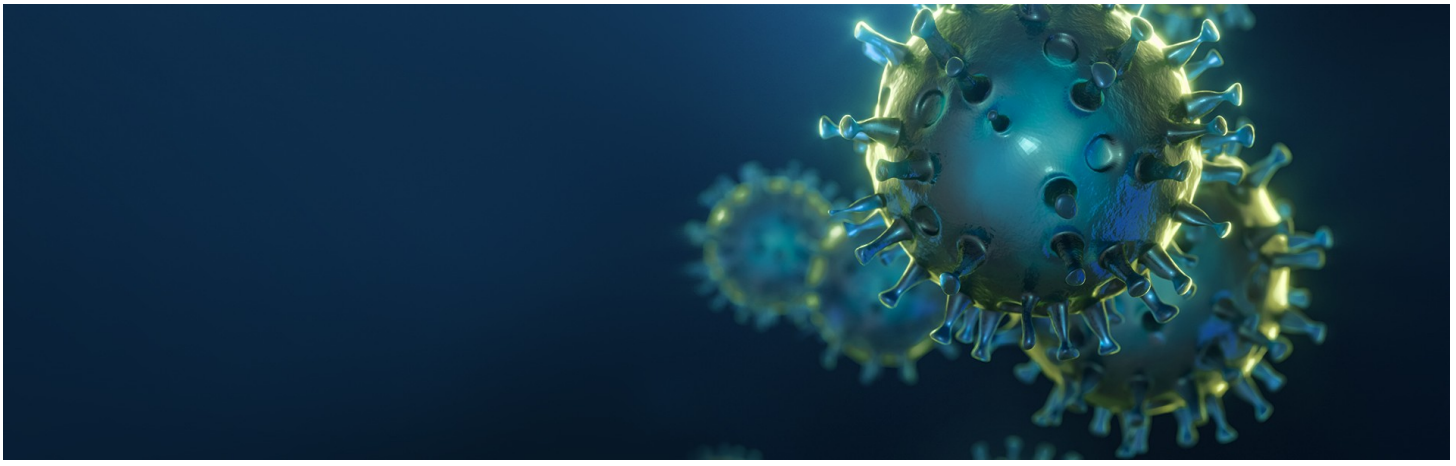
COVID-19 Update: Masks in Schools, Rapid Testing, Community Spread and Spread from Faith-Based Settings, Dr. Amy Acton

August 04, 2020



(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today provided the following updates on the status of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MASKS IN SCHOOLS:

Governor DeWine announced today that the Ohio Department of Health will issue a health order requiring that K-12 children wear face coverings while at school. The new mandate comes after the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter issued a joint lettertoday recommending widespread use of masks in schools with the following exceptions:

1. Children under the age of 2 years old
2. Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance
3. A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by the use of a facial covering (e.g. severe anxiety or a tactile aversion)

4. A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask
5. A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction

"Without a vaccine, we are limited in the ways that we can protect the people of Ohio," said Governor DeWine. "For schools to have a fighting chance to stay open this fall, widespread face coverings for K-12 students will increase the odds that kids will go to school and stay in school."

RAPID TESTING MULTI-STATE PURCHASING AGREEMENT:

Governor DeWine announced that Ohio is entering into a multi-state purchasing agreement with Maryland, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Virginia to expand the use of rapid point-of-care tests.

"Over the past week, we have conducted an average of 22,334 COVID-19 tests a day with Ohio's current testing procedure, but rapid point-of-care tests are faster, simpler, and less expensive," said Governor DeWine. "Expanding the use of this testing will serve as an important screening tool and a critical addition to our plan to limit the spread of COVID-19."

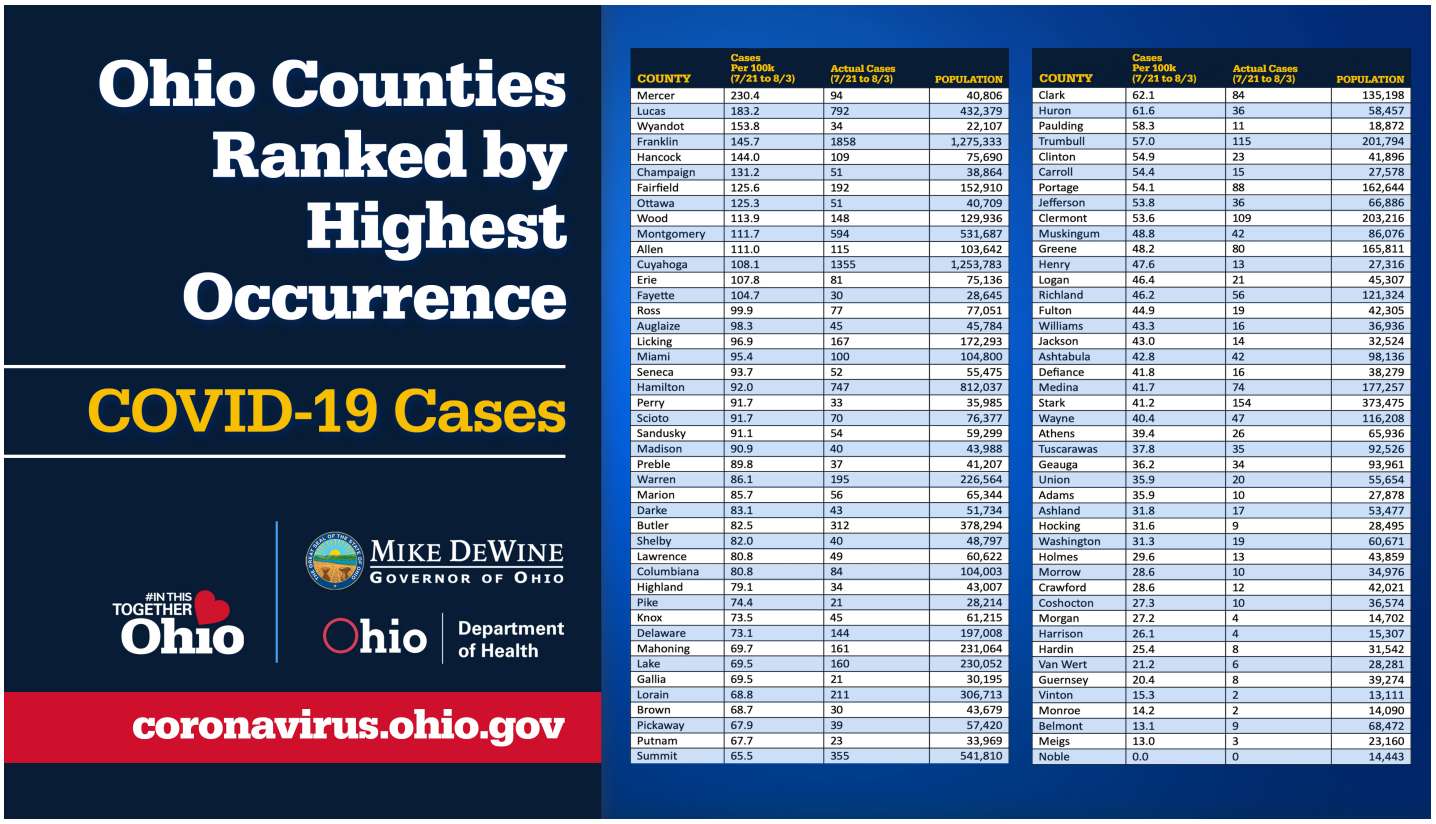
More rapid point-of-care testing will help Ohio detect outbreaks sooner with faster turnaround time, expand testing in congregate settings, and make testing more accessible for the most high-risk and hard-hit communities.

COMMUNITY SPREAD:

Governor DeWine today also continued to warn Ohioans about community spread connected to informal gatherings between family and friends.

"The truth is that it is easier to be scared of a stranger than a friend. Maintaining social distance and choosing to not gather together is really a sign that you care about your loved ones," Governor DeWine said.

New data compiled by the Ohio Department of Health shows the amount of community spread per county over the past two weeks.



COUNTY	Cases Per 100k (7/21 to 8/3)	Actual Cases (7/21 to 8/3)	POPULATION
Mercer	230.4	94	40,806
Lucas	183.2	792	432,379
Wyandot	153.8	34	22,107
Franklin	145.7	1858	1,275,333
Hancock	144.0	109	75,690
Champaign	131.2	51	38,864
Fairfield	125.6	192	152,910
Ottawa	125.3	51	40,709
Wood	113.9	148	129,936
Montgomery	111.7	594	531,687
Allen	111.0	115	103,642
Cuyahoga	108.1	1355	1,253,783
Erie	107.8	81	75,136
Fayette	104.7	30	28,645
Ross	99.9	77	77,051
Auglaize	98.3	45	45,784
Licking	96.9	167	172,293
Miami	95.4	100	104,800
Seneca	93.7	52	55,475
Hamilton	92.0	747	812,037
Perry	91.7	33	35,985
Scioto	91.7	70	76,377
Sandusky	91.1	54	59,299
Madison	90.9	40	43,988
Preble	89.8	37	41,207
Warren	86.1	195	226,564
Marion	85.7	56	65,344
Darke	83.1	43	51,734
Butler	82.5	312	378,294
Shelby	82.0	40	48,797
Lawrence	80.8	49	60,622
Columbiana	80.8	84	104,003
Highland	79.1	34	43,007
Pike	74.4	21	28,214
Knox	73.5	45	61,215
Delaware	73.1	144	197,008
Mahoning	69.7	161	231,064
Lake	69.5	160	230,052
Gallia	69.5	21	30,195
Lorain	68.8	211	306,713
Brown	68.7	30	43,679
Pickaway	67.9	39	57,420
Putnam	67.7	23	33,969
Summit	65.5	355	541,810

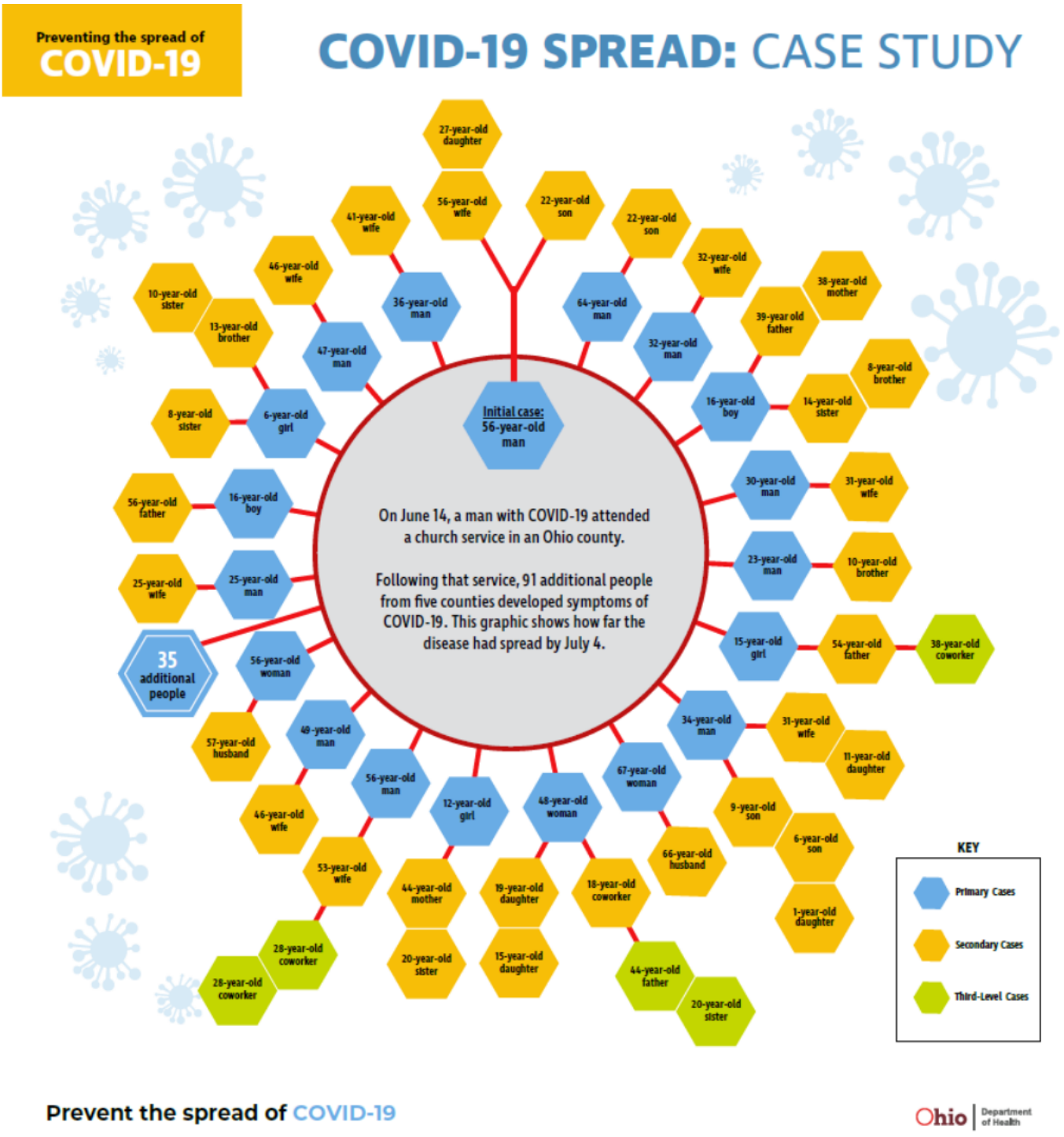
COUNTY	Cases Per 100k (7/21 to 8/3)	Actual Cases (7/21 to 8/3)	POPULATION
Clark	62.1	84	135,198
Huron	61.6	36	58,457
Paulding	58.3	11	18,872
Trumbull	57.0	115	201,794
Clinton	54.9	23	41,896
Carroll	54.4	15	27,578
Portage	54.1	88	162,644
Jefferson	53.8	36	66,886
Clermont	53.6	109	203,216
Muskingum	48.8	42	86,076
Greene	48.2	80	165,811
Henry	47.6	13	27,316
Logan	46.4	21	45,307
Richland	46.2	56	121,324
Fulton	44.9	19	42,305
Williams	43.3	16	36,936
Jackson	43.0	14	32,524
Ashtabula	42.8	42	98,136
Defiance	41.8	16	38,279
Medina	41.7	74	177,257
Stark	41.2	154	373,475
Wayne	40.4	47	116,208
Athens	39.4	26	65,936
Tuscarawas	37.8	35	92,526
Geauga	36.2	34	93,961
Union	35.9	20	55,654
Adams	35.9	10	27,878
Ashland	31.8	17	53,477
Hocking	31.6	9	28,495
Washington	31.3	19	60,671
Holmes	29.6	13	43,859
Morrow	28.6	10	34,976
Crawford	28.6	12	42,021
Coshocton	27.3	10	36,574
Morgan	27.2	4	14,702
Harrison	26.1	4	15,307
Hardin	25.4	8	31,542
Van Wert	21.2	6	28,281
Guernsey	20.4	8	39,274
Vinton	15.3	2	13,111
Monroe	14.2	2	14,090
Belmont	13.1	9	68,472
Meigs	13.0	3	23,160
Noble	0.0	0	14,443

LETTER TO FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY:

Governor DeWine today announced that he will send a letter to Ohio's faith-based community to share important health information with Ohio churches, synagogues, and mosques and to share ways to better protect their worshipers.

One case study shows that a man with COVID-19 attended a church service in Ohio, and following that service, 91 additional people from five counties developed symptoms.

"I know that our faith-based leaders want nothing more than to protect their worshipers, but we also know that the virus can easily spread in places where people gather," said Governor DeWine. "It is vital that, any time people gather together, everyone wear masks, practice social distancing, wash hands, and while indoors, making sure there is good ventilation and airflow."



DR. AMY ACTON:

Governor DeWine announced that Dr. Amy Acton, Ohio's former director of the Ohio Department of Health, has decided to leave state employment and return to her role at the Columbus Foundation, where she worked previously.

"While it saddens me that she will be leaving my office, she has assured me that she is just a phone call away and will be available to continue advising us as we move through this pandemic," said Governor DeWine.

CURRENT COVID-19 DATA:

There are 95,106 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 3,570 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 11,119 people have been hospitalized, including 2,593 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language translation, can be viewed on the Ohio Channel's YouTube page.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Attachment

Joint Letter- The Ohio Children's Hospital Association (OCHA) and the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP)

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