

Wood County Emergency Management Agency

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A department under the Board of County Commissioners
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Wood County EOC Situation Report

COVID-19 Response

September 1, 2020

County EOC Status: Virtually Activated

State EOC: Activated

This report communicates County EOC activity over the past 24 hours

Dissemination: After Governor's Press Conference at 4pm

Information Cutoff Time: 330pm

Executive Summary:

****Next press conference Thursday September 3rd, 2020****

Governor DeWine- Discussed some Ohio *road safety*, distracted driving, and motor vehicle crashes. The stats as of lately have been extremely concerning. He will be signing an executive order to create the Ohio Traffic Safety Council lead by Ohio Department of Public Safety. This council will be composed of representatives from various state agencies, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and more. This council will bring together local, state, and federal partners in order to foster collaborative efforts, and to create a think-tank to address many of these issues. *Work zones*- ODOT aviation team to patrol some construction zones. *Gun Violence*- he addressed some of the recent stats. Most gun crimes are committed by people not legally allowed to have those guns. *Human trafficking*- US Marshals rescued 25 children in Northern Ohio. *COVID Data*- jump in cases. The case number is the highest number we have had since the end of July. This shows us that the virus is not going away. We think that a significant part of this rise is caused by the colleges, grade schools, and high schools going back. We have to do everything we can to protect each other. Hospitalizations and death numbers are also slightly higher than they have been in recent weeks. Top 10 counties ranked by highest occurrence: Putnam, Darke, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Henry, Shelby, Butler, Montgomery, Auglaize. This continues to show movement into rural areas. *Labor Day*- we need to be careful in regards to gatherings. Case numbers went up after the 4th of July weekend. *Sports*- He discussed some examples of how schools are ensuring safe practices and following the provided guidelines at sporting events. Having proper plans and working with local health department officials can result in fewer people being impacted by COVID. He also discussed the *school notification procedures* and stated that the language is still being worked on. The goal is to be as transparent as possible so parents can make informed decisions. *Colleges*- BGSU, less students on campus, it's been a change but it's been going very well. Positive attitude amongst students, constant communication from administration and faculty has helped. Modifications to traditional student gatherings have been effective in order to continue some semblance of normalcy. OSU- good adherence to guidelines across campus. Mask wearing has increased, students have taken a part of the ownership of safety. In addressing some questions he stated: *HB6*- needs to be repealed, and has been so tainted that it needs to be redone. Former speaker had a right to be on the floor today because he is still a member. Vigorously searching for a new *Ohio Director of Health*. Every credible person in the medical field knows *masks* are important.

Lt. Governor- Discussed the *broadband* connectivity grant. This is \$50 million of CARES Act money made available to schools to meet the need for high speed internet. Today they are notifying 951 schools that their grants have been approved. This will enable 121,000 students to gain access to high

speed internet in their homes. In areas where there are barriers to take home devices, this will also support the creation of WIFI spaces, 645 students will now have places to go to connect to the internet. *Telehealth pilot project*- located in SE Ohio. Switzerland of Ohio, extremely rural, Monroe County, significant poverty issues and mental health issues. This project has yielded some important lessons. Please visit www.Innovate.ohio.gov/broadband for the blueprint. CS/- common sense initiative IA tool to streamline Ohio Revised Code. We want to make it easier for telecom entities and agencies to expand broadband across the state. PSA- a few months ago heard a story of a WWII veteran when asked about wearing a mask he said “when I was young they asked me to go to Normandy and fight the Germans, this seems easier than that.” WWII Veteran, Jim Martin 99 year old Sugarcreek Township Greene County. Volunteered to be a WWII paratrooper. Provided a recorded message.

*Total Reported Cases: 124,610

*Ohio Hospitalizations: 13,479

*ICU Admissions: 2,975

*Total Deaths: 4,165

For daily state hospitalization data please visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/key-metrics/hospitalizations/key-metrics-on-hospitalizations> scroll to the bottom, find the date you are looking for and hover your mouse over that bar.

*Today’s numbers unable to be pulled from coronavirus.ohio.gov site due to it not being updated prior to release of this report. These numbers taken from Governor DeWine’s Twitter post.

Wood County Cases (total plus probable): 1356 (+11)

Wood County Hospitalizations: 62 (-25)

Wood County Deaths: 68 (+1)

Wood County Active Cases: 127 (+3)

County EOC Objectives:

1. Coordinate the county’s response to limit spread of COVID-19; and maintain medical care.
2. Provide timely, clear, and consistent messaging to the public, stakeholders and media on the status of COVID-19 and actions the public can take to keep themselves safe.
3. Determine how county agencies will continue delivery of essential services to Wood County residents while following COVID-19 public health guidelines.
4. Prevent, identify, mitigate, and respond to COVID19 hotspots within the county.

EMA:

- **National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized annually in September** to encourage family and community disaster planning not only for a month, but throughout the year. As our state and nation continue to respond to COVID-19, National Preparedness Month is an ideal time for Ohioans to ensure they are prepared for any disaster, including a pandemic. This year’s theme for NPM is: “Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.” “Even while battling the coronavirus, Ohioans have dealt with other emergencies, including floods, tornadoes, and extreme heat,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “Disasters can happen at any time, and National Preparedness Month is a good time to ensure you’re ready to handle the next emergency.” “As the governor said, disasters don’t pause because of the coronavirus,” said Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Sima Merick. “We have to stay diligent. We have to stay prepared. We have to make plans to protect ourselves and loved ones from hazards and severe weather events that can impact our lives. Making and practicing your emergency plans, which includes having disaster supply kits for the home and car, are just a few things that we all can do to be safe and resilient.” In coordination with FEMA’s Ready campaign, the Ohio EMA and ReadyOhio encourage households, county EMAs, businesses, schools, and places of worship

to plan for emergencies by participating in the weekly themes for NPM 2020. Please visit ready.gov and follow Wood County EMA social media for tips and updates.

- State EMA: As of 8am, Over the past 24 hours, the Ohio Department of Health reported 895 (123,157) total new cases, 10 (4,138) deaths, seven (2,961) ICU admissions, and 59 (13,376) hospitalizations, which were below the 21-day averages. Warehouse capacity continues to be monitored as inbound supplies increase. State stockpiling and storage strategies continue to be developed through ESF-7 and the State EOC Unified Command.
- Wood County remains at a level 2 or orange level. Level 2 indicates: Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders. Same guidelines as in Level 1. • Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk. • High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions. • Decrease in-person interactions outside household. • Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible. **Ohio's Public Health Advisory System is updated every Thursday.** The system consists of four levels that provide Ohioans with guidance as to the severity of the problem in the counties in which they live. The levels are determined by seven data indicators that identify the risk level for each county and a corresponding color code to represent that risk level.
- Please contact us if:
 - If you have PPE to donate, if you have any PPE needs or have any questions.
 - If you know citizens looking to purchase masks, please connect them with our office and we can give them the contact information of local mask sellers.
 - The EMA has kits for Wood County for-profit small businesses (under 100 employees) that contain PPE and hand sanitizer. These kits were provided through JobsOhio to Wood County Economic Development and are **at no cost to the business**. These kits are first come, first served. Please email us with your business name, address, point of contact, and how many employees you have if you are interested.

Public Health:

- There have been 124,610* total reported COVID-19 cases in Ohio. There have been 1356 cases (total confirmed plus probable) in Wood County, presently 62 active cases, of those 127 are or have been hospitalized, 68 deaths.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends against using face shields as a substitute for facial coverings or masks.
- We work hard every day to help slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are sick or have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, a public health worker may call to ask you to stay at home and quarantine or isolate. This helps keep our community safe. Unless you give permission, your name will not be revealed to those you came in contact with, even if they ask. All information is protected. Be part of the solution and help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Even though testing is more readily available, it is not recommended that employers require a negative test for an employee to return to work or a letter from a doctor or the health department. The health department does not provide such letters. Employers can find more information at <https://bitly.com/2CmSkod>.
- Pharmacists are now authorized to administer vaccines to children ages 3-18, which increases the access to lifesaving childhood vaccines.
- Case follow-up and contact tracing – Confirmed and probable cases are reported to the health department. Several health department staff are involved in contacting cases and their close contacts to ensure isolation and quarantine guidelines are followed.

- Testing – testing locations and other local information, as well as links to ODH and CDC resources, can be found at [Coronavirus.WoodCountyHealth.org](https://www.woodcountyhealth.org/coronavirus) and <https://sites.google.com/view/wchdohio-coronavirus/home/Testing>

Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS:

- The Sheriff's Office will be conducting increased patrols from Aug. 21 through Sept. 7 thanks to a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office for the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. These additional deputies will be looking for signs of DUI as well as failure to yield and speeding.

Healthcare:

- LTC facility staff are being tested every 2 weeks for COVID-19 as a directive from ODH.
- For agency resource requests, please contact us at: woodcountyema@co.wood.oh.us.

BGSU:

- Now publishing a situation report once every other week.
- With our return this fall, we are asking our campus community to conduct a self-wellness check every morning. We are excited to launch a health app, #CampusClear, to make this easier. We encourage you to download the app, available on both [Android](#) and [iOS](#), and use it daily so we can all work together to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Our return to campus plan involves taking personal responsibility not only for your own well-being, but the health and safety of our entire campus community. The following safety protocols are at the center of this commitment to self-care and community, and *will remain in effect until further notice*. <https://www.bgsu.edu/coronavirus/return-to-campus/before-arriving-on-campus.html>

Local:

- Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank- Friday September 4th at 10am-1130am at First United Methodist Church 1526 E. Wooster St. Bowling Green, OH 43402. Pre-registration and ID required. Call 419-242-5000 ext. 215 or visit toledofoodbank.org
- The Wood County Committee on Aging: Our next Care Compass Project session will be held on September 2 via Zoom! The Care Compass Project is an educational series designed for those who are seeking training to learn best practices in caregiving. Registration is required for this free program. Please contact the Wood County Senior Center Programs Department at 419.353.5661 or by emailing programs@wcco.net to register or for more information. They also will hold the annual 90s Plus Spectacular Event in a door-to-door format this year. The event will celebrate those individuals in Wood County who are 90 years of age and older. WCCOA staff will drop off flowers and framed certificates to each facility that nominates a 90-year-old. These scheduled drop offs will take place Sept. 28. WCCOA staff will deliver dinner, flowers and a framed certificate to community members' homes. These drop-offs will take place the evening of Sept. 28. 90 Plus participants will also have an opportunity to have their photo taken with their certificate, and the printed photo will be mailed to them for their keeping. A slide show will be created including bios and pictures of each participant with a link available for participants to watch on their own and share with family and friends. Dinner for those in the community is sponsored by Perrysburg Commons and Bowling Green Manor. Flowers are sponsored by Brookdale of Bowling Green. Frames and certificates are sponsored by Wood Haven Health Care. The printed 5x7 photo of participants with their certificates are sponsored

by Waterford at Levis Commons. Music for the slide show is sponsored by Heartland of Perrysburg. Registration is required by Sept. 1. Those wishing to participate can call the WCCOA Programs Department at 419-353-5661 or 800-367-4935 or email programs@wccoa.net A fillable PDF version of the registration form is also available on the WCCOA website at www.wccoa.net/activities/special-events.

- Wood County Museum: will be opening a new permanent exhibit, The Mary & Carl Bach Story, on October 1, 2020. This exhibit confronts the folklore surrounding the most recognized object in the museum's collection – Mary's fingers. Human remains exhibited in unnatural circumstances can be emotionally concerning while inexplicably fascinating to visitors, but there is more to the story. This exhibit contextualizes how Carl & Mary met, what led to the murder, and what the trial transcripts reveal. A grand opening celebration & open house for the exhibit will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2020 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. A ribbon cutting, courtesy of the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, will be held at 4:00 PM on the museum lawn. In addition to the ribbon cutting, The Cocoon will display "The Wood County Clothesline Project" on the Museum front lawn. Visitors will be expected to wear a facemask or covering and respect a six-foot distance from other visitors. The 30,000 square-foot museum building provides ample room for social distancing. RSVP's appreciated, send to marketing@woodcountyhistory.org
- BG's Art Supply Depo and Big Fab Lab are hosting a Drive-Thru Art Loop on September 12th from 10a-4p. You can drive through in your car or walk through if you're wearing a mask and maintaining proper social distancing.

Weather

- **Today:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 5pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 86. Southwest wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. **Tonight:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. **Wednesday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 83. West wind 7 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. **Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. West wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Administrative Information: Any information and contributions your agency has for this report is valuable to maintain a common operating picture and situational awareness for the county as a whole. Please reach out to our office via phone or email (email preferred) to share information.

- EOC Hours of Operation: 830a-430p
- **We do not answer phones during the governor's press conferences.** Please feel free to send an email during those times or leave a message and we will get back to you when we are able.
- Requesting support: Call Wood County EMA at 419-354-9269 or email woodcountyema@co.wood.oh.us
ODH Call line: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)
www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

