Public Health News and Reports

Straight from the Source

Volume 1 Issue 4 Sunday, April 5, 2020

Reported Cases

2:00pm, Saturday, April 4, 2020
Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)

There are 38 confirmed cases in Geauga County. There are 3,739 confirmed cases in Ohio.
There are 10 hospitalizations in Geauga County due to COVID-19. There are 1,006 hospitalizations in Ohio.
There are currently no COVID-19 deaths in Geauga County. There are 102 deaths in Ohio.
Collectively, there are 1,216 confirmed cases and 32 deaths in the counties that touch borders with Geauga County.

4:00pm, Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Source of Information: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

There are 304,826 confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States.
There are 7,616 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Cleveland Clinic Newsroom: https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/category/news-releases/

University Hospitals Newsroom: https://news.uhhospitals.org/

MetroHealth Newsroom: https://news.metrohealth.org/

Cleveland VA Medical Center Newsroom: https://www.cleveland.va.gov/features/index.asp

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

PLEASE HELP PROTECT YOURSELVES AND ALL THE REST OF US BY STAYING HOME UNLESS YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Access the sources public health professionals use for credible COVID-19 information. Visit the ODH Website

www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov & https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

CDC Guidance Regarding Mask use by the Public
1:00pm, Sunday, April 5, 2020
Source of Information: United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

The following guidance is NOT for your protection from others. It is intended to protect other people from you if you decide to go out into public for essential activities.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Keep your mask clean— wash it after each use.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

For General Questions about COVID-19, the various state orders, and other important information, the Ohio Department of Health has a Call Center that is staffed from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 7 days/week.

1-833-4-ASK-ODH 1-833-427-5634

Follow Geauga Public Health on Facebook for daily posts from the Geauga County Health Commissioner.

Facebook @GPHOhio

Questions and comments via email: Info@GeaugaCountyHealth.org

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Governor's "Stay at Home" Order

2:00pm, Monday, March 23, 2020
Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

When does the order take effect?
The order will take effect at 11:59p.m.EDT on Monday, March 23, 2020
Is this mandatory or just guidance?
This order is *mandatory*. The reason for this is to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19. This is to protect our family, friends, and vulnerable populations.
What will still be open?
All essential services, including, but not limited to: Grocery stores, Gas stations, Pharmacies, Police and Fire stations, Financial Institutions, Hospitals, clinics and healthcare operations, Garbage/sanitation, Public transportation, Public benefits (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid) hotlines
Can food/groceries be ordered?
Yes, these services will remain available along with drive through and take-out options.
Will public transportation and ridesharing be available?
These services will be available only for essential travel, if possible walk or drive yourself.
Will roads be closed in Ohio?
Roads will NOT be closed, but please only travel when necessary (essential to health or work)
Can there be visits with family or friends?
For safety reason and to make this order effective as possible to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, please remain at home. However, if it is to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or vulnerable person in need of assistance, drop off supplies, food and medication to minimize interaction as much as possible.
What about my pet?
Dogs may be walked and medical care can be seeked out for pets should they require it. Continue to practice social distancing while out on walks.
Does the Stay at Home order mean I can't take my kids to the park?
Families are able to go outside, take a walk, run, ride bikes, but social distancing should still be practiced by remaining 6 feet from other people. Playgrounds are closed.

Regarding all the calls and emails about businesses that are open and complaints about working conditions:

Geauga Public Health and many county and local government officials are receiving an incredibly large number of calls and emails from the public to inform us about things they have witnessed, things they have been told, things they assume, things they themselves have experienced that do not align with the way things should be.

- These are important pieces of information to share but please recognize that the volume of reports is such that we will be prioritizing our response. Please do not expect a personal reply or dialogue. Just share the issue.
- If there is something you wish to share, please share it once and only to one recipient. We do share information with each other. County leadership meets regularly regarding our coordinated COVID-19 response.
- There are a very large number of businesses that are exempt from the order as it was written. The Health Department is working closely with the County Prosecutor's Office to explore options regarding closures.
- The Health Commissioner is making unannounced visits to those businesses about which we are receiving public comment to assure they are taking every possible step to protect their employees and the public. A business that has been visited and has been issued an order to take action will be ordered closed if those actions have not been taken
- The Amish have been strong partners with public health and have reached out to us on their own trying to help. Their efforts, especially with school and transportation, may look different but they have been approved.

What to do if You Become Sick

10:00am, Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of Health for the Ohio Department of Health stressed yesterday during her Press Conference with Governor Mike DeWine that we are still climbing the steep slope of the COVID-19 pandemic curve. In order to prepare for the inevitable increase in confirmed and unconfirmed cases alike, the Ohio Department of Health has created a checklist for what to do in the event you become ill:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Call 911 if you have a medical emergency. Notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19.
- Stay home except to get medical care. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home but should not leave or visit public areas.
- Keep in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home. As much as possible, stay in a specific "sick room." Use a separate bathroom, if available. Limit contact with pets and animals; there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more is known.
- If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor's office or emergency department, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19.
- Cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, and avoid touching your face. Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in your "sick room" and bathroom every day with household cleaners and disinfectants, using as directed on the label; ask someone else to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home. Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
- Monitor your symptoms and seek medical care if they are worsening (for example, if you have difficulty breathing). Call the doctor or emergency department before going.
- If you develop ***emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include but are not limited to the following:
  - ⇒ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
  - ⇒ Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
  - ⇒ New confusion or inability to arouse.
  - ⇒ Bluish lips or face.

  Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Extension of Stay at Home Order

Sunday*, April 5, 2020*

Source of Information: Geauga Public Health

Content Contact: info@GeaugaCountyHealth.org

Consistent with the extension of the Stay at Home order, Geauga Public Health has extended the service modification plan and 7-day work week through May1, 2020. We will be staffed throughout the week to respond to the pandemic but all face-to-face public services are suspended. Your understanding and patience is appreciated. Email is the preferred method of communication. Info*@GeaugaCountyHealth.org*

Together Ohio
9:45am, Sunday, March 29, 2020
Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Ohio officials are developing strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concerns and uncertainties it brings, but they cannot flatten the curve on their own. Every Ohioan has a part to play in helping to save lives. For many, this will mean staying at home. For others, it will mean taking care of the most vulnerable among us or providing healthcare, food, education, information, or the things we need to stay safe at home.

We are all in this together, Ohio. If you are interested in helping your fellow Ohioans, please email: together@governor.ohio.gov with the following:

- Name
- Contact information
- How you are interested in helping

Another way to help is to support local businesses. Visit Support Local Ohio at: https://ohio.org/supportlocalohio/ to find links to local restaurants and retailers you can support by ordering delivery or carryout, making online purchases, or buying gift cards.

For information on ways officials have addressed the pandemic, visit: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/public-health-orders/public-health-orders.

For additional information on financial resources being made available through state or federal programs, visit: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/Resources-for-Economic-Support/econ.

HELP US WITH DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE FORWARD "STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE".

These are difficult times. People are making difficult choices. Peoples are under incredible pressures.

People want information they can trust.

**Geauga Public Health wants to be where they look for that. We are here and that is our job…
well, that and trying to keep you all safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donations

2:30pm, Friday, April 3, 2020
Source of Information: Emergency Management of Geauga County
Content Contact: Judy Oberstar 440-279-2170

The Department of Emergency Services is able to receive donations of PPE to augment the supplies of county's first responders and healthcare providers. First responders and healthcare providers are needing to augment their supplies of N95 respirators, surgical gowns, face shields and examine gloves.

To schedule a donation of PPE please contact:
Judy Oberstar at 440.279.2170
Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Donation site:
Department of Emergency Services

Update on Closing of Geauga County Public Library Branches and Mobile Services

12:00pm, Friday, April 3 2020
Source of Information: Geauga County Public Library, Becki Gierman
Content Contact: help@geaugalibrary.net

Based on the extension of the stay-at-home advisory from the federal government, the appeal by Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton to limit contact, and the continued closing of Ohio's schools, GCPL will extend the closure of all Branches and Mobile Services vehicles to the public until further notice.

For the duration of the closure, due dates for checked-out materials and holds for materials will be extended to the date that the library reopens. There is no need to return any items during the period that the library is closed.

Any reference or informational questions can be sent to help@geaugalibrary.net. We will do our best to answer all inquiries within 24 hours.

Our digital collections remain available. You can use your library card to access ebooks, audiobooks, emagazines, movies, television, music, and more. If you do NOT have a GCPL card but would like access to our digital offerings, you can sign up for an eCard. All of these services can be found at www.GeaugaLibrary.net under "Digital Offerings."

You can also use your library card to access databases on our Research and Resources page: http://divi.geaugalibrary.net/126-2/

S
ome of these resources include:

- **CreativeBug:** Award winning art & craft video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists.
- **Lynda.com:** Learn a new skill online. Courses offered in Business, Technology and Creative Skills.
- **Home Improvement Reference Center**: a collection of comprehensive full-text content that provides users with detailed, user-friendly "how-to" information covering a variety of home improvement and repair projects.
- **My Heritage Library Edition**: The easy and exciting way to explore your family history.
- **Transparent Language Online:** Choose from 110+ languages. Fun and useful for all learners.
- **Consumer Reports**

Additional Cultural and Educational Resources Available Online

12:00pm, Friday, April 3 2020

Source of Information: Geauga County Public Library, Becki Gierman

Content Contact: help@geaugalibrary.net

The National Aquarium in Baltimore

Live streaming of their exhibits and at home enrichment activities for families

https://aqua.org/Experience/live

https://aqua.org/activities

The National Theatre

Live streaming productions

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/national-theatre-live-youtube-free-stream_51268.html

Mount Vernon

Weekday Livestreams at noon

www.mountvernon.org

Monticello

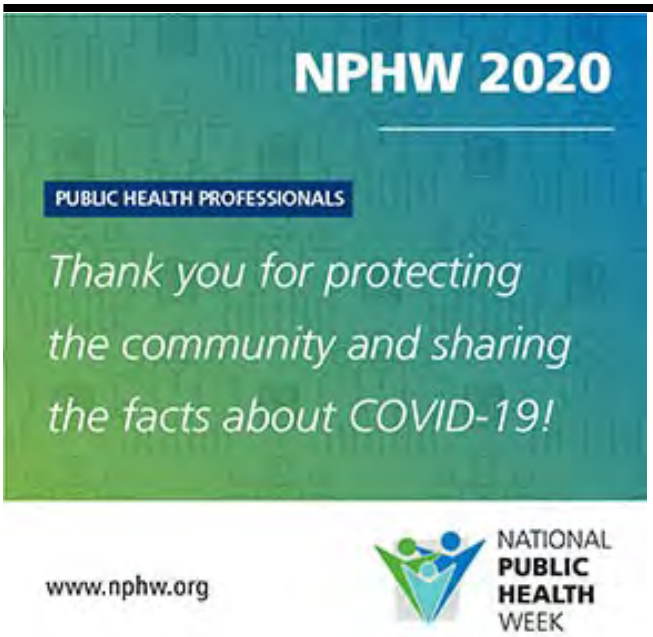
Daily Live Tours

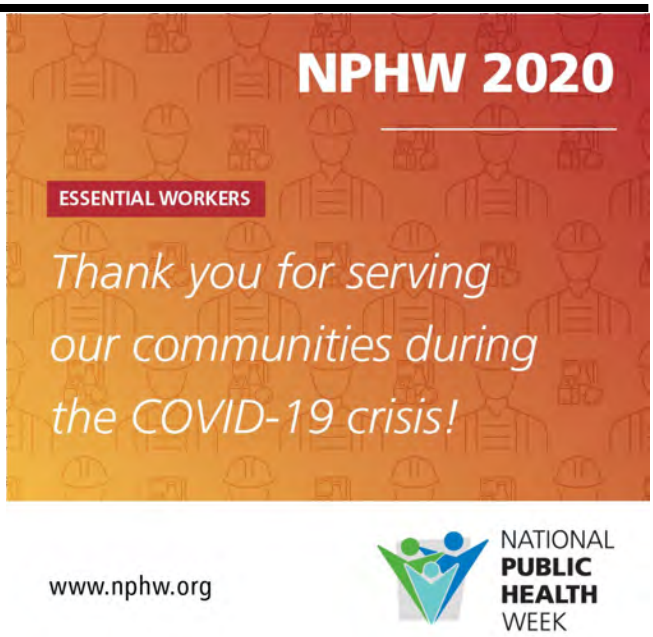
https://www.monticello.org/visit/tickets-tours/guided-virtual-tours/

The Paris Opera

Replay performances streaming at

https://www.operadeparis.fr/en/magazine/replay





Staying Safe at Home

10:15am, Sunday, March 29, 2020
Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

If you need support, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7 through any of these measures: calling 1-800-799-7233 or 1- 800-787-3224, visiting thehotline.org, or by texting LOVEIS to 22522.

The Stay At Home Order announced by Governor Mike DeWine specifically exempts victims of domestic violence. The order states: "Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternate location."

Some ways to stay safe, from the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline include:

- Create a safety plan. A safety plan is a personalized, practical plan that includes ways to remain safe while in a relationship, planning to leave, or after leaving.
- Consider alternative places of shelter, such as a family or friends home or a motel, or sleeping in your vehicle.
- Try to maintain social connections online or over the phone, if it is safe to do so, and try to stick to your daily routines as much as possible.
- Make a list of supportive people and have regular check-ins via phone or video chat.
- Take breaks outside, keeping social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others as much as possible) in mind.
- Consider what places in your home are easy to get in and out of during a conflict.
- Create a code word to share with your support network to indicate when you need immediate help.
- Make and hide an 'escape bag' with your important documents, medicine, keys, and other items.
- Practice self-care. Be gentle with yourself.

Ways COVID-19 could uniquely impact intimate partner violence survivors, from the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

- Abusive partners may withhold necessary items, such as hand sanitizer or disinfectants.
- Abusive partners may share misinformation about the pandemic to control or frighten survivors, to keep them away from their children or family, or to prevent them from seeking appropriate medical attention if needed.
- Abusive partners may withhold insurance cards, threaten to cancel insurance, or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they need it.
- Programs that serve survivors may be significantly impacted –- shelters may be full or may even stop intakes altogether. Survivors may also fear entering shelter because of being in close quarters with groups of people.
- Survivors who are older or have chronic heart or lung conditions may be at increased risk in public places where they would typically get support, like shelters, counseling centers, or courthouses.
- Travel restrictions may impact a survivor's escape or safety plan – it may not be safe for them to use public transportation or to fly.
- An abusive partner may feel more justified and escalate their isolation tactics.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS)
11:30 am, Friday, April 3, 2020
Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services
Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

SNAP and Medicaid Redeterminations

If you are due for a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Medicaid redetermination (also referred to as a renewal), your redetermination date has been pushed out to a later date.

For SNAP Assistance the changes are as follows:

March redeterminations will now be held in September.

April redeterminations will now be held in October.

May redeterminations will now be held in November.

For all Medicaid redeterminations due in March, April or May, your redetermination date has been pushed out an additional 180 days.

There is no action needed by the recipient of these programs at this time.

Food and other emergency assistance during COVID 19 Crisis

Individuals needing assistance with food or other emergency needs can contact Sara Shininger, GCJFS Community Support Coordinator at Sara.Shininger@jfs.ohio.gov or 440-285-9141, ext. 1263.

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www.nphw.org

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

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1-888-285-5665

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(440) 285-3568

ravenwoodhealth.org

coronavirus.ohio.gov