

**PORTER COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER  
ORDER MODIFICATION**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020, acknowledging the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in new cases, hospitalizations and deaths associated therewith, it was deemed necessary and appropriate to implement certain precautionary measures in supplementation of Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-48 with the intention of mitigating community spread and facilitating availability of treatment capacity in Porter County. That Health Officer Order was effective as of December 6, 2020 and has remained in full force and effect until subsequently superseded and/or rescinded by this Porter County Health Officer Order.

1. The aforementioned Health Officer Order was entered pursuant to IC 16-20-1 and the authority granted in Section 12 of Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-48 and was put in place in response to the surge of COVID-19 cases in Porter County leading up to Thanksgiving. The hospital census was at capacity with a large portion of those hospitalized for COVID 19 treatment. The ability to contact trace positive cases was compromised by the large volume of new daily cases being experienced in Porter County. Deaths in Porter County were climbing at an alarming rate and the upcoming Holiday showed potential for yet an additional surge in new cases and hospitalizations.
2. Two weeks have now passed since New Year's Day and the Porter County new COVID 19 case numbers have stabilized and decreased. Porter County did not see the anticipated surge in cases associated with the Holidays. This is a credit to the people of Porter County who have followed public health measures, kept gatherings small, wore masks in public and adhered to social distancing guidelines.
3. Due to these recent developments, the Porter County Health Officer of December 4, 2020 should be and is hereby rescinded and superseded by this Health Officer Order.
4. Porter County shall revert to the restrictions contained in Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-53 which continues the county color coded restrictions specified in Executive Order 20-50 which shall remain in full force and effect in Porter County and will continue to be enforced by the Porter County Health Department.
5. Despite the decrease in new COVID 19 cases in Porter County over the past month, Porter County still falls in the RED level of restrictions according to Indiana's County Color Based COVID 19 reporting system as determined by the weekly number of new cases per 100,000 population and the test positivity rate. When these metrics fall into the ORANGE category, the RED level restrictions will continue to be in effect for the following two consecutive weeks before being lowered to the ORANGE level, so long as the county does not enter the RED level again in that timeframe.
6. COVID-19 safety inspectors will continue to be utilized for enforcement and compliance with the Indiana Governor Executive Order. Employees, patrons and members of the general public are encouraged to contact the Porter County Health Department telephonically, through email and/or website with reports of noncompliance with this order. Provisions of this Order will be implemented and enforced consistent with the enforcement provision of Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders.
7. This modification of the December 4, 2020 Porter County Health Officer Order shall be effective as of January 18, 2021 and shall remain in full force and effect until subsequently superseded and/or rescinded.

ALL OF WHICH is ordered by the Porter County Health Officer this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

  
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Maria Stamp, M.D.  
Porter County Health Officer