

# Knox Public Health

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## COVID-19 cases increasing in Knox County

Whether it's because there's been a change in the weather, people are tired of wearing a mask or the fact we are spending more time indoors, cases of COVID-19 are dramatically increasing in Knox County affecting all age groups.

Knox Public Health is reporting 90 new cases so far in October - more than double the number reported in September. At the current rate, the county is on track to pass the highest monthly total set in the summer.

While the 119 cases in July were attributed to summer get-togethers and an outbreak at a long-term care facility, there are no large-scale events contributing to the current increase.

There have been several cases involving multiple family members, but public health officials attribute the overall increase to community spread – transmission of the virus from unknown contact with an infected person. Community spread happens more often when people do not wear masks or social distance from one another.

Currently, Knox County has a total of 382 cases which is lower than surrounding counties. However, the rapid increase in cases is cause for concern. Knox County Health Commissioner Julie Miller will address the issue during a Facebook Live event today (Thursday 10/22) at 5 p.m.

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