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COVID-19 activity dials added to COVID-19 dashboard

Olmsted County Public Health Services (OCPHS) has unveiled COVID-19 activity dials, the newest feature of the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). The color-coded dials provide the community with broad guidance based on public health judgment, available data and analysis of local conditions. The dials will help residents protect themselves and others and prevent the spread of the virus.

"The dials serve as a valuable compass for the long journey ahead," said OCPHS Director, Graham Briggs. "We ask that Olmsted County community members, businesses and visitors use this as a comprehensive, data-based tool that will support our combined and continued efforts to be thoughtful, measured, and compassionate as we navigate these challenging times together."

The COVID-19 activity dials were developed by a team from OCPHS, the COVID Response Emergency Operations Center, and Olmsted County Communications. The goal of the dial is to provide a simple tool to help residents understand the current situation in our community. The dial will be updated daily using local data to determine the risk levels on five primary measures:

- Increase or decrease in the percent of positive tests
- Number of new cases as a proportion of the number of people at risk
- Increase or decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases
- Increase or decrease in the percent of individuals who contract COVID-19 with unknown exposure
- Increase or decrease in the number of people hospitalized from COVID-19

These measures are commonly cited by numerous reputable public health agencies and research organizations as important public health indicators for COVID-19. Measures and metrics continue to evolve, and multiple iterations of similar metrics have been offered by different organizations. OCPHS continues to monitor the evolution of these measures and metrics and selects the best data available locally which can be practically applied to our local jurisdiction. The COVID-19 Activity Dials show the level of activity using three colors (red = most severe, orange = mid-range severity, and yellow = least severe).

More information on COVID-19 and Olmsted County's response is available at the [COVID-19 Response website](#).



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About Olmsted County Public Health Services

Olmsted County Public Health Services provides critical services to individuals, families and communities to promote and protect the health of those who live, learn, work, play and age in 8 cities, 18 townships and approximately 150,000 residents. Our 90+ staff partner with government, business, education, healthcare and non-profits to address community health issues and concerns. For more information, visit our [web page](#).