



COME TOGETHER & THRIVE

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2020

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**CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID ANNOUNCES RECLOSURE OF PARK AMENITIES
AS NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES HIT A RECORD HIGH IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND OHIO.**

South Euclid, Ohio – The City of South Euclid has made the difficult decision to once again close city playgrounds, the dog park and ballfields (for league play) effective Monday, July 20, 2020. The facilities had opened in June following a significant drop in COVID-19 infections and hospitalization rates. These facilities join the city's swimming pool and splash park, which have remained closed this summer. The closings are health and safety measures being implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unpredictable and highly contagious nature of the disease which has increased dramatically since some facilities reopened in June.

The City continues to base decisions on science, data, guidelines, recommendations and orders from Gov. Mike DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health and Cuyahoga County Department of Health. This can be a challenge as circumstances change often and quickly, but it's clear that in recent weeks, the spread of the coronavirus has risen and continues to be a community health risk in Ohio, Cuyahoga County and South Euclid.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Statistics indicate that since mid-June, both infection and hospital rates have risen dramatically. COVID-19 newly reported cases have grown from 237 cases on June 19th to 747 cases on June 10th. In addition, hospitalizations due to coronavirus have risen from 82 cases on June 26th to 177 cases on July 10th.

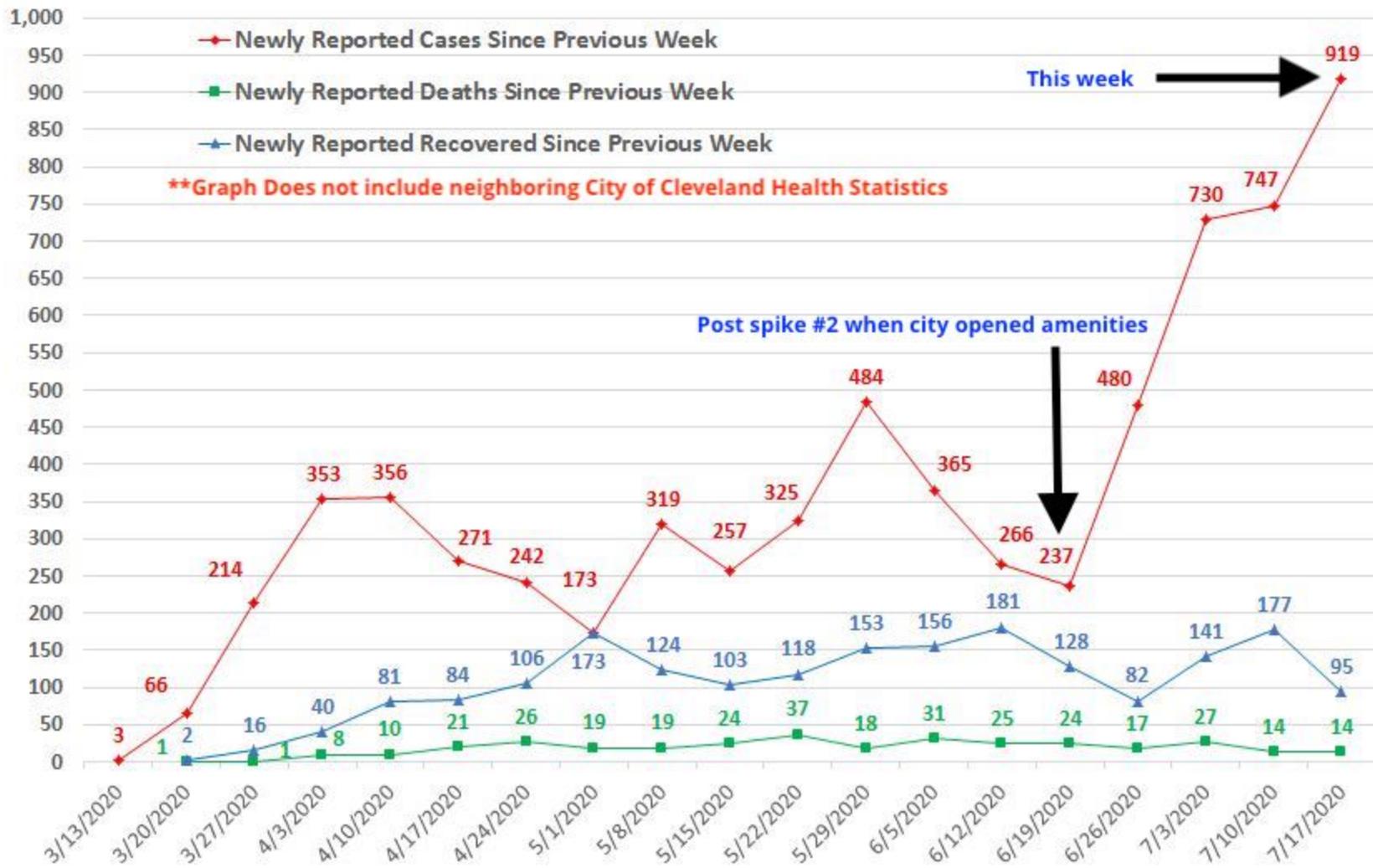
In Cuyahoga County South Euclid remains a hotspot for COVID-19 infections and as a result we must continue to prioritize the health, safety and welfare of residents and employees. "These are not decisions we made lightly given the popularity of South Euclid's recreation and youth programming, as well as our many popular summer programs and events," said Mayor Georgine Welo. "But due to the continuation of social-distancing protocols and the need to ensure the health and safety of our residents and employees, the closing of these facilities at this time is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of our community."

The City of South Euclid is also following the recommendations of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) which has stated that *"given the current situation and the guidance from public health officials on physical distancing, limiting in-person social interactions, avoiding spaces where people congregate in close quarters, and the concerns around transmission of the virus being spread through surfaces, we believe that playgrounds and play structures should temporarily close in an effort to reduce community spread"*.

Alternative programs for youth and teens, including free summer lunch programs, are available by visiting www.cityofsoutheuclid.com/mycom.

For more information contact Keith Ari Benjamin, Director of Community Services at kbenjamin@seuclid.com or 216.288.6378.

COVID-19 Weekly Changes Cuyahoga County Board of Health Jurisdiction



This figure shows trend lines representing differences from previous week totals for COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries among Cuyahoga County residents. Data are queried Thursday PM for Friday AM reporting. Includes lab-confirmed and probable cases; excludes City of Cleveland cases. All data are preliminary and subject to change as additional information is reported.

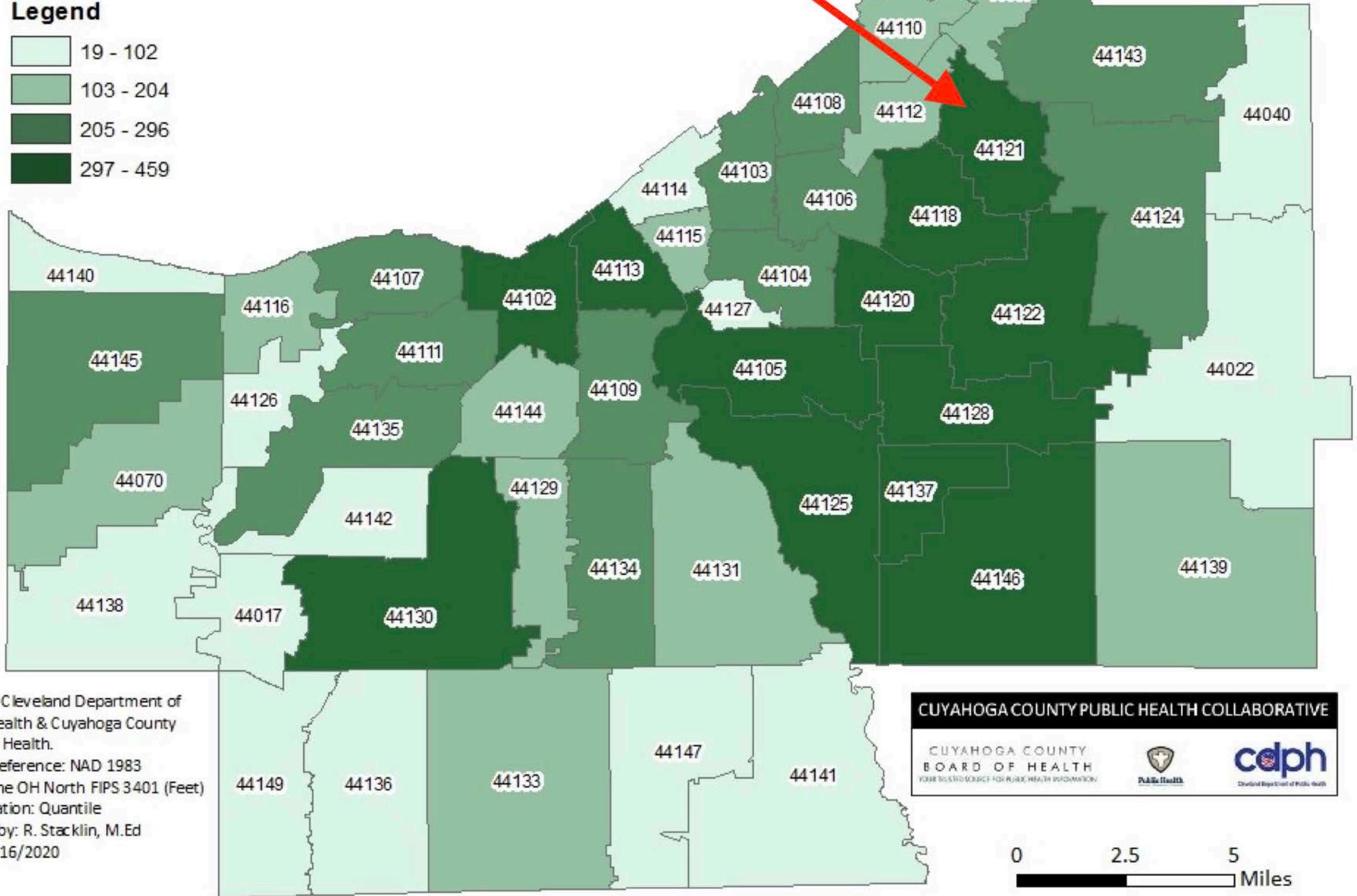
Lab-Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases Cuyahoga County, OH



Legend



South Euclid



Sources: Cleveland Department of Public Health & Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane OH North FIPS 3401 (Feet)
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