

**Information from Tom Stutzman, Director  
Indiana County Emergency Management Agency  
COVID-19 Pandemic:**

All,

As I watch the daily case count reports and the weekly updates on Early Warning Monitoring system from PADOH, Indiana County is trending upwards in Positive Cases more now than at the outset in April. IRMC has been providing daily updates to me on their census and they are also trending up each day with in-house patients. The cases in our Long-Term Care Facilities are also trending up and IRMC reported their dilemma is they can't release patients to Personal Care facilities due to their need for nursing care and nursing care beds are not available for positive patients. I am also getting requests for PPE from home healthcare agencies, that up until this point did not have any positive cases, they do now and need PPE for their workers.

With all this said, it seems that even though the idea that the COVID Pandemic is still happening, the precautions have become mundane and annoying. I think we should all start talking more and sharing more about what is happening with our county case numbers and the need to maintain commonsense best practices to bring these case numbers back down. Two weeks ago (Oct. 19 to 24) the county had the highest per day average at 18.29 cases per day. Last week (Oct. 25 to 31), was the second highest average at 16.29 cases per day. As of Nov. 2, IUP case totals only account for 35% of the overall positive cases in the county. IUP's impact has been dropping over the past month from a high of 52% of countywide cases, proving that the Community Spread is the higher priority.

Sharing the ever increasing case conditions with everyone, everywhere, all the time, may help more people understand that this is not going away anytime soon. We are among the top five worst counties in the Commonwealth for community spread.

Thomas A. Stutzman, Director  
Indiana County EMA