at Alert Level 3 status under the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System, we ask that you consider limiting your gatherings to household members only and travel only when essential. Level 3 means that our county is currently experiencing very high exposure and spread of the virus. The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

- **Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- **More risk:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.
- **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

To get additional information on the virus, please check out the following resources:

- [www.healthalert.gcph.info/COVID19](http://www.healthalert.gcph.info/COVID19)
- [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

It is imperative that we all do our part every day to fight this virus and stop the spread so we can all stay safe and healthy this holiday season. According to Terry Graves-Streiter, Superintendent of the Greene County Educational Service Center, *“When children and adults follow these small steps, it can make a big difference in preventing the spread of COVID-19. What happens outside of the classroom impacts whether we can be together in the classroom”*. For additional questions, please feel free to contact the health district at 937-374-5600.

**#TogetherGreeneCounty**

**#InThisTogetherOhio**

**#MasksOnOhio**

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