Coronavirus COVID-19
Talking Points

Public Health Advisory

The following talking points are provided to inform you about the current situation related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Current as of 3/6/20

• *The situation is fluid and guidance may be updated or changed at any time*
• No cases in Ohio
• Risk level in Ohio currently low
• The epidemic is moving toward a pandemic
• China has the most number of cases and deaths
• An increasing number of countries are affected
• The first U.S. case was reported on January 21, in the state of Washington
• There have been deaths in the United States
• There has been travel-related transmission
• There has been community spread (which means a case with no known connection to another case)
• Most at risk are those in close contact of people with COVID-19, healthcare workers treating patients, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.
• Symptoms are similar to the flu; fever over 100F, dry cough, difficulty breathing
• Most people sickened will have a mild case and may go unreported, some people will require hospitalization, and some people will die
• COIVD-19 is spread similar to the flu including droplets on surfaces
• Approximately 20,000 to 60,000 people die each year from the flu
• COVID-19 may stay on surfaces for up to 48 hours but the exact time period is unknown
• The incubation period is believed to be up to 14 days
• People may be able to spread the disease even when they show no sign of symptoms
• The public should use similar precautions as those to prevent the flu; wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, cover coughs and sneezes, sanitize frequently, stay home when sick
• Those who are not sick, should not wear masks
• We do not know if there is a seasonal effect to the spread
• Travelers should follow CDC guidance regarding most current travel warnings
• There is no vaccine but scientists are working to develop a vaccine
• It could take a year or more for a vaccine to be delivered for use
• Scientists are working to develop an antiviral treatment

For the latest information visit www.phdmc.org
Workplaces

- Workplaces should develop flexible sick leave policies
- Workplaces should allow for working remotely when possible
- Workplaces should plan for increased absenteeism and supply chain disruptions
- Facilities should maintain and enhance routine cleaning with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces
- Disinfectants with a bleach mixture may be used on surfaces

Schools

- Schools should encourage proper hygiene
- Schools should maintain cleaning procedures
- Students and staff should stay home when sick
- Schools should plan for low staff and student levels
- Schools should plan for what they would do if they should have to close
- Disinfectants with a bleach mixture may be used on surfaces

Local Health Department Response

- Coordinate messages with your local health department (LHD)
- LHDs are coordinating response with Ohio Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- LHDs are coordinating traveler monitoring with the Ohio Department of Health
- LHDs have activated Incident Management Teams as part of their routine Emergency Preparedness procedures
- LHDs are coordinating with local municipalities, EMS and hospitals
- LHDs are providing communication messages to community partners and the public

General Messages

- Be sure to get information from reliable sources including your local health department
- When consuming and sharing information on social media be sure to be using a credible source
- It is safe to receive packages from China, the disease will not last on surfaces during time of delivery
- Do not discriminate or exclude people based on race, anyone can get COVID-19
- Show compassion, care for, and help those who need it