

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2020

Contact: Rachele Kuhn, PIO
1300 E. Second St., Ste. 100
Defiance, OH. 43512
419-784-3818
rkuhn@defiancecohealth.org

Defiance County General Health District Reports First Case of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

MARCH 20, 2020: Defiance County General Health District (DCGHD) is reporting the first positive test result for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). DCGHD along with hospitals, healthcare providers, and community partners have been actively preparing to respond to possible cases of COVID-19 in our community.

This is the first positive COVID-19 test result for Defiance County. DCGHD is working to identify any close contacts of this resident who would require testing or monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19. “We are working closely with the Ohio Department of Health, following protocols and guidance in place, to identify close contacts of this individual. These individuals will be instructed to self-quarantine and will be monitored for 14 days,” said Jamie Gerken Defiance County Health Commissioner. “Our focus right now is to support the care of this individual and protect the health of our residents.” “The news of a COVID-19 case in our county is not a surprise as we know there is community spread in Ohio. We have community interventions in place that are designed to slow transmission in our community while lessening the impact. Our investigation is on-going. Our main goal is to isolate those who are ill, identify close contacts and monitor for illness.”

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can cause mild to more severe respiratory illness. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days of being exposed to an infectious person. According to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Those at high risk for illness of COVID-19 are those over 60 with chronic illness or a weakened immune system.

To prevent the spread of disease, Defiance County Health Department encourages everyone to follow these effective practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding gatherings and remaining 6ft from others.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Information is being shared as it becomes available on the following websites: coronavirus.ohio.gov or www.defiancecohealth.org

###