

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

### Understanding our risk level designation

Medina County has been designated red for the last two weeks in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System after starting at an orange level. The system demonstrates trends in COVID-19 by using currently seven different indicators. The more threshold indicators that are met, the higher the tier designation within the color-coded system. Beginning last week the state has published the data used to calculate indicators met by county. Last week's indicator dashboard can be seen below and the Medina County Health Department now displays this along with local data on our own COVID-19 dashboard. <https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/>



Medina is currently tier 3 (red), but unlike many other counties in this tier we are not considered a high incidence county. High incidence is defined as more than 100 cases/100,000 population in a 2 week period of time. If you look on the state dashboard and select red counties, you will clearly see that many have a "high incidence" designation under their county name. Medina County is currently at 51.74 cases/100,000 population.

Our move to red with the uptick in cases has sparked some conversations that those numbers are coming out of assisted living facilities or nursing homes. I wanted to address this misconception and reiterate that our cases continue to come from community spread. The Ohio National Guard tested five Medina nursing homes last week which did not result in any positive cases so far. The snapshot below is static, but if you look on either the state or our website, you will see that 94% or more of Medina County cases over the past three weeks have been from community settings.

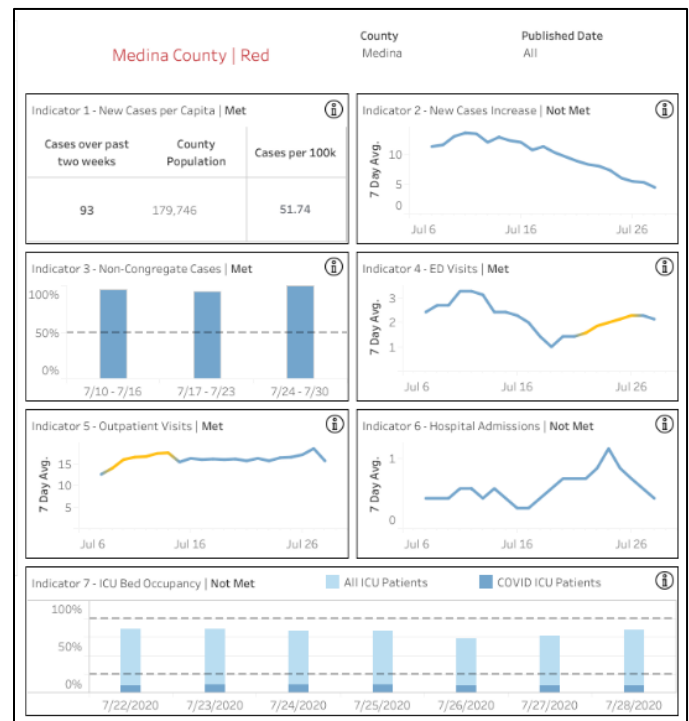
### What our risk level means for schools and sports

Today I communicated to all local school districts that the Health Department would make a formal recommendation on school instruction if Medina was approaching or at high incidence, or if building absenteeism warranted such a recommendation.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to reopening schools. The Health Department has been working with each district to offer counsel and advice as each worked tirelessly to develop plans that work best in their communities. With the updated order permitting non-contact sports to continue, we are trying to allow athletes to resume normal activities as safely as possible. All of this is with the expectation of precautions being enforced by coaches and supported by parents. A statewide decision on fall sports is forthcoming, but for now practice is allowed for contact sports and competition for non-contact sports.

### Where can I find the latest travel information?

Medinahealth.org has the latest information for you and your family on traveling safely this summer. Ohio updates the travel advisory states each Wednesday. Click [here](https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/travel/) for frequently asked travel questions or go to <https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/travel/> for maps and resources. For resources or information on school reopening, visit our website here: <https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/schools/>.



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