



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Defiance County General Health District Reports the First Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Death**

**APRIL 22, 2020:** The Defiance County General Health District (DCGHD) is reporting the death of a hospitalized patient who had tested positive for COVID-19.

The individual was female in her 60's. She acquired COVID-19 through an unknown source. The case was previously reported by ODH and Defiance County Health Department when it was initially confirmed. We will not release any identifiable information about the patient to respect the family's privacy.

"We are deeply saddened to report the first COVID-19 related death. Our hearts go out to the family and friends during this time of loss," said Defiance County Health Commissioner, Jamie Gerken. "We remain committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to effectively respond to this crisis."

It is important to continue to follow standard precautions to prevent the spread of infectious disease. To prevent the spread of any virus including novel coronavirus, practice these preventative measures:

- Practice social distancing by staying 6ft away from others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.
- In addition to the preventative steps above, we suggest wearing a cloth face mask when going out for essential trips.

### **Defiance County Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Update:**

Defiance County COVID-19 updates will be posted to the Defiance County General Health Districts website and social media pages

- **Website:** <http://defiancecohealth.org/coronavirus/>
- **Facebook:** Defiance County Public Health
- **Twitter:** @DCGHD

COVID-19 information is being shared as it becomes available on the following websites:  
coronavirus.ohio.gov or www.defiancecohealth.org

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