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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huron County COVID-19 Weekly Update

Norwalk OH - Please see the following chart for a current status report on the number of confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in Huron County, Ohio as of Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

Total Confirmed Cases Including Deaths:	571
• Total Probable Cases of COVID-19	31
• Percentage of Confirmed Cases Cleared:*	88%
• Percentage of Total Confirmed Cases Hospitalized at Some Point During Illness:	11%
• Confirmed Case Age Range:	<1-99
• Confirmed Case Average Age:	45
• Confirmed Case Male	39%
• Confirmed Case Female	61%
• Fatalities	7

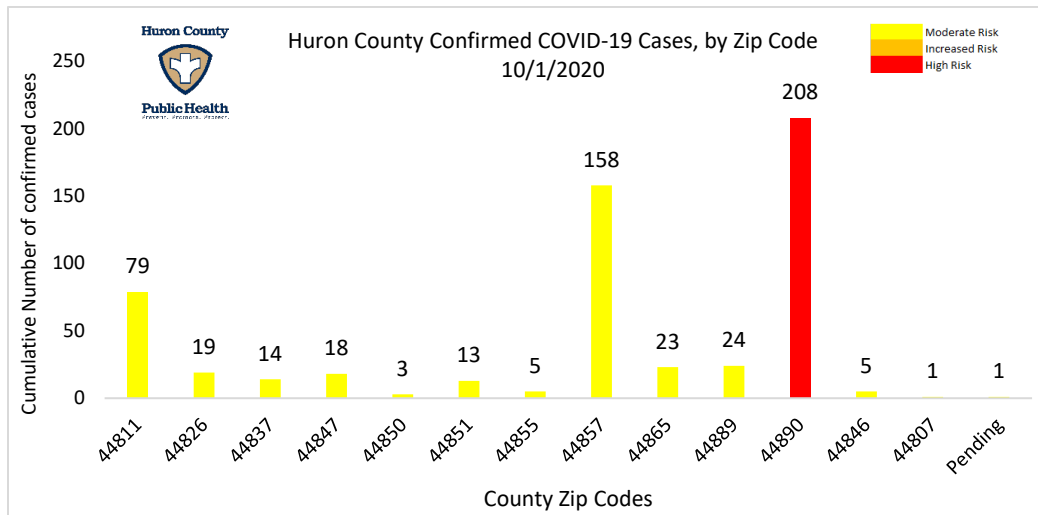


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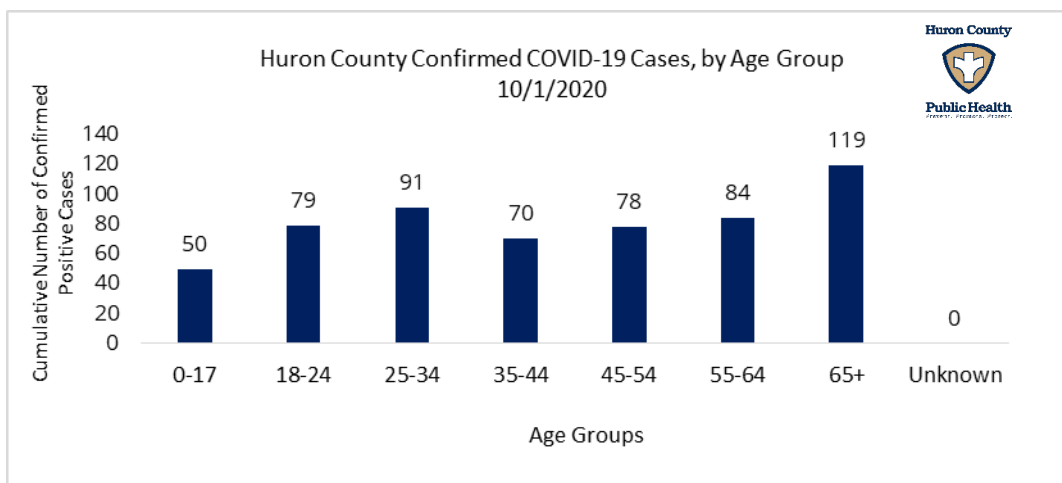
Since September 24, 2020, Huron County saw an increase in 58 confirmed COVID-19 cases within Huron County. This increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases can be attributed primarily to COVID-19 outbreaks within and outside of Huron County in addition to general community spread.

It is important to note that COVID-19 is driven by community spread and positive case counts may not truly reflect the amount of disease in our community. It is assumed that there are many individuals in the community with mild or moderate illness who are choosing not to be tested and are recovering at home. It is also known that COVID-19 can be spread between individuals who are asymptomatic. This means people may carry the active virus in their body and never develop any symptoms but are still contagious.



HCPH is responsible for reporting all school related COVID-19 cases for schools located in Huron County to the Ohio Department of Health. For this week’s reporting, which covered the period of Monday, 9/21/2020 through Sunday, 9/27/2020, there were 0 school-associated COVID-19 cases in Huron County schools.

As of October 1, 2020, there are currently 6 Huron County residents hospitalized for COVID-19 reported. Additionally, of the 571 confirmed cases, 50 cases are age 17 and under. Since September 24, 2020, there have been 2 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 age 17 and under reported to HCPH.



HCPH begins an outbreak investigation when two or more individuals are found to have a similar exposure point and after consultation with the Ohio Department of Health. Please keep in mind, as investigations are complete, facilities may later be deemed not an official outbreak based on investigation results.

HCPH continues to investigate two suspect outbreaks at Huron County long term care facilities. As of October 1, 2020, at 4:30 pm, there are 56 confirmed cases connected to the outbreaks currently being investigated. Of the 56 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in connection to the outbreaks, 48 (34 resident, 13 staff, and one secondary case) are connected to Willows at Willard, and 8 (7 resident and 1 staff) COVID-19 cases are connected to Gaymont Care & Rehabilitation. Of the total reported cases associated with the outbreaks currently being investigated, about 12% have been hospitalized at some point during illness and zero deaths has been reported. These 56 cases may include out of county residents.

HCPH wants to remind residents that outbreaks may not be a direct result of poor practice in place by the facilities involved. As we continue throughout fall into winter, additional outbreaks are somewhat to be expected as community spread continues throughout the state.

HCPH Epidemiologists are in contact with management of the two facilities and are providing local support, mitigation guidance, and infection prevention, including providing additional personal protective equipment, as appropriate. All positive confirmed cases within the facilities experiencing the suspect outbreaks have been isolated and staff and residents are being appropriately monitored. All families of the positive COVID-19 cases in the facilities have been notified and have received all information currently available.

Other individuals who may work in the facilities but have not been notified of a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual should self-monitor for symptoms. Any individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care physician. Testing is ongoing and investigation results are pending.

As of Thursday, October 1, 2020, Huron County is now Alert Level 2 Orange on the Ohio Department of Health's Ohio Public Health Advisory System. For this reason, HCPH is urging all residents to assess their own individual risk for illness before leaving their homes, exercise a high degree of caution when in public, and continue to follow all current health orders.

The State of Ohio has flagged 3 indicators for Huron County triggering this change on the State of Ohio's Advisory System. These indicators can be found by visiting the Ohio Department of Health dashboard at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Please keep in mind, the Ohio Public Health Advisory System's color change and data is updated each week by the Ohio Department of Health not Huron County Public Health. While HCPH uses this system as a tool to assess spread of COVID-19, other factors and weekly zip code trends also are considered when offering recommendations to our community regarding events or individual business policies. The decisions made by partners within the community, however, are their own and are not decided upon by HCPH.

Everyone should continue to follow everyday preventative measures and social distancing guidelines while in public settings.

- If you are sick or are feeling unwell, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay at least 6-feet apart from others even when outside.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing food or drinks with others.
- Cough or sneeze into your arm or tissue and then properly dispose of the tissue.
- Wear a cloth face mask/cover while in the public.

We ask that residents interested in daily case counts visit the Ohio COVID-19 dashboard for both local and state COVID-19 numbers. The ODH dashboard includes gender, age-range, and hospitalization status for all Ohioans diagnosed with COVID-19 and is updated daily at 2:00 PM.

Please note that total case counts reported on the ODH COVID-19 dashboard include the total count of both probable and confirmed cases in the county and at the state level, while HCPH's weekly update (this release) focuses on confirmed cases. To view confirmed cases only on the ODH dashboard, select the "confirmed" filter in the case classification status drop-down menu.

As always, please be aware that differences within Huron County's and ODH's COVID-19 dashboard case numbers may continue to occur due to a variety of reasons including delays in transferring confirmed case(s) in and out of Huron County in the Ohio Disease Reporting System as a result of resident(s) residing in a city that is also a part of other counties.

Visit www.huroncohealth.com/coronavirus2019 for the latest COVID-19 developments. For questions about COVID-19, call the COVID-19 Information Line at 1-833-427-5634.

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