

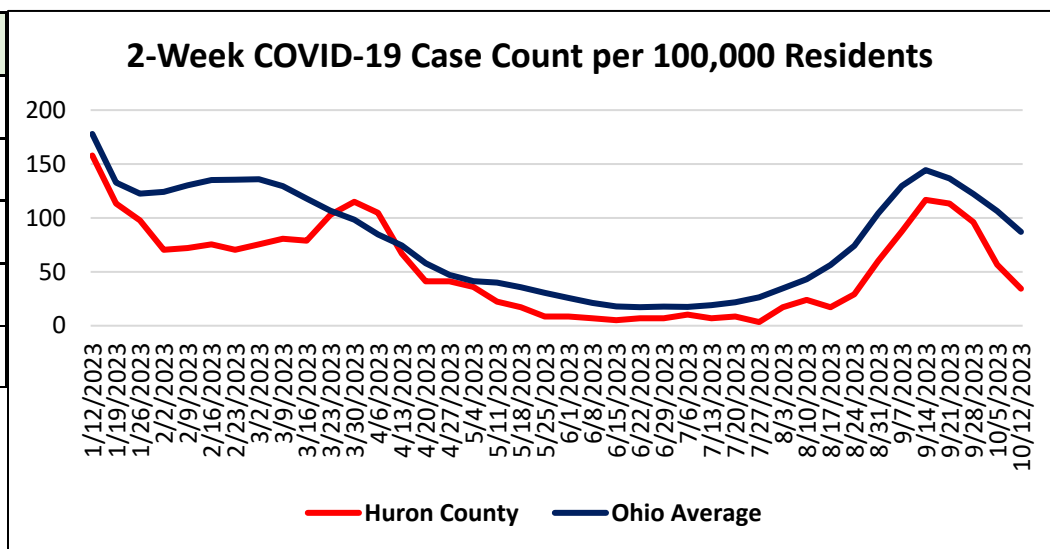
Huron County Public Health

COVID-19 Wastewater Report October 16, 2023

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has resumed wastewater sample testing as of Friday, October 6, 2023, however there is a 3-week lag in testing results. Since HCPH uses a 3-week trend to interpret wastewater testing results that coincides with the lag noted above, HCPH will continue to only use data from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) for our COVID-19 reporting until the timing of wastewater sampling and testing results are aligned once again. ODRS is the system that reports positive COVID-19 tests from medical facilities for both Huron County and the state of Ohio.

Based on the ODRS data, Huron County and the state of Ohio are continuing to see a downward trend in COVID-19 cases, as can be seen in the graph below. The following are Huron County's positive COVID-19 cases reported in the ODRS, by month:

Month	# of positive cases
June	10
July	14
August	61
September	139
October 1-13	25



HCPH continues to encourage the public to take preventative measures against COVID-19. People in the high-risk category for illness and/or hospitalization especially may want to start taking extra precautions when interacting with others. Steps you can take to prevent COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>. COVID-19 at-home tests kits are available for free in the harm reduction vending machine in front of Huron County Public Health at 28 Executive Drive in Norwalk.

As of September 25, 2023, households are able to once again order four free COVID-19 tests through www.covid.gov/tests. These tests will detect the currently circulating COVID-19 variants. People are encouraged to use the free tests immediately as Americans prepare for travel and gatherings with friends and family throughout the 2023 holiday season. These test kits are coming out of a supply that will remain usable through December 31, 2023, under expiration date extensions greenlighted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The most up-to-date expiration dates can be found at [Authorized At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests and Expiration Dates](#).