



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County  
General Health District**

For Immediate Release

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**Spike in COVID-19 cases in Butler County: Not just because of testing.**

BUTLER COUNTY, OH – Prior to May 7, the average daily number of confirmed cases reported for Butler County was 7.2 from May 7 – May 10 the average number of confirmed cases reported per day was 26. This was 260% higher than the usual daily average. Subsequent data show the average of new daily cases decreasing.

While case numbers are up partially due to the increase in availability of testing in our area in the last few days, there are additional factors at play. Analysis of the cases reported revealed that a multitude of factors impacted the numbers including: a large scale testing event, and an increased numbers of cases occurring in clusters.

A total of 44% of cases were linked to a work place, household, or healthcare exposure. Overall, 23% of new cases had ill family members. Of the new cases, 60% reside in zip codes 45014 and 45011. By race, 30% were Hispanic which is more than the usual percent of the population within Butler County. Other racial groups were impacted as would be expected by population, or the race was not recorded by the reporting entity.

While this increase is large, it is not entirely unexpected. As testing ramps up we expect to see higher numbers of positive tests. In addition, most cases were linked to other persons known to be sick with COVID-19, which is also not unexpected.

"The rise in case numbers is a reminder that as we move towards reopening, we must do so intentionally and carefully with an eye towards protecting the health of the public as well as stimulating the economy," said Jennifer Bailer Health Commissioner for Butler County General Health District (BCGHD).

"We want everyone to wear a face mask in all indoor situations that require interacting with people, other than the ones you live with," stated Bailer. "We fully understand that health is more than just

protection from a virus; health is also being able to pay the rent and feed families. We need both of these things to work in harmony in order to successfully move out of shut down.”

BCGHD asks people to wear masks in restaurants, grocery stores, retail stores and on public transit. Masks are not required when exercising outdoors as long as proper social distancing is practiced.

In addition to wearing a facial mask (mask, bandanna, cloth covering), residents should practice these preventative measures:

- If you are over 65 years old or have underlying health conditions, stay at home.
- Practice social distancing/physical distancing by keeping 6 feet way from others at all times.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.

Ohioans can call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 hotline with any questions or visit [health.bcohoio.us/](https://health.bcohoio.us/) or [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). The call center is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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