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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COVID-19 Update: Christian County Critical**

**Christian County, KY – September 23, 2020 3:30 pm CST-**

The Christian County Health Department is sad to report the county’s 20<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 related death. The deceased was an 86-year-old Caucasian female with underlying health conditions. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family of those we have lost.

As of today, the Christian County Health Department has seen an increase of over 260 cases in just the last two weeks (9/9 to 9/23). With the sharp increase in cases, the county’s incident rate map, that can be found at <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>, is now reported to be at 31 (Average daily cases per 100,000 population based on previous seven days), categorizing Christian County as “critical” according to the State of Kentucky’s incident rating system (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Kentucky Incident Rating**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SPREAD</b>	<b>ACCELERATED</b>	<b>CRITICAL</b>
<b>&lt; 1 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY</b>	<b>&gt;1 - 10 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY</b>	<b>&gt;10 - 25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY</b>	<b>&gt;25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY</b>

According to the weekly White House Coronavirus Task Force Report for Kentucky, which categorizes counties by incident rate and percent of positivity rate (percentage of COVID-19 tests that return positive), which includes all labs reported to the state, Christian County has consistently stayed in the red over the last several weeks, right behind Warren County (Figure 2).

The White House Coronavirus Task Force Report released each week, and the Kentucky incident report, released each day, are 2 separate reports and have different criteria for categorizing county severity. The state of Kentucky is utilizing Kentucky’s incident reporting system (Figure 1) to measure and provide guidance to the community, schools, and long-term care facilities.

Figure 2: White House Coronavirus Task Force Report

# KENTUCKY

STATE REPORT | 09.20.2020

## COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS\*

Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

	METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK	COUNTY LAST WEEK
<b>LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE</b>	<b>4</b> Bowling Green Elizabethtown-Fort Knox Campbellsville Glasgow	<b>17</b> Warren Christian Barren Logan Jackson Grayson Green Taylor Trigg Monroe Estill Russell
<b>LOCALITIES IN ORANGE ZONE</b>	<b>5</b> Richmond-Berea Owensboro Murray Middlesborough Mayfield	<b>20</b> Jefferson Daviess Hardin Oldham Laurel Bullitt Union Shelby Calloway Bell Marshall Graves
<b>LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE</b>	<b>12</b> Louisville/Jefferson County Lexington-Fayette London Clarksville Paducah Somerset Evansville Frankfort Bardstown Madisonville Mount Sterling Central City	<b>30</b> Fayette Madison Kenton Pulaski Boone Henderson McCracken Greenup Scott Nelson Campbell Franklin

In a Facebook video update released last Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from the Christian County Health Department, health department staff predicted the county would transition into the critical zone within the week. The prediction was based on real-time incident rates which, according to the state incident rating criteria, already categorized Christian County as critical, however, the data on positive cases had not yet made its way to the state level. If you recall, there are several layers of reporting when passing numbers from the local level to the state level. Data reported at the state level is often behind a few days from what we report locally on our Christian County Health Department Facebook page.

For example, the Governor reported 78 new cases in Christian County on September 22<sup>nd</sup> when the Christian County Health Department only reported an 11-case increase. The number of cases the governor reported was a collection of backlogged cases that had already been reported at a county level but had just made its way through the reporting channels to the state level. Although reporting processes have improved since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, adjustments are still being made to these processes to expedite and report real-time data.

The fact of the matter is Christian County is in a critical state that not only affects the health of our county, but affects our businesses, our schools, and can very easily overwhelm our healthcare system.

It is going to take a community-wide effort to improve our numbers and protect the health of our citizens, and the Christian County Health Department is making the following **recommendations** to help lower our incidence rates:

## **Continuance until further guidance from Governor Beshear:**

- All places of work need to revisit and ensure that they adhere to the Healthy at Work guidance. Ensure policies and procedures are following guidelines.
- All retail/workplaces/facilities/restaurants need to have signs posted stating that masks are required before entering the facility, per Healthy at Work guidance.
- If you own a business open to the public, have someone at the door ensuring patrons are masked before entering the place of business.
- Fitness facilities ensure equipment is spaced 6 feet apart, to promote social distancing, and increase cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Restaurants ensure you are only seating patrons at 50% capacity.
- Healthcare facilities put procedures in place to ensure patients are social distanced in waiting room areas.
- Ensure all health care workers are wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Facilities housing any events or venues, please keep attendance at no more than 50% capacity and ensure all attendees are wearing a mask.
- If you are considered in the “high risk” population (65 years or older or those immunocompromised), consider staying at home as much as possible and social distancing from others.
- Schools please review and continue to follow matrix, guidance, and expectations given by Governor Beshear, Kentucky Department of Public Health, and Kentucky Department of Education.  
<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>
- Long-term Care facilities follow guidance, and expectations given by Governor Beshear, Kentucky Department of Public Health, and Cabinet of Health and Family Services.
- **Remember that masks are still a state mandate when in public places.**
- If you are in quarantine, **STAY IN QUARANTINE** until released by the Christian County Health Department. A negative test result within the 14-day quarantine period **DOES NOT** release individuals from quarantine. Actions can be taken against those who do not follow the orders directed by the Health Department to quarantine.

## **Effective September 23, 2020 until October 2, 2020 at noon:**

- If possible, only have one family member per household enter a business
- We ask that places of worship find alternative means of worship to promote social distancing and prevent congregating gatherings.
- Discontinue any extracurricular activity and sports for all ages (including community and school).
- Discontinue social and community events for all ages.
- Limit visitors to hospitals and long-term care facilities, unless end of life care.
- Refrain from social get-togethers, sports parties, block parties, backyard gathering, bingo parlors, pool halls, etc.

If you in the community would like to report a concern, we encourage you to call 1-833-KYSAFER or visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/kysafer>. The Christian County Health Department can only enforce regulations within facilities we regulate such as restaurants, hotels, tattoo studios, etc. All other places of business will be reported to the Department of Labor (KYSAFER) for failure to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Kentucky Public Health’s motto is to prevent, promote, and protect. It is our duty to prevent the spread of disease by providing and promoting effective health measures the community can take to protect not only individual health, but the health of others. We are here to present the facts, provide guidance, and collaborate with those in the community on ways our citizens can prevent the spread of COVID-19. We ask that as we move forward as a community, you consider, not “me” but “we”. Our actions affect, not just us, but those around us. Please be a part of the solution and help us reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. For more information, please contact the Christian County Health Department.

Please visit the Christian County Health Department’s Facebook page for the daily updated case count.

Contact: Amanda Sweeney at [Amanda.Sweeney@ky.gov](mailto:Amanda.Sweeney@ky.gov)

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