



Public Health News and Reports

# Straight from the Source

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Volume 1      Issue 15      Friday, July 17, 2020

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Past issues of "Straight from the Source" can be found at  
the Geauga Public Health Website at  
**[www.GPHOhio.org](http://www.GPHOhio.org)**

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To get on our GPH "Straight from the Source" email list, email us at:  
**[JGearhart@GeaugaCountyHealth.org](mailto:JGearhart@GeaugaCountyHealth.org)**

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Follow Geauga Public Health on Facebook for posts  
from the Geauga County Health Commissioner.  
Facebook **@GPHOhio**

Questions and comments via email: **[Info@GeaugaCountyHealth.org](mailto:Info@GeaugaCountyHealth.org)**

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For General Questions about COVID-19, the various state orders, and other important  
information, the Ohio Department of Health has a Call Center that is staffed from 9  
a.m. to 8 p.m. 7 days/week.

**1-833-4-ASK-ODH      1-833-427-5634**

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**Access the sources public health professionals use  
for credible COVID-19 information.**

**Visit the ODH Website at [www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov](http://www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov)**

**Visit the CDC Website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**

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### **CURRENT HOSPITAL NEWS**

**Cleveland Clinic Newsroom:** <https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/category/news-releases/>

**University Hospitals Newsroom:** <https://news.uhhospitals.org/>

**MetroHealth Newsroom:** <https://news.metrohealth.org/>

**Cleveland VA Medical Center Newsroom:** <https://www.cleveland.va.gov/features/index.asp>

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The **Geauga County Board of Health** regular monthly meeting occurs on the 4th Wednesday of each month  
at 5:00pm in Building #8 at 470 Center Street in Chardon, Ohio. There is an opportunity for public comment.

## **Health Commissioner Calls for Masks in Public Places as the County Risk Level is Raised**

*July 10, 2020*

*Source of Information: Geauga County Health Commissioner, Tom Quade*

*Content Contact: TQuade@geaugacountyhealth.org*

**Chardon, Ohio – Geauga County Health Commissioner, Tom Quade, is strongly encouraging Geauga County residents who are able to wear a face mask to do so whenever they are in the presence of others outside of their own households. This call for action is not a local public health order nor is it a state mandate in Geauga County.**

The Geauga County Health Commissioner “strongly believes that it is far better for the public to understand the value of prevention and to make the decision on their own to protect one another than to rely on the government to step in and attempt to order common sense, mutual respect, and simple human compassion for other people with whom we share our space.” He does also recognize certain obligations. “When people make personal decisions which put the health and safety of the general public in jeopardy, we do have a responsibility to act. That is why health departments exist.” Our county risk level assessment as defined by the Ohio Department of Health has been elevated from level one (yellow) to level two (orange). The state’s level three risk assessment carries with it a state-mandated mask requirement.

Quade suggests that because our individual experiences are intertwined, we are all balancing our individual freedoms and our community’s wellbeing. “It is like minding our speed when driving in school zones. It is inconvenient when we are in a rush but we have a civil as well as legal obligation to protect the children. We don’t simply tell them to stay home if they’re afraid to cross the street when we’re driving through.”

Quade calls for sustained efforts to prevent the increases of cases and hospitalizations occurring outside our county. Geauga County businesses are also encouraged to consider requiring customers to wear masks, especially in and around Middlefield, where the recent community spread is higher. According to the June responses to the health department’s community input survey, observing low rates of mask use by patrons in retail and grocery stores, restaurants, and bars is among the leading reasons people are likely to do business elsewhere. Masks are good for the public’s health. They may also be good for business.

Health Commissioner Quade has also been working closely with school administrators throughout the county on return to school plans in an attempt to minimize the inherent increased risk of transmission. “One of the most effective things the community can do now to minimize the risk is to reduce the number of cases in the general population in advance of students and teachers returning to school. The progress we make is made together.”

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**We need to learn from your experiences as businesses reopen. What do you see that makes you feel safer? Where are the opportunities to improve practices that would make you feel safer as a customer?**

**Please use the link below to take a brief survey about what prevention practices you are seeing and what impact it has on your decisions of where to shop safely.**

**[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Geauga\\_Public\\_Input\\_COVID-19](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Geauga_Public_Input_COVID-19)**

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**Community Input Survey Results can be found at the Geauga Public Health web page at:**

**[www.GPHOhio.org](http://www.GPHOhio.org)**

## **Geauga County Department on Aging (GDA) Updates for July 2020**

*July 14, 2020*

*Source of Information: Geauga County Department on Aging, Jessica Boalt*

*Content Contact: JBoalt@CO.GEAUGA.OH.US*

Our staff are working and available to provide assistance, information and referrals to community partners over the phone. Please do not hesitate to call our office - we are here to help. Follow the Geauga County Department on Aging to receive up to date information on our programs and services on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaCountyDepartmentonAging>

All walk-in and routine office appointments continue to be postponed until further notice. We are happy to schedule phone appointments and virtual appointments.

GDA Senior Centers and Adult Day Services remain closed for onsite and outdoor programming. GDA Senior Centers and Adult Day Services will remain closed throughout the month of July. We do not have an anticipated date to reopen for onsite and outdoor programming at this time.

Seniors Centers are offering distance programming and recreation resources. Please contact your local senior center for more information. **Chardon Senior Center:** 440-279-2126 **Middlefield Senior Center:** 440-632-0611 **West Geauga Senior Center:** 440-279-2163 **Bainbridge Senior Center:** 440-279-1313

Urgent or Critical matters that cannot be addressed over the phone or postponed, may be scheduled a face to face appointment at the Agency's discretion. Anyone scheduled for a face to face appointment must comply with social distancing, wear a face covering and complete a health questionnaire & temperature screening.

**Legal Service** appointments that were previously cancelled are in the process of being rescheduled and a limited number of new Legal Service appointments are available.

**Out of County Medical Transportation** is accepting requests for rides to Out-of-County medical appointments. Please call 440-279-2134 to request a ride.

Senior trash pick-up is in the process of being rescheduled.

The **Senior Home Safety Program** is providing limited services on a case by case basis, for issues concerning safety, security and accessibility in and around the home. Seniors in need of Home Safety Services for immediate safety or accessibility issues should call 440-279-2130 for assistance and/or referrals.

Our **Home Delivered Meals** program continues to operate as usual. Seniors interested in receiving Home Delivered Meals can call 440-279-2138 to receive a Home Delivered Meals Eligibility Assessment.

**Congregate Meals "To-Go"** are available for pick up at each of our Senior Center locations. Seniors interested in receiving a Congregate Meal "To-Go" should call their local Senior Center by 9:00 a.m. the days they would like to pick up a meal. Offered Monday through Friday.

Non-Perishable Food Items and Food Pantry Assistance are available. Our staff can assist with supplying basic non-perishable food items through our Senior Food Pantry or Local Food Pantry and then deliver these items to Geauga County seniors. Non-perishable food donations to support the senior food pantry are greatly appreciated. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday 8am-4pm at 470 Center Street #2, Chardon.

If you have questions or need additional information please call the GDA Administrative Office at (440) 279-2130 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

## **Governor DeWine Implores Ohioans to Unite to Prevent Spread of Covid-19**

*July 15, 2020*

*Source of Information: Governor of Ohio, Mike DeWine*

*Content Contact: Dan Tierney: 614-644-0957, Jill Del Greco: 614-644-0957*

In a statewide address from his office in the Statehouse Governor DeWine said that the state is at a critical point in the COVID-19 pandemic and implored Ohioans to take appropriate action to reverse the rapidly increasing spread of the virus.

"Today, more Ohioans are getting sick than at any previous point in this pandemic. We are sliding down a very dangerous path, with our once flattened-curve starting to sharpen and spike," said Governor DeWine. "This is a worrisome, disturbing reversal of our progress -- a jarring reminder of just how quickly our fate can change."

Governor DeWine commended Ohioans for doing their part at the beginning of the pandemic. However, with positive cases increasing, he reminded Ohioans that the choices they make today will impact the spread of the virus in the coming weeks. During the speech, grounded in scientific evidence and data, Governor DeWine reminded Ohioans about the efficacy of facial coverings to protect themselves, loved ones, friends, neighbors and other citizens. He also renewed the call to socially distance and limit public gatherings.

"I am calling on all Ohioans to once again unite. We must work together, support each other, and help each other through this challenging time. I've seen you do this. I know you can do this. Ohioans can continue to help our most vulnerable, while also protecting ourselves and our families. Together, we can be the Ohio where our hospitals are not overwhelmed, where our schools can open, where sports can start, and where our economy can continue to

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## **Plasma Donation in Recovered COVID-19 Cases**

*July 9, 2020*

*Source of Information: Lt. Governor of Ohio, Jon Husted*

*Content Contact: Dan Tierney: 614-644-0957, Breann Almos: 614-799-6480*

Lt. Governor Husted encouraged Ohioans who have been fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least two weeks to consider donating plasma.

"Convalescent plasma, which is plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients, is rich in antibodies that could possibly attack the virus that causes COVID-19," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Although the treatment of COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma remains in the investigation stage, it shows promise to lessen the severity or shorten the length of COVID-19 and is something that could potentially save lives in our continual fight against the coronavirus."

For more information, visit [redcrossblood.org/plasma4covid](https://redcrossblood.org/plasma4covid) or contact a local donor or plasma collection center.

**You may qualify to donate plasma for coronavirus patients if you meet specific convalescent plasma and regular blood donation eligibility requirements:**

- You are at least 17 years old and weigh 110 lbs. Additional weight requirements apply for donors age 18 or younger.
- In good health. You generally feel well, even if you're being treated for a chronic condition.
- Have a prior, verified diagnosis of COVID-19, but are now symptom free and fully recovered from COVID-19.

## **Face Covering Requirements for Counties Reaching a Level 3 or 4 on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System**

*July 8, 2020*

*Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health*

*Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)*

The requirement to wear a facial covering shall be implemented for a county identified as having met criteria to reach either a level 3 or level 4 according to the Public Health Advisory System. Facial coverings will continue until that county no longer is designated at level 3 or level 4.

### **Face coverings for these counties will be required when:**

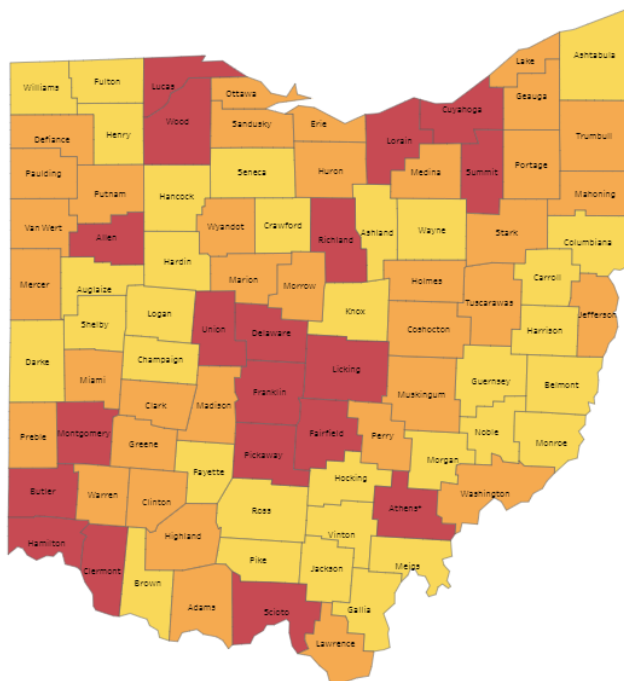
- In any indoor location that is not a residence.
- Outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.
- Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a private care service, or a ride sharing vehicle. This does not apply to private or rental vehicles where members of a family are sharing a vehicle. This does not apply to vehicles engaged in direct travel through a county that does not stop in that county.

### **The requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply when:**

- The individual is under ten years of age.
- A medical condition, including those with respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disability contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering.
- The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office, and which space is not intended for use or access by the public.
- The individual is actively engaged in exercise in a gym or indoor facility so long as six or more feet of separation between individuals exists.
- The individual is actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health order.
- The individual is actively engaged in a public safety capacity, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters or emergency medical personnel.
- The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage in a restaurant or bar.
- Facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation.
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
- Facial coverings are in violation of a business's documented safety policies.
- Individual is actively participating in broadcast communications.
- Individual is an officiant of a religious service.

Schools that offer kindergarten through grade twelve instruction should follow the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health. Nothing in this order is intended to interfere with the separation of powers under the Ohio Constitution. This Order does not apply to jails or prison facilities. This Order is not intended to supersede, supplant or preempt any order or law of a local jurisdiction that is more restrictive than this Order. For the Page 6 of 10 purposes of this Order, a facial covering (mask) is any material cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.

**Please note, as of July 16, 2020 @ 12:00 pm Geauga County is still at Level 2 of the Public Health Advisory System.**



**Level 1 Public Emergency:** active exposure and spread.

Yellow

**Level 2 Public Emergency:** increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution.

Orange

**Level 3 Public Emergency:** very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible.

Red

**Level 4 Public Emergency:** severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services.

Purple

## Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<b>Public Emergency</b> Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	<b>Public Emergency</b> Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

### LEVEL 1-4 REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL HEALTH ORDERS

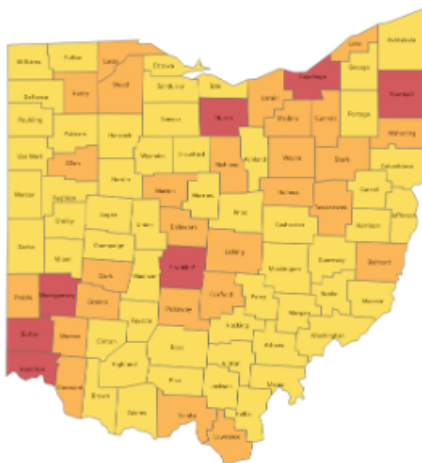
Over 60% of Ohioans are considered high-risk based on [CDC guidance](#). High-risk individuals\* are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19, including following higher risk level guidance outlined below. Consult a doctor about your risk.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic.**</li> <li>Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-household members.</li> <li>Wear face coverings in public, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain.</li> <li>Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers.</li> <li>Avoid traveling to high-risk areas.</li> <li>Follow good hygiene standards, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</li> <li>Use hand sanitizer frequently.</li> <li>Avoid touching your face.</li> <li>Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow).</li> <li>Symptom self-evaluation monitoring.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same guidelines as in <b>Level 1</b>.</li> <li>Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk.</li> <li>High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions.</li> <li>Decrease in-person interactions outside household.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same guidelines as in <b>Levels 1-2</b>.</li> <li>Decrease in-person interactions with others.</li> <li>Consider necessary travel only.</li> <li>Limit attending gatherings of any number.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same guidelines as in <b>Level 1-3</b>.</li> <li>Stay at home/ necessary travel only.</li> </ul>

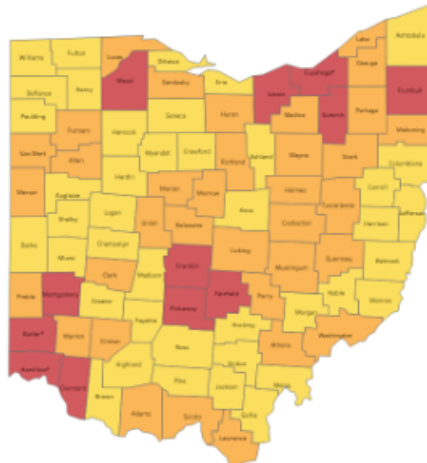
Households should assume that if one person is sick every person living there is as well and should take appropriate measures to control the spread, which should include self-quarantining and contacting a doctor.

# Summary of Alert Indicators

INDICATOR		WHAT IT TELLS US
1	New Cases Per Capita	Flagged if greater than 50 cases per 100,000 residents over the last two weeks. Allows for counties with different population sizes to be appropriately compared.
2	Sustained Increase in New Cases	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in overall cases by onset date. Reflects disease spread in the population.
3	Proportion of Cases Not Congregate Cases	Flagged if proportion of cases that are not in a congregate setting goes over 50% in at least one of the last 3 weeks. Used as indicator of greater risk of community spread.
4	Sustained Increase in Emergency Room Visits	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of visits to the emergency department with COVID-like illness or a diagnosis. Provides information on the health care seeking behavior of the population and a sense of how concerned residents are about their current health status and the virus.
5	Sustained Increase in Outpatient Visits	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of people going to a health care provider with COVID symptoms who then receive a COVID confirmed or suspected diagnosis. Provides information on the health care seeking behavior of the population and a sense of how concerned residents are about their current health status and the virus.
6	Sustained Increase in New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions	Flagged if increasing trend of at least 5 days in the number of new hospitalizations due to COVID. Important indicator of hospital burden and disease severity.
7	Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Bed Occupancy	Flagged if percentage of the occupied ICU beds in each region goes above 80% for at least three days in the last week. Provides an indication of the capacity available to manage a possible surge of severely ill patients.



July 2, 2020



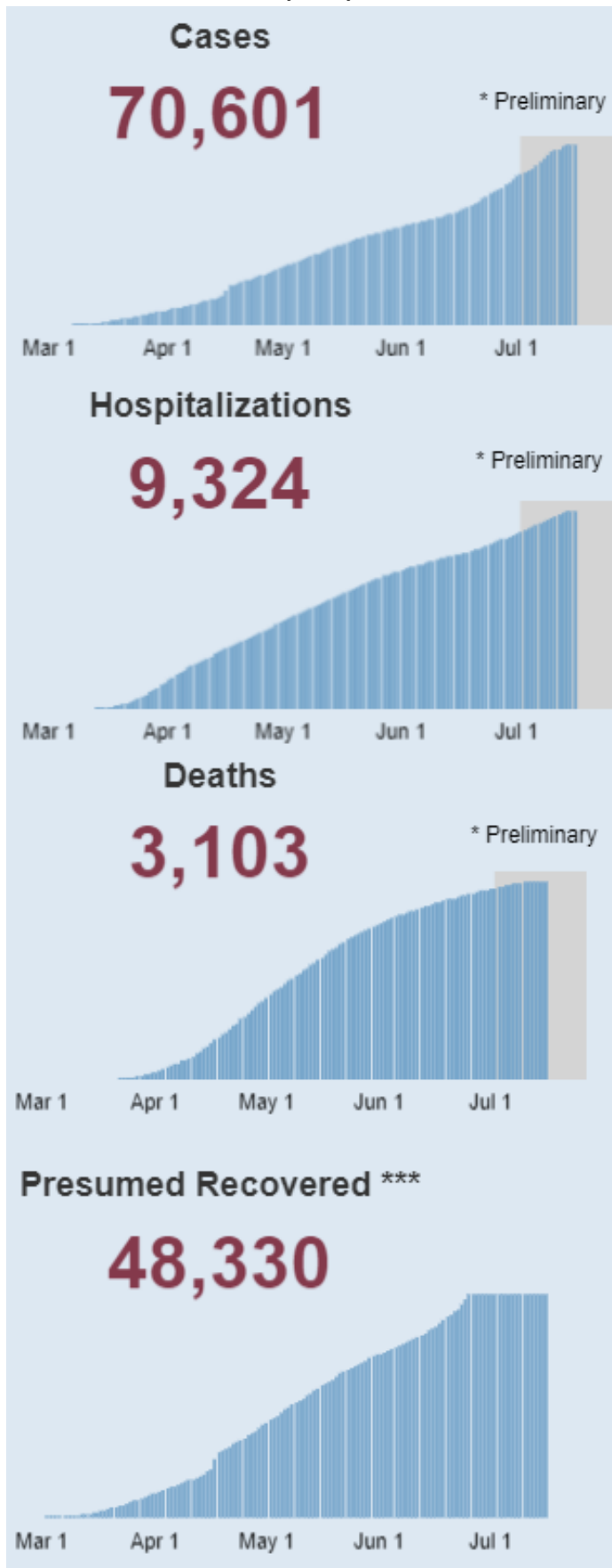
July 9, 2020



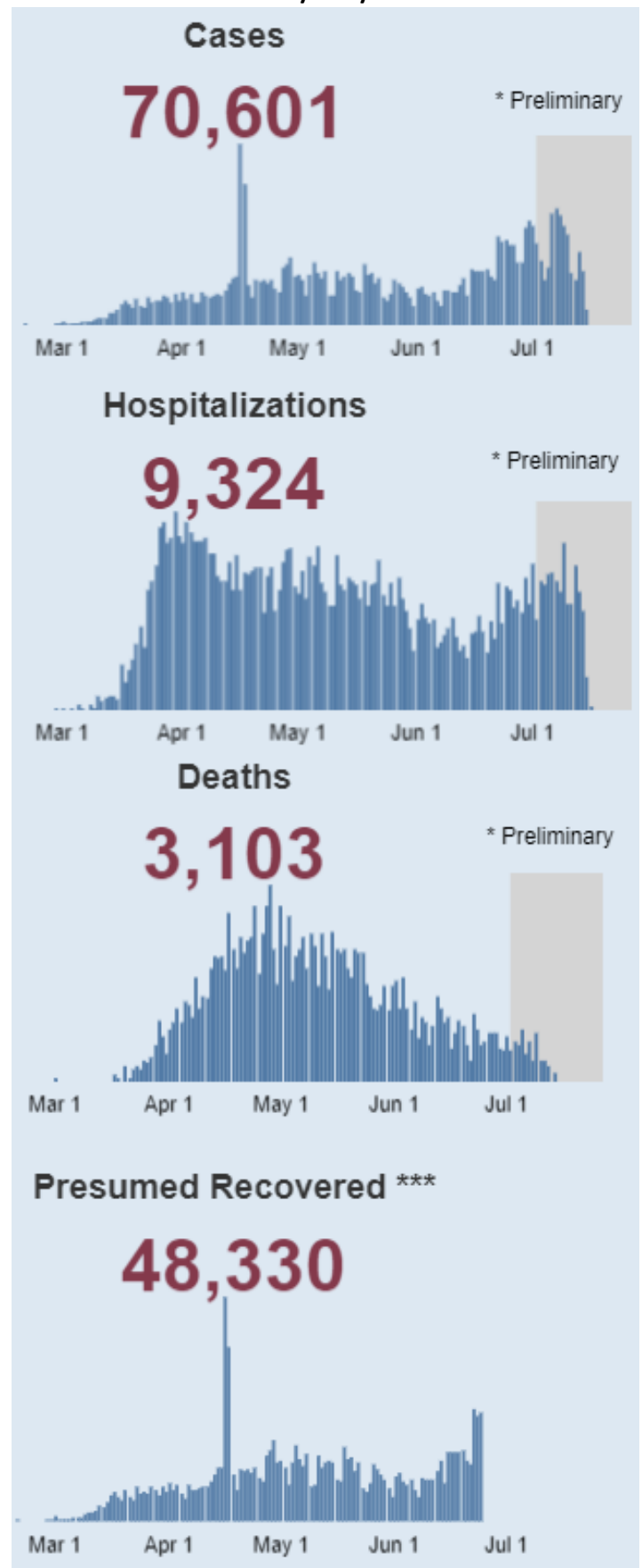
July 16, 2020 (current)



## Cumulative Trends for Ohio As of 7/16/2020

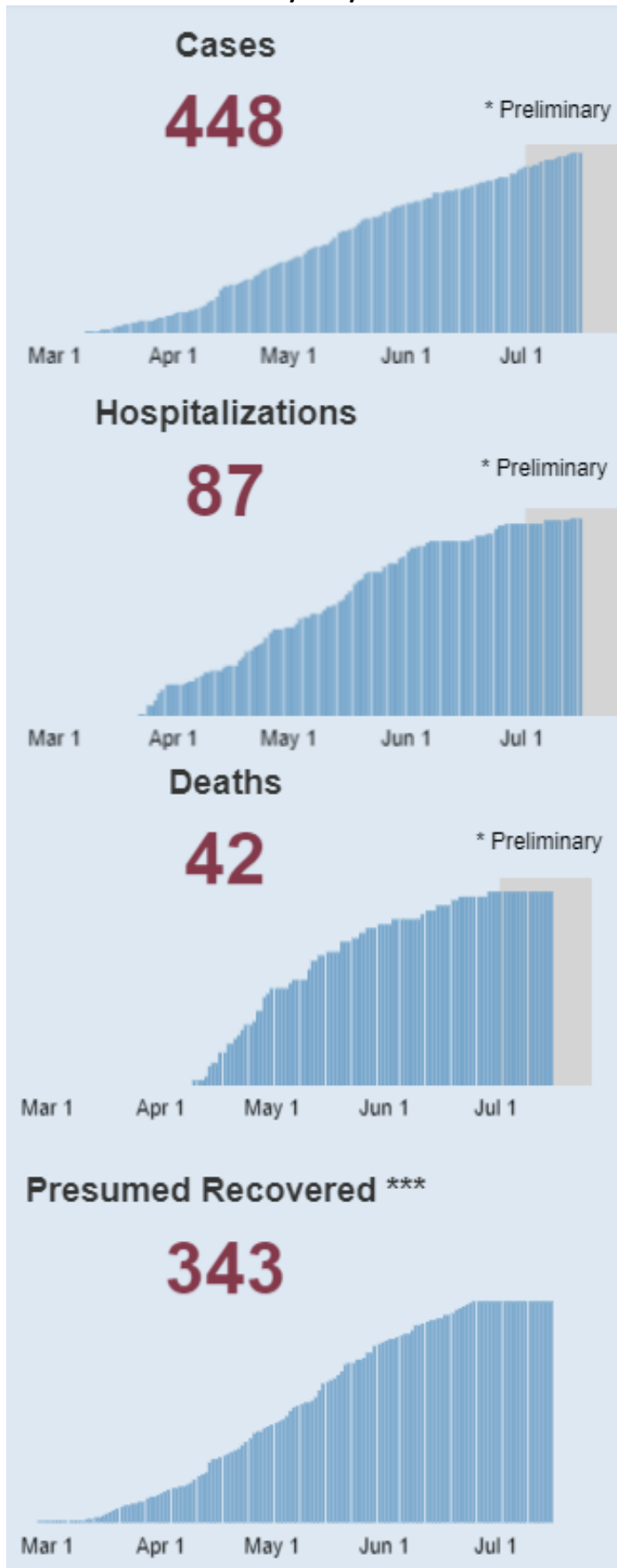


## Daily Trends for Ohio As of 7/16/2020





## Cumulative Trends for Geauga As of 7/16/2020



## Daily Trends for Geauga As of 7/16/2020

