April 1, 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 April 1, 2020, there is 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 in Morrow County.

On 4/1/2020, MCHD received a report of a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in one of our residents. This person is an adult female who is recovering at home. Our epidemiology team has completed the contact notification and investigation processes for this case. In accordance with the Ohio Department of Health’s guidelines, MCHD will ONLY be releasing the age group, gender, and hospitalization status of confirmed cases to the public.

We have thought that COVID-19 was circulating in Morrow County even before we had a lab-confirmed case. As testing becomes more available, we expect to see an increase in confirmed cases.

Walk-in public access to MCHD’s office is currently closed. If you need to visit our agency, call 419-947-1545 to discuss setting up an appointment.

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

Statewide Situation Update

As of April 1, 2020, there are 2,547 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio, including 65 deaths. Confirmed cases have been identified in 72 Ohio counties. These cases range in age from less than 1 year old to 99 years old, with a median age of 53 years old.

The most recent Director’s Public Health Order, issued on April 1, 2020, is the Order for Performing COVID-19 Testing. This order requires all Ohio hospitals and physicians to contract with a hospital system that is able to perform COVID-19 testing, instead of relying on private laboratories to conduct the testing. The purpose of this order is to reduce the turn around time for test results. Learn more.

For the current Ohio information, please visit the Ohio Department of Health Website.
How to Help

- **Be strategic about going out:** Continue to help flatten the curve by staying home whenever possible. If you do need to go out: send just one person, stick to your grocery list, go during off-peak times, plan to accomplish as much as you can in the least amount of time out.

- **Donate unused personal protective equipment (PPE):** MCHD and the Morrow County Emergency Management Agency are still working together to collect donations, and redistribute them to our Morrow County First Responders (police, EMS, and fire), and other community partners. 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 need you! Please join the Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry at: [https://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov](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!

- **Help correct misinformation:** There are many rumors circulating in the community about COVID-19 and Morrow County’s response to it. Please correct rumors where you can, and direct them to call us if they have questions.

**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