Statement from the Geauga County Health Commissioner
6:30am, Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Source of Information: Geauga County Health Commissioner, Tom Quade
Content Contact: TQuade@GeaugaCountyHealth.org

This is a slightly different approach for us. We are living in a unique time where some of the news changes so fast and comes in such volume that it feels like we are drinking from a fire hose. And, there is other news for which we feel our thirst will never be quenched because the content is so nuanced that we might not consider it to be new.

My commitment as Geauga County Health Commissioner, is to be your best source of current information about the COVID-19 pandemic and to be a source that can be trusted. I will only publish information in this e-newspaper when I believe the source is credible, and if the source is willing to be named, and is willing to provide contact information for follow-up. All content will also have the original submission date so you will know how current it is.

My plan is to reach out to local partners, public and private, governmental and non-governmental, organizational and individual, regardless of all the artificial constructs that divide us by labeling our identity according to politics, religion, race, ethnicity, socio-economics, gender, and so forth. We are ONE GEAUGA and we will get through this.

Reported Cases
2:00pm, Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health
Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)

There are 704 confirmed cases in Ohio (Ages <1-94). 75 have been admitted into a hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU). There are 182 hospitalizations in Ohio due to COVID-19. There are 10 deaths in Ohio.

Helping Geauga County Seniors
3:00pm, Thursday, March 19, 2020
Source of Information: Geauga County Department on Aging Director, Jessica Boalt
Content Contact: JBoalt@CO.GEAUGA.OH.US

The Geauga County Department on Aging is asking for help with the collection of shelf stable / non-perishable items that they can distribute to home bound seniors in need.

Please drop the following items in the drop off box in the lobby at the Department on Aging, 470 Center St., Bldg #2, Chardon (Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.)

Bread, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Oatmeal, Box Cereal, Box Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Soup, Crackers, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Rice/Noodles Packet/Meal, Canned/Plastic Bottled Juice, Granola Bars, Powdered Drink Mix.

Access the sources public health professionals use for credible COVID-19 information. Visit the ODH Website
**Assisting the Needs of Geauga County Residents**

11:00am, Friday, March 20, 2020

*Source of Information: United Way Services of Geauga*

*Content Contact: kperko@uws.org*

**2-1-1 HelpLink** is available 24/7 for assistance connecting with local health and human care services. For local resources related to COVID-19 in Geauga County, dial 2-1-1 or visit 211oh.org. Please be aware that hold times may be longer due to the increased number of calls. More information about Coronavirus can be found at CORONAVIRUS.OHIO.GOV Individuals can also get information about the virus when calling 211. (Information provided by Cuyahoga County Public Health).

**The United Way Aging and Disability Resource Center** can assist with rent, gas, utilities, and Geauga Transit passes and can assist those not over 60 or disabled in conjunction with the Salvation Army.

**The Geauga Hunger Task Force** pantries are still open providing food with drive up, curbside service. Call 211 for pantry locations and hours of operation or go to: https://www.geaugahungertaskforce.org/how-to-find-help

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**Information on Closures of Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Locations**

3:00pm, Wednesday, March 18, 2020

*Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health*

*Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)*

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that 181 deputy registrar agencies and 52 driver examination stations would close at the end of the business day. A deputy registrar location will remain open ONLY to provide the issuance and/or renewal of commercial driver licenses (CDL) at the 22125 Rockside Road, Bedford location. A driver examination station will remain open ONLY to perform commercial knowledge exams at the 22123 Rockside Road, Bedford location. The continuance of CDL testing and issuance is based on the need to keep our supply chain open and moving. Supplies, such as medical, cleaning, or food supplies, are critical to the health and welfare of our residents amid the COVID-19 outbreak. For more details, go to https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources/bmv-closures

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**Geauga Transit is still open**

3:00pm, Wednesday, March 25

*Source of Information: Geauga County Transit*

*Content Contact: JoAnna Santilli, Director JSantilli@GeaugaTransit.Org*

Geauga Transit is still open and helping clients get to their medical appointments and other essential places such as grocery shopping or the drug store. They have drivers on the road from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm., Monday through Friday. They can take reservations up to 1 week in advance. They can even schedule rides for the same day, based on availability. All of their vehicles are handicap accessible. The bus fare is $6.00 for a 1 way trip. Clients 65 and over or disabled can apply for a reduced fare of $3.00 for a 1 way trip. For more information, please call 440-279-2150 or toll free at 1-888-287-7190. Please help us spread the word, so we can help Geauga County residents get to their essential appointments.

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**Stay Tuned to the Hospital Systems News**

https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/category/news-releases/ &

https://news.uhhospitals.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 11:59 p.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 sought 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. Many of them might appear to be stretching the exemption. The reality is that if a business has not been ordered closed specifically by a previous order, it may actually be exempted from the current one.
- 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.
- 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.
Ohio Department of Health issues Stay at Home Order

Effective: 11:59pm Monday, March 23, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

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

Effective 11:59pm Monday, March 23, 2020 Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health has issued an Order directing all Ohioans to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activities.

The Order encompasses the following provisions:

**Stay at home or place of residence.**

All Ohioans are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence. Use of outdoor spaces are permitted as long as social distancing guidelines are followed i.e., maintain an isolation distance of 6 feet from the person nearest you. People are permitted to leave their homes for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to participate in Essential Business Operations. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this order but are urged to obtain shelter. Governmental and non-governmental agencies alike are urged to provide such shelter to mitigate the disease spread. The order does not apply to incarcerated individuals; they are to follow the guidelines set forth by the facility in which they are incarcerated. 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 alternative location. Per this order, homes or residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities.

**Non-essential business and operations must cease.**

All businesses and operations within the State, except Essential Business and Operations are required to cease all activities with the exception of Minimum Basic Operations. Home-based businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences. Essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open. Essential Businesses and Operations are required to comply with Social Distancing Requirements including maintaining a six-foot radius for both employees and members of the public at all times, including, but not limited to, when customers are standing in line.

**Prohibited Activities.**

All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited. Any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by the Director’s Order. This is in accordance with President Trump’s guidelines issued 3-16-2020. Public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors shall be closed. Businesses include, but are not limited to amusement park rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, children’s play centers, playgrounds, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, movie and other theaters, concert and music halls, and country clubs or social clubs.

**Prohibited and permitted travel.**

Only Essential Travel and Essential Activities are permitted. Public Transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent possible. Travel in or out of the State is permitted to maintain Essential Business and Operations and Minimum Basic Operations.

**Leaving the home for Essential Activities is permitted.**
Ohioans may leave their residence only to perform the following Essential Activities:

- **For health and safety.** Tasks essential to their health and safety or the health and safety of their family are permitted. These tasks include, but are not limited to, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medications, or visiting a health care professional.

- **For necessary supplies and services.** Obtaining services or supplies for themselves and their family members or persons who are unable to leave their home. Services include, but are not limited to, groceries and food, household products, supplies needed to work from home, automobile supplies, necessary products to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

- **For outdoor activity.** Engaging in outdoor activity is permitted provided individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements. Activities include, but are not limited to, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Public parks and outdoor recreation areas are open; however, public access playgrounds shall be closed.

- **To take care of others.** Caring for a family member, friend, or pet is permitted. This includes weddings and funerals.

**Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions.**

High risk people are urged to stay home to the extent possible. Nothing in the Order prevents the Ohio Department of Health or local health departments from issuing and enforcing isolation and quarantine orders.

**Healthcare and Public Health Operations.**

Individuals may leave their home to work for or obtain services through Healthcare and Public Health Operations. These Organizations and Operations include, but are not limited to, hospitals, clinics, dental offices, pharmacies, public health entities, pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment and biotechnology companies; organizations collecting blood, platelets, and plasma, and other necessary materials; licensed medical marijuana dispensaries and licensed medical marijuana cultivation centers; obstetricians and gynecologists; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home healthcare services providers; mental health and substance use providers; other healthcare facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains. Specifically included in Healthcare and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products. Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. Healthcare and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined.

**Human Services Operations.**

People may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by the Ohio Department of Aging, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Medicaid, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Department of Veterans Services, and Department of Youth Services. Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; day care centers, day care homes, group day care homes; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities;
Essential Infrastructure.

Individuals may leave their residence to provide services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair Essential Infrastructure. Essential Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: food production, distribution, fulfillment centers, storage facilities, marinas, and sale; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, school construction, essential business construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Governmental Functions.

All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, legislators, judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from the Order. Each government body shall determine its Essential Governmental Functions and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

Businesses covered by this order.

Covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.

Essential Business and Operations.

Essential Business and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Infrastructure, and the following: CISA List, Stores that sell groceries and medicine, Food, beverage, and licensed medical marijuana production and agriculture, Organizations that provide charitable and social services, Religious entities, Media, First amendment protected speech, Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation, Financial and insurance institutions, Hardware and supply stores, Critical trades, Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services, Educational institutions, Laundry services, Restaurants for consumption off-premises, Supplies to work from home, Supplies for Essential Business and Operations, Transportation, Home-based care and services, Residential facilities and shelters, Professional services, Manufacture, distribu-
tion, and supply chain for critical products and industries, Critical labor union functions, Hotels and motels, Funeral services.

**Minimum Basic Operations**

Minimum Basic Operations include the necessary activities to maintain the value of business inventory, preserve the businesses’ physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll/benefits, or related functions, and the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees being able to work remotely from home. Minimum Basic Operations must still comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

**Essential Travel.**

Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes: any travel related to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations; travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons; travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services; travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction; travel required by law enforcement or court order; travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Travelers still must comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

**Social Distancing Requirements.**

Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

a. Required measures:
   i. Designate six-foot distances. Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
   ii. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products. Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
   iii. Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
   iv. Online and remote access. Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

**Intent of this Order.**

The intent of this Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate to the maximum extent possible. When people need to leave their homes, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

**Enforcement.**

The Order may be enforced by State and local law enforcement to the extent set forth on Ohio law. The Director of
Health has delegated to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.

**COVID-19 Information and Checklist for Businesses/Employers.**

Businesses and employers are to take the following actions:
- Employers are to check employee’s temperatures prior to the start of their work day.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home until they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least three full days AND symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours AND at least seven days have passed since symptoms first began. Do not require a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees sick with acute respiratory illness.
- Allow as many employees as possible to work from home.
- Ensure that your sick leave policies are up to date, flexible, and non-punitive to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children, or other family members.
- Separate employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms from other employees and send them home immediately.
- Reinforce key messages stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene to all employees, and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen. Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues, and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Frequently perform enhanced environmental cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, such as workstations, countertops, railings, door handles, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- Be prepared to change business practices if needed to maintain critical operations (e.g., identify alternative suppliers, prioritize customers, or temporarily suspend some of your operations.)

**No limitation on authority.**

Nothing in the Order alters or modifies any existing legal authority allowing the State or any local health department from ordering (1) any quarantine or isolation that may require an individual to remain inside a particular residential property or medical facility for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency, or (2) any closure of a specific location for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency.

**Savings clause.**

If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Order are declared to be severable.

**Previous Orders Superseded.**

This Order supersedes, only to the extent that it conflicts, and amends any previous Order which conflicts with the provisions of this Order.

**Duration.**

This Order shall be effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020 and remain in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, unless the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order at a sooner time and date.

This is only a summary of the Director's Stay at Home Order. The full Order can be read here: [https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/public-health-orders/directors-order-to-stay-at-home](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/public-health-orders/directors-order-to-stay-at-home)
According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2020), the “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” help State and Local officials protect communities and ensure the continuity of functions that are critical to public health and safety, along with economic and national security.

Healthcare/public health

- Workers providing COVID-19 testing; Workers that perform critical clinical research needed for COVID-19 response
- Caregivers (e.g., physicians, dentists, psychologists, mid-level practitioners, nurses and assistants, infection control and quality assurance personnel, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, social workers, speech pathologists and diagnostic and therapeutic technicians and technologists)
- Hospital and laboratory personnel (including accounting, administrative, admitting and discharge, engineering, epidemiological, source plasma and blood donation, food service, housekeeping, medical records, information technology and operational technology, nutritionists, sanitarians, respiratory therapists, etc.)
- Workers in other medical facilities (including Ambulatory Health and Surgical, Blood Banks, Clinics, Community Mental Health, Comprehensive Outpatient rehabilitation, End Stage Renal Disease, Health Departments, Home Health care, Hospices, Hospitals, Long Term Care, Organ Pharmacies, Procurement Organizations, Psychiatric Residential, Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers)
- Manufacturers, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products
- Public health / community health workers, including those who compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information
- Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities
- Workers that manage health plans, billing, and health information, who cannot practically work remotely
- Workers who conduct community-based public health functions, conducting epidemiologic surveillance, compiling, analyzing and communicating public health information, who cannot practically work remotely
- Workers performing cybersecurity functions at healthcare and public health facilities, who cannot practically work remotely
- Workers conducting research critical to COVID-19 response
- Workers performing security, incident management, and emergency operations functions at or on behalf of healthcare entities including healthcare coalitions, who cannot practically work remotely
- Workers who support food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, such as those residing in shelters
- Pharmacy employees necessary for filling prescriptions
- Workers performing mortuary services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemetery workers
- Workers who coordinate with other organizations to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, transportation, tracking, storage, and disposal of human remains and personal effects; certify cause of death; and facilitate access to mental/behavioral health services to the family members, responders, and survivors of an incident
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders

- Personnel in emergency management, law enforcement, Emergency Management Systems, fire, and corrections, including front line and management
- Emergency Medical Technicians
- 911 call center employees
- Fusion Center employees
- Hazardous material responders from government and the private sector.
- Workers – including contracted vendors -- who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting law enforcement and emergency service operations.

Food and Agriculture

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging
- Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids

Energy

- Workers who maintain, ensure, or restore the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power, including call centers, utility workers, reliability engineers and fleet maintenance technicians
- Environmental remediation/monitoring technicians
- Instrumentation, protection, and control technicians
- Petroleum product storage, pipeline, marine transport, terminals, rail transport, road transport
- Crude oil storage facilities, pipeline, and marine transport
- Petroleum refinery facilities
- Petroleum security operations center employees and workers who support emergency response services
- Retail fuel centers such as gas stations and truck stops, and the distribution systems that support them
- Natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines, including compressor stations
- Underground storage of natural gas
- Natural gas processing plants, and those that deal with natural gas liquids
- Propane gas dispatch and control rooms and emergency response and customer emergencies, including propane leak calls
- Propane gas service maintenance and restoration, including call centers
- Processing, refining, and transporting natural liquids, including propane gas, for use as end-use fuels or feed stocks for chemical manufacturing
- Propane gas storage, transmission, and distribution centers

Water and waste

- Employees needed to operate and maintain drinking water and wastewater/drainage infrastructure
Transportation and Logistics

- Mass transit workers
- Workers responsible for operating dispatching passenger, commuter and freight trains and maintaining rail infrastructure and equipment
- Automotive repair and maintenance facilities
- Postal and shipping workers, to include private companies
- Employees who repair and maintain vehicles, aircraft, rail equipment, marine vessels, and the equipment and infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passengers
- Air transportation employees, including air traffic controllers, ramp personnel, aviation security, and aviation management
- Workers who support the maintenance and operation of cargo by air transportation, including flight crews, maintenance, airport operations, and other on- and off-airport facilities workers

Public Works

- Workers who support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential dams, locks and levees
- Workers who support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential public works facilities and operations, including bridges, water and sewer main breaks, fleet maintenance personnel, construction of critical or strategic infrastructure, traffic signal maintenance, emergency location services for buried utilities, maintenance of digital systems infrastructure supporting public works operations, and other emergent issues
- Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Support, such as road and line clearing, to ensure the availability of needed facilities, transportation, energy and communications
- Support to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste and hazardous waste
- Workers who support radio, television, and media service, including, but not limited to front line news reporters, studio, and technicians for newsgathering and reporting
- Installation, maintenance and repair technicians that establish, support or repair service as needed
- Customer service and support staff, including managed and professional services as well as remote providers of support to transitioning employees to set up and maintain home offices, who interface with customers to manage or support service environments and security issues, including payroll, billing, fraud, and troubleshooting
- Dispatchers involved with service repair and restoration
- Workers supporting communications systems and information technology used by law enforcement, public safety, medical and other critical industries
- Support required for continuity of services, including janitorial/cleaning personnel

Other community-based government operations and essential functions

- Educators supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions, if operating under rules for social distancing
- Hotel Workers where hotels are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment measures
- Weather forecasters
- Elections personnel
- Federal, State, and Local, Tribal, and Territorial employees who support Mission Essential Functions and communications networks

Hazardous Materials

- Workers at nuclear facilities, workers managing medical waste, workers managing waste from pharmaceuticals and medical material production, and workers at laboratories processing test kits
Workers who support hazardous materials response and cleanup
Workers who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting hazardous materials management operations

Financial Services

Workers who are needed to process and maintain systems for processing financial transactions and services (e.g., payment, clearing, and settlement; wholesale funding; insurance services; and capital markets activities)
Workers who are needed to provide consumer access to banking and lending services, including ATMs, and to move currency and payments (e.g., armored cash carriers)
Workers who support financial operations

Defense Industrial Base

Workers who support the essential services required to meet national security commitments to the federal government and U.S. Military. These individuals, include but are not limited to, aerospace; mechanical and software engineers, manufacturing/production workers; IT support; security staff; security personnel; intelligence support, aircraft and weapon system mechanics and maintainers
Personnel working for companies, and their subcontractors, who perform under contract to the Department of Defense providing materials and services to the Department of Defense, and government-owned/contractor-operated and government-owned/government-operated facilities

This is only a summary of the CISA Essential Workers website. The full list can be viewed here: https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce

UPDATES NOW AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES:

Video of Ohio Briefings can be viewed on the Ohio Channel's YouTube page.
The Ohio Channel will make these briefings available in numerous languages, including Spanish, within a few hours after each update is complete.

A list of all available press conferences can be found under the "Video" tab, and translations are ready when the "CC" symbol for closed captioning is visible the lower right of the player.

To choose a language for subtitles, first click on the "CC" symbol in the lower right of the player, select the settings icon (the gear next to the CC button), and choose the subtitles/CC option. Click the "auto translate" option and choose your preferred language for closed captioning.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services
11:50 am, Monday, March 23, 2020
Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services
Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

Effective March 20, 2020 the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS) transitioned to an alternative temporary service model whereby all public interfacing was suspended, and our building is now closed to public access. Our office will maintain normal operating hours with flexible staff levels, and we will be conducting business via regular mail, email, phone, and fax. County residents may also visit our website to receive critical information regarding our benefits and/or services at www.geaugajfs.org
GCJFS can be contacted using any of the following methods:
Email: info@geaugajfs.org (preferred method)
Mail: Geauga County JFS
12480 Ravenwood Dr
Chardon OH 44024
Phone: (440) 285-9141    Fax: (440) 286-6654

**Child and Adult Protective Services**
Child and adult protective services staff will remain accessible during regular business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. You may reach out to your caseworker directly via phone or email. To report child or elder abuse or neglect during working hours please call (440) 285-9141. We will continue to provide emergent on-call coverage outside of normal business hours at (440) 285-5665. We are evaluating our ability to safely provide supervised parenting time and other interfacing services to assure the safety of staff and our clients. Please contact your caseworker if you have any case-specific questions and/or concerns.

**OhioMeansJobs – Geauga County**
The Career Resource Center is closed to the public; however, career services are still available:
- For assistance with resume development, job searching, interviewing skills, or your LinkedIn profile, please call (440) 285-1116; or email Lisa.Sprowls@jfs.ohio.gov or Cathi.Leonello@jfs.ohio.gov.
- Applying for Unemployment Compensation benefits must be done online at www.unemployment.ohio.gov or call (877) 644-6562.
- For the Business Community in Geauga county in need of resource information, please email Mandy.Monroe@jfs.ohio.gov
For more details, please visit www.geaugajfs.org and www.OhioMeansJobs.com

**Child Support**
Correspondence for Geauga County child support cases should be submitted by mail or via the Ohio Child Support Customer Service Web Portal by visiting http://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/CustServWebPortalWelcome2.stm
While in-person child support payments at GCJFS are suspended, there are several other options available for parents to make timely payments:
- ONLINE: from a checking or savings account or by debit or credit card, free of charge, by visiting https://oh.smartchildsupport.com
- BY PHONE: with a debit or credit card by calling (888) 965-2676 Option 5
- BY MAIL: Ohio Child Support Payment Central, P.O. Box 182372, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2372. Be sure to include your name, case number and order number.

**Public Assistance**
Public Assistance Program clients should visit https://benefits.ohio.gov/ to:
- Apply for benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid, Child Care)
- Renew your benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid)
- Upload documents to your case (Food, Cash, Medicaid)
- Documents can alternatively be sent as email attachments to info@geaugajfs.org or faxed to (440) 286-6654 (all documents including childcare)
- Check the status of your benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid)

**Important public assistance phone numbers:**
- SNAP EBT Customer Service: (866) 386-3071
- EPPIcard (Cash Assistance) Customer Service: (866) 320-8822
- Medicaid Consumer Hotline: (800) 324-8680
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* 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.

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.
FOR EVERYONE’S MENTAL HEALTH...

The mental health provider community has geared up for increases in the crisis calls. Everyone that contacts you for a mental health, substance abuse emergency or just a warm line should be directed to Copeline for help.

Copeline is on 24 hours a day, seven days a week with access to master’s level clinicians and psychiatry at all times.

The numbers are (440) 285-5665 or toll free at 1-888-285-5665.

If people would rather text than talk they can access the Crisis Text Line by texting 4HOPE to 741741, again 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is the first issue of this e-publication. It is imperfect at best. We will continue to improve. I ask that you...

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.
Latest Update From Geauga Public Health
3/20/2020 6:15 AM

Public Health is back at it. Our Health Commissioner writes:

I have a big ask for this weekend. Please take the time to make a plan about how you can best take care of you, your families, as well as others in the community who otherwise will go through this alone. Hoarding is NOT a plan. It is just a selfish and irrational move when we have a strong food (and toilet paper) delivery infrastructure. Just think about who is going to do well-check or social phone calls with a lonely relative or neighbor. Is it possible to get a friend’s grocery list and take turns shopping for each other. There are lots of little things we can do with some effort, some time, and some compassion.

All models suggest this will get much worse fairly soon. At the national level we are seeing case numbers increase by about 30% each day. Today, we have about 10,000 cases that we know of. If we continue the path of a 30% increase every day, in only two weeks, we will have more than 300,000 cases in the U.S and we will approach 12 million two weeks after that.

I am so proud of how our Governor listens to his public health experts and then follows their guidance when he creates policy. I am so confused as to why every state is not being as proactive as Ohio. Even more confusing is why the public in general is waiting to be told what they cannot do before voluntarily doing those same things on their own when we know how urgent this is. So many people complain about a nanny state. I don’t like being told what to do either. But right now, we have far too many people demonstrating an inability to make smart but difficult decisions on their own. We can and must do better.

Geauga County, we’re doing great so far with only one case (as of this moment) but we absolutely expect things will get worse. The earlier you will commit to staying home unless you truly need to go out in public, the better we will all be as residents of Geauga County. Don't wait to be told you can't go out before you take the collectively responsible steps to stay in.

There are many of you (us) out there who truly do need to continue working (while we are well) in order to keep the food, utilities, pharmaceuticals, and health care system operational. That includes an incredible number of folks who are in food service, maintenance, and many public employees who serve you daily in often unrecognized ways. You are too often overlooked when we start to call out the heroes. Our thanks go out to all of you!
March 15, 2020

Press Release

For More Information, Contact:

Tom Quade, Health Commissioner
Phone: (440) 279-1900
Email: TQuade@GeaugaCountyHealth.org

First positive case of COVID-19 in Geauga County underscores imperative of social distancing

Chardon, Ohio—Geauga Public Health has received its first reported COVID-19 case and strongly urges all residents to adhere to the Governor’s orders and to expand upon them voluntarily where possible.

The number of confirmed reported cases of COVID-19 continues to rise sharply in Ohio. As of this moment there is one confirmed reported case in Geauga County. We can assume three things with great confidence:

First, models suggest there are more people in Geauga County who are already infected and contagious but who are experiencing such mild symptoms that they have not sought medical care and have not been tested. Planning is currently underway to increase access to testing.

Second, the number of confirmed cases will increase moving forward. We are on the front end of this public health threat and should expect our routines to change significantly in the months to come.

Third, because there is no vaccine, the only strategies we have at hand to address the pandemic depend on everyone changing their normal behaviors such as practicing social distancing. These strategies are most effective when they are applied preemptively.

In the past few days, the Governor of Ohio has ordered all K-12 schools closed through April 3rd at the earliest, banning gatherings of 100 people excluding religious services until further notice, and the closure of all bars and dine-in options for all restaurants. The Geauga County Health Commissioner strongly supports these measures. Commissioner Quade said, “These strategies will save lives. How many lives will be saved will depend on the degree to which all Ohioans adhere not only to these orders but also the degree to which they are able to generalize the strategies voluntarily to other settings.” Quade believes that the Governor has not called for the cancelation of religious services because of the separation of church and state but he cautions that the principles of social distancing apply as much in those settings as they do anywhere else. Finally, Commissioner Quade wants to acknowledge the challenges and sacrifices this new normal will entail but reminds us that we are all working together to save lives.

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Press Release

For More Information, Contact:

Tom Quade, Health Commissioner
Phone: (440) 279-1900
Email: TQuade@GeaugaCountyHealth.org

Geauga Public Health links the Public to Accurate COVID-19 information

Chardon, Ohio–March 8, 2020- Geauga Public Health encourages the public to take advantage of credible sources of accurate information regarding COVID-19.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has a website that offers credible and accurate information and updates about COVID-19 in Ohio. The ODH website can be found at https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/. ODH has also recently set up a call center to answer questions from the public. That toll free number is 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634).

According to Geauga County Health Commissioner Tom Quade, “We are fortunate that the State Health Department has the capacity to update their website daily if not even more frequently than that. The state’s capacity surpasses our own in this regard.” Geauga Public Health’s Population Health Division, led by Director of Nursing, Dr. Christine Wyers, currently employs one Planning and Communications Chief who is currently heavily engaged in COVID-19 surveillance, two Public Health Nurses, two Health Educators, and is currently seeking to fill a vacant Epidemiologist position. Health Commissioner Quade says, “We are currently focusing on helping the public delay disease spread and prepare for the inevitable disruption of normal routines once cases are found. Once we start getting cases, priority one will be case investigation and mitigation. We run a very lean agency and expect our capacity to be tested. That said, I have every confidence in my team and know what they are capable of when we have all hands on deck.”

There are currently no identified cases in Ohio but we anticipate that will change as the disease continues to be found in an increasing number of states nationwide.

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