



Hancock Public Health

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 10, 2020
TO: Media Outlets
RE: 3 Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Ohio

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Action, Director of the Ohio Department of Health announced at a conference on March 9th that there are 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio, all in Cuyahoga County. Governor DeWine also declared a State of Emergency, which he described as a necessary legal step that enables government to do what is necessary to respond quickly, and also makes it easier to procure needed supplies. According to Hancock Public Health Commissioner Karim Baroudi, “This is what we have expected, and Public Health is ramping surveillance while working closely with our local and state partners to mitigate potential spread of the virus to our community”. Commissioner Baroudi also added, “It’s important for people in our county to understand that the general public is still at low risk. As we’ve learned more about COVID-19, there are some high-risk populations we need to protect.” The populations with a high risk include: Individuals over age 60 and people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and heart or lung disease.

Individuals with high risk should avoid crowds and to help protect persons in the higher risk groups, individuals with low risk should refrain from visiting them in settings such as long-term healthcare centers. The public should also continue to observe everyday precautions to decrease the spread of COVID-19 including: Stay home from work or school if you are ill; wash your hands often for 20 seconds; cough or sneeze into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; and stay away from people who are ill.

Hancock Public Health, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control continue to update their websites to provide accurate and timely information to the public regarding COVID-19: hancockpublichealth.com; coronavirus.ohio.gov; cdc.gov.

The Ohio Department of Health has also opened a call center for COVID-19 questions that is available from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. The number for the call center is (833) 427-5634.

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