



COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT – COVID-19 – DECEMBER 4, 2020

Fishers Health Department (FHD) is issuing a Public Health Alert in response to the continued and unabating surge in COVID-19 cases in Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana and nationwide. This alert does not contain legal directives/mandates contained within public health orders.

The COVID-19 outbreak is reaching unprecedented levels of spread across the country. We are entering a dangerous period during the next few weeks and months where activities will move more people indoors for longer periods of time, creating conditions that will continue to increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. We are nearing a case cliff where our hospitals locally and statewide will be overwhelmed with patients hospitalized for COVID-19, outstripping capacity to care for those patients and resulting in needless suffering and death of patients seeking care for other health conditions.

We must all exercise prevention measures to preserve the health and wellbeing of ourselves and others. While an increase in positive COVID-19 cases was anticipated by us and others, the current rate of increase and total cases have outpaced expectations and necessitates immediate changes regarding interaction with others outside our households.

We need to limit interacting with people from outside our household wherever possible.

Until widespread vaccination is possible, which will not occur until mid-2021 at the earliest, the way to avoid the continued rise in COVID-19 cases and commensurate hospitalizations and deaths is by minimizing contact with others as much as possible. If we can flatten the curve and reduce the rate of spread of cases in our community now, we will be able avoid restrictive measures in the near future.

INCREASE IN CONFIRMED CASES IN FISHERS AND SURROUNDING LOCALITIES

The cases in Fishers over the last 30 days has outpaced expectations (see Figure 1). **The number of COVID-19 cases in November has surpassed total cases for October.** November case totals have already **TRIPLED** the number of cases observed last month. With lag in reporting we can anticipate the total cases in November to reach ~ 2,300 (nearly 3.5 times Oct. cases). Conservative projections for December anticipate approximately 3,000 new cases (Figure1). We have observed commensurate rises in cases in Hamilton County and [statewide](#). In fact, Indiana reported its highest daily new cases on 12/02/2020 with over 8,500 cases.

The [Harvard Global Health Institute](#) and Google Cloud's COVID-19 collaboration uses reported data and artificial intelligence to create COVID-19 forecasting models, which informed our projections. Based on their modelling 67 new deaths and 8,108 new confirmed cases for Hamilton County may occur by December 29, 2020.



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Preliminary analysis from contact tracing interviews with confirmed cases in Fishers indicates the **largest self-reported location for likely exposure to COVID-19 is residential settings (50%)** followed by an activity-based category of Family/Social Gatherings (14%) (Figure 2).

RECOMMENDED PERSONAL BEHAVIOR CHANGES – STAY AT HOME UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

Fishers residents who are able should stay at home for the next six weeks and limit interactions with others from outside their household. Everyone should **discontinue visitation and gatherings among friends, family and acquaintances from outside your immediate household**. Individuals are advised to not attend private gatherings at other households for the next six weeks – i.e., do not visit indoors with friends, family or acquaintances that do not reside in your household.

Individuals should avoid any public or private gatherings of any number of people from more than one household. Where possible, individuals should work from home. Individuals are advised to limit activities outside of their home to essential activities for health and wellbeing. When engaging in essential activities, individuals need to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others outside their household, wear a face covering or mask over their mouth and nose, and practice frequent hand washing and/or sanitization.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

All travel outside of Indiana should be minimized or eliminated when possible. Individuals are advised to limit travel to essential activities for health and wellbeing only. If travelling, please follow all guidance and requirements for your destination and take all appropriate precautions upon your return. If travelling, do not attend any gatherings with individuals outside of your immediate household.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT COVID-19

Recent [public health orders and recommendations](#) from FHD have set out new requirements for businesses, schools and community activities and events requiring specific public health mitigation strategies known to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is imperative we all do our part to follow these orders and recommendations and encourage others to do the same. Please use the complaint form found [here](#) if you suspect orders are not being followed in our community.

We ask every Fishers resident to do their part in helping stem the tide in the current spread of COVID-19 in our community. This will involve each of us making small sacrifices to ensure the safety of ourselves, our loved ones and our community.



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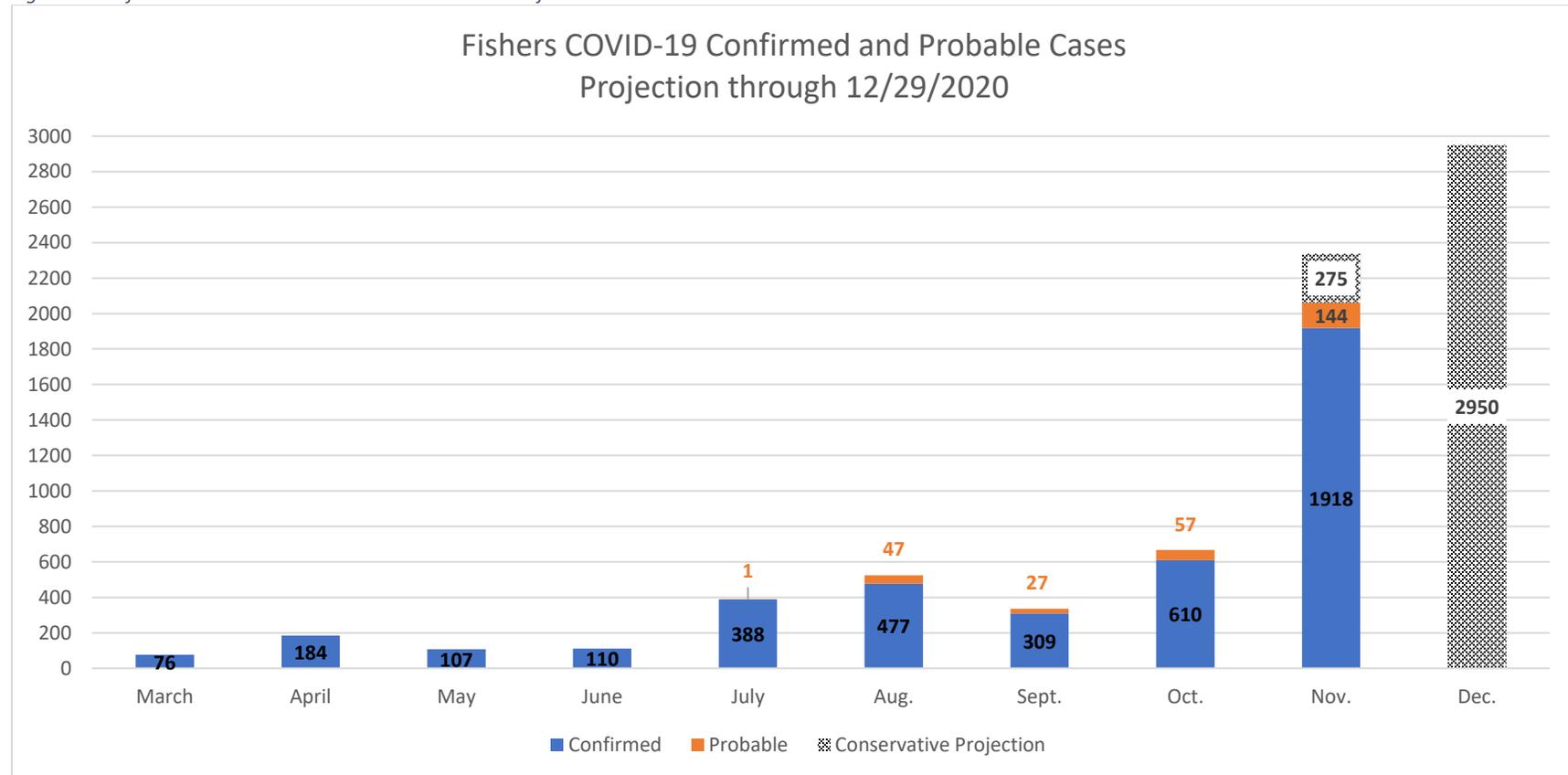
Please review the following for information on keeping you and your loved ones safe during these next several weeks.

- Visit our COVID-19 [Every Action Counts](#) website
- [Get tested for COVID-19, for free](#)
- Read our [Guidance for Holiday Gatherings](#)
- Understand [exposure and what to do when exposed](#) to COVID-19



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Figure 1. Confirmed and Probable Cases with November Projection



*November Confirmed and Probable cases through 11/27/2020 are subject to change and include preliminary data.

**Projections are based on case proportion rates Fishers/Hamilton County, Indiana, and informed by county-level projections from The Harvard Global Health Institute and Google Cloud's COVID-19 collaboration.



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Figure 2. Self-reported Exposure Locations Fishers Residents

