March 26, 2020

Dear Morrow County Community Partners:

These are the latest COVID-19 updates and Morrow County Health District’s response to this event.

**Local Situation Update**

As of March 26, 2020 there are **ZERO** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Morrow County.

Although we have yet to have a confirmed case of COVID-19 reported, we know that it is likely already circulating in Morrow County. MCHD’s staff continues to participate in briefings and calls with our state and federal partners for information and guidance as this outbreak unfolds. We have activated our Emergency Response Plan, and have been working closely with local partners as we respond to this event.

MCHD is making every effort to keep our staff healthy so that we can continue protect the health and safety of Morrow County. MCHD has temporarily closed walk-in public access to our offices. People can be seen by appointment if necessary, but we will make every effort to meet their needs via phone, internet, and/or mail.

For the latest Morrow County information, please be sure to follow us on Facebook.

**Statewide Situation Update**

As of **March 26, 2020**, there are **867** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio, including **15** deaths. Confirmed cases have been identified in **60** Ohio counties. These cases range in age from **less than 1 year** old to **94** years old, with a median age of **51** years old.

Various public health orders have been issued by the state to try to mitigate the impact of the disease on Ohio residents and our healthcare system. These orders support the “flatten the curve” concept. Flattening the curve attempts to slow the rate at which people become infected with COVID-19 so as to not overwhelm our healthcare system. The latest public health order, issued on March 22, 2020, is the Stay at Home Order. This order mandates individuals to stay at home, unless they meet specific exemptions. [Learn more](#).

For the most current Ohio information, please visit the [Ohio Department of Health Website](#).
How You Can Help

♦ Stay home if possible!  Follow the mandates listed in the Stay at Home order issued by Governor DeWine. If you do not have to go out, please stay at home and help flatten the curve.

♦ Prevent the spread of illness to others!  Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable, use your arm or inner elbow to cover coughs and sneezes, avoid close contact with those who are sick, and stay home when you are sick.

♦ Prevent the spread of misinformation!  Make sure you get your information from reliable sources! Morrow County Health District, the Ohio Department of Health, and CDC are all trustworthy places to get updates and information.

♦ Donate unused personal protective equipment (PPE)!  There is a known shortage of PPE across the country, including within Morrow County. If you have any extra gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, or other such items, please consider donation.  MCHD and the Morrow County Emergency Management Agency are working together to collect donations, and redistribute them to our Morrow County First Responders (police, EMS, and fire).  If you are interested in donating any PPE, please call us at 419-947-1545, and we can arrange a pick up.

♦ Become a volunteer!  We are in need of volunteers who are registered and ready to respond if necessary. Please join the Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry at: https://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov to get registered with us as a volunteer for Morrow County. Feel free to encourage your friends and family to register as well!

We are here for you!

This pandemic has been described as a once-in-a-lifetime event, and there are many unknowns that are still being worked through. Dealing with the uncertainty is difficult, but know that you aren’t alone. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at 419-947-1545, and we will help you as best we can.

We are all in this together, and together, we will get through this!

— Stephanie Bragg, Health Commissioner