

# TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Tuscarawas County Moves to Level 3 and a New Phase in Our Fight Against COVID-19**

On October 22, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine announced that Tuscarawas County has moved to Level 3, or the red category, on the Ohio Department of Health's Public Advisory System for Covid-19 spread. Being in Level 3 means that there is a very high amount of exposure and spread in the county. The safety of our employees and the public are of the utmost importance and is our number one concern, but we are aware we are a public agency providing public services. Therefore, **county buildings will remain open** at this time.

Over the past several months the county has put in place many safety measures such as:

- Distribution of hand sanitizer to offices and public areas
- Face coverings be worn by employees unless otherwise exempt, as per the Governor's directives
- Purchasing of counter guards/shields
- Purchasing of two mister/fogger machines that are used nightly to aid in killing the virus on surfaces
- Purchasing of two UV light apparatuses designed to kill COVID-19
- Placement of tape to give customers a visual guide of the six feet social distancing area
- Hiring of employees to continually clean high contact surfaces
- Encouraging employees to do self-assessments before coming into work and to stay home if he or she exhibits symptoms related to COVID-19, or has a fever over 100.4
- Redesigning workspace areas to ensure safe social distancing

As Tuscarawas County now moves into the red category we encourage the public and remind all those visiting county facilities to do the following:

- When possible use electronic/telephone means to conduct county business
- When possible utilize drop boxes
- Practice social distancing when visiting county facilities
- Perform a self-assessment before visiting county facilities, and stay home if exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 including a fever over 100.4
- Wear a face covering if safely able to do so

In saying that, we want to take a moment to express our most sincere condolences to all of those who have been impacted by the pandemic, especially the over 1,300 people in Tuscarawas County who have tested positive for COVID-19. We also want to express our heartfelt sorrow to those

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families and friends who have lost a loved one because of COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayer are with all of you.

As a Board, we want to express our indebted gratitude to first responders and medical care providers who are on the front lines of this pandemic each and every day. While these times are difficult, we are comforted by the fact that here in Tuscarawas County we have outstanding first responders and medical officials. We also want to thank the office holders, employees, and general public for your cooperation as we navigate these ever changing times, and we assure you that we are and will continue to be in contact with the Tuscarawas County Health Department, New Philadelphia Health Department, and Tuscarawas County Emergency Management Agency to monitor the situation, as well as reviewing the best practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, as Governor Mike DeWine said in his press conference on Thursday, we need you, and we all need to be fully engaged in this battle. We all want to return to normal, yet COVID-19 is still here and continuing to spread. While times are difficult now, we should be comforted by the notion that we are not in this fight alone, we have one another, and if we work together with a renewed sense of determination to defeat COVID-19 we can do just that. But it will take all of us. We are determined to get through this pandemic together.

For more information on precautions and best practices please visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one is experiencing mental health issues due to the coronavirus pandemic help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616