



28 Executive Drive, Norwalk, OH 44857 | P: 419-668-1652 | [information@huroncohealth.com](mailto:information@huroncohealth.com) | F: 419-668-0452

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Melanie Myers, Public Information Officer  
Huron County Public Health  
28 Executive Drive  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
Phone: 419-668-1652, ext: 234  
[mmyers@huroncohealth.com](mailto:mmyers@huroncohealth.com)

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### COVID-19 Travel Advisory

NORWALK, Ohio— Yesterday, July 22, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced a travel advisory for all individuals coming into Ohio from states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19. At this time, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is recommending against travel to those states with high positivity rates and if someone must travel, is recommending 14 days of self-quarantine after leaving those locations. While the advisory is not a mandate, it is issued as a result of a concerning spike in coronavirus cases reported in Ohio and the hope locally that we can keep the viral load low enough to allow our community (including schools, businesses, etc.) to operate as normally as possible. Today, Huron County Public Health (HCPH) is **strongly encouraging** our residents to follow these recommendations and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

A positivity rate represents how many people, out of those tested in the state, are positive for COVID-19 and serves as an indicator of how much COVID-19 there is in a community. Based on a 7-day rolling average of positivity rates of July 22, the states currently included in the travel advisory are: Arizona (24.0%), Nevada (20.5%), Florida (18.9%), Idaho (18.6%), Alabama (18.4%), Mississippi (17.7%), South Carolina (15.9%), Georgia (15.2%), and Texas (15.0%). The list of states with high positivity rates included in the advisory will be updated every week on Wednesday. As of July 22, 2020, Ohio's positivity rate is 6%.

This travel advisory is intended for both leisure and business travel and should be heeded by both Ohioans and out-of-state travelers. While HCPH understands the disappointment and frustration some residents may feel as a result of the travel advisory in place, each day we are reminded of how contagious and serious of a threat, COVID-19 is to each of the communities we live in. During these times, we have to remain cautious and continue to make smart decisions to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep ourselves and those around us, safe.

High-risk individuals (roughly 60% of Ohio's population) are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19. If you are experiencing any



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COVID-19 symptoms with or without out of state travel, it is crucial that you stay home except to receive medical care. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

As always, residents should continue to follow all COVID-19 preventative measures.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Wear a mask while in public.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid traveling to states with high positivity rates.
- And most importantly, stay home when you are sick.

HCPH will continue to share information as it becomes available on

[www.huroncohealth.com/coronavirus2019](http://www.huroncohealth.com/coronavirus2019).

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