

**WEEK IN REVIEW**

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review*For the week ending August 14, 2020*

On **Tuesday**, Governor DeWine continued to stress the importance of masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene as Ohio's school students approach the start of the upcoming school year.

"I have every confidence that Ohio's schools will do everything they can to keep children safe, but any spread happening in the broader community will, without a doubt, be reflected in Ohio's classrooms," said Governor DeWine. "If we want our kids to go to school in person, to play sports, to be in extracurricular activities - it's up to all of us to cut down the spread in our communities."

Currently, Ohio has left the decision to individual school districts on how to approach the new school year.

According to information gathered by the Ohio Department of Education, 325 public school districts in Ohio are planning to return to school full-time which equates to approximately 590,000 students. A total of 55 districts representing approximately 398,000 public school students will begin the school year remotely. Approximately 380,000 students in 154 public school districts will start the school year with a hybrid of online and in-person learning. Information on 78 public school districts was not readily available.

Dr. John Barnard from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Dr. Patty Manning from Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and Dr. Adam Mezoﬀ from Dayton Children's Hospital also participated in Tuesday's press conference. They discussed the prevalence of COVID-19 among children; how to prevent spread in schools by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, maintaining good hand hygiene, keeping surfaces clean, and ensuring good ventilation; and what schools can do if a student or staff member tests positive.

INCREASE IN CASES IN YOUNGER POPULATIONS

Governor DeWine shared updated data on the percentage of cases in Ohio by age group. The data shows a significant increase in positive cases among younger adults over the summer, particularly in the age range of 20-29.



On **Thursday**, Governor DeWine announced that new public health data has led the Ohio Department of Health to designate 12 counties as being in a Red Alert Level 3 Public Emergency as defined by the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#).

Increase to Level 3:	Continue at Level 3:	Decrease to Level 2:	Decrease to Level 1:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brown• Clermont• Muskingum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cuyahoga• Erie• Fairfield• Franklin• Licking• Lucas• Marion• Mercer• Montgomery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allen• Medina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adams• Defiance• Fulton• Henry• Knox• Lake• Paulding• Williams

Detailed information for all of Ohio's 88 counties can be found on the [Ohio Public Health Advisory System's website](#). The system was developed to provide local health departments, community leaders, and the public with data and information on the severity of the COVID-19 spread in the counties in which they live. The system consists of four levels with specific [risk-level guidelines](#). Each level is calculated with data gathered on [seven public health indicators](#).

IMPROVING MINORITY HEALTH

Governor DeWine released the final Minority Health Strike Force report and the state's executive response.

The Minority Health Strike Force was formed in April to examine the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on minority communities, as well as broader health disparities and racial injustices. Currently, African Americans represent 14 percent of Ohio's population but are 24 percent of positive COVID-19 cases, 32 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 19 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Ohio. Similarly, at least 6 percent of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ohio are Latino, despite only representing 3.9 percent of Ohio's population.



The [COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint](#) lists 34 recommendations on dismantling racism, removing public health obstacles, improving the social/economic and physical environments, and strengthening data collection to better track disparities.

In response to the Strike Force's report, Governor DeWine issued [Ohio's Executive Response: A Plan of Action to Advance Equity](#). The action plan outlines efforts to reinforce the DeWine Administration's commitment to advancing health equity and establishing Ohio as a model for justice, equity, opportunity, and resilience.

As part of his commitment to equity, Governor DeWine also announced the creation of the new Ohio Governor's Equity Advisory Board.

The Board will work to improve Ohio's work to dismantle racism and promote health equity. Board members will draw on the expertise within Ohio's communities of color and will represent diverse viewpoints from sectors like education, healthcare, public and private business, community organizations, and members of the criminal justice community.

"We are committed to solutions, because as I have stated before, racism is a public health crisis. Each of us has a responsibility to be mindful of and work to counteract racial and other disparities that hold Ohioans back from reaching their full God-given potential," said Governor DeWine. "I will not shy away from addressing these long-entrenched inequalities among our fellow Ohio citizens. Fortunately, we have many great partners in this mission, and we are grateful to the individuals and organizations that provided feedback to the strike force and who have worked with my administration on this issue."

"Being a person of color should not dictate your health outcomes. As the Health Commissioner for the City of Cincinnati and member of the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force, I am proud of the work of my fellow strike force members to address these health inequities. The interim report and blueprint address short term and long term recommendations, as we need sustainable efforts to address these multi-faceted issues. The Governor's response to the blueprint is action-oriented and his formation of the Governor's Equity Impact Board shows that he is serious about the plan being implemented and committed to all Ohioans," Dr. Melba R. Moore, Cincinnati Health Department Health Commissioner.

"The COVID-19 Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint sets a foundation that promotes sustained long-term and lifetime wellness and focuses on individuals and communities of color who disproportionately are afflicted with health disparities and chronic disease conditions. We understand that improvements to healthcare access and social and economic factors and



determinants of health are critical to addressing disparities and improving health outcomes for all Ohioans. I commend Governor DeWine for taking the blueprint and quickly working with his administration to outline concrete next steps to improve the health and wellbeing of all Ohioans and advance equity across the state of Ohio,” Dr. Charles Modlin, MD, Executive Director Minority Health, Founder / Director Minority Men’s Health Center & Urologist, Cleveland Clinic.

CURRENT COVID-19 DATA

As of Friday afternoon, there are 106,557 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 3,784 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 12,128 people have been hospitalized, including 2,755 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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