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Ashtabula City Health Department

4239 Lake Ave
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Public Notification for Immediate Release

October 30, 2026

Ashtabula Wastewater Monitoring Detects Increase in COVID-19 Viral Levels

The City of Ashtabula Health Department has been notified by the Ohio Wastewater Monitoring Network of an increase in SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) viral levels in untreated wastewater at the Ashtabula Wastewater Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). According to the report, SARS-CoV-2 levels are increasing and are currently moderate, while influenza levels remain low. RSV was not detected in the most recent sampling.

Wastewater monitoring is an important public health tool that can provide an early indication of increasing respiratory virus activity in the community. Rising viral concentrations in wastewater often precede increases in illness, reported cases, and hospitalizations.

The Ashtabula Health Department encourages residents to take precautions to help reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses, including:

- Staying home when sick
- Practicing good hand hygiene
- Taking extra precautions when around individuals at higher risk for complications from respiratory infections

While this increase is a reminder to remain aware and take simple precautions, continued monitoring and community prevention efforts can help limit the spread of illness. The Ashtabula Health Department will continue to share updates as needed to help residents make informed decisions and protect themselves, their families, and the community.

For additional information on respiratory virus activity in Ohio, visit the Ohio Wastewater Monitoring Network Dashboard. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-wastewater-monitoring-network/monitoring-data