



Public Information Release

For Immediate Release: March 3, 2020

Coronavirus Update for Madison County

Madison County Public Health (MCPH), Madison Health (MH), and several other organizations in the county have been working together since the beginning of the year on coronavirus (COVID19) preparation. This workgroup has provided information and guidance to various healthcare providers in the county, social media updates, and information for the general public on the COVID19 outbreak.

Recent updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including “when not if” or “inevitable” statements about COVID19 in the United States have caused people to pay a little more attention to the situation in the country. Here are the latest local facts about COVID19:

1. There are zero cases in Madison County.
2. There are zero cases in Ohio.
3. There are Persons Under Investigation (PUI) in Ohio.
A PUI is 1) a person who traveled to a country with widespread COVID19 cases and is experiencing symptoms of COVID19 or 2) a person who is hospitalized with a fever and a severe respiratory illness that cannot be explained, even if they did not travel to a country with widespread COVID19 cases. Symptoms of COVID19 can include a fever, cough, or shortness of breath (note that these are the same symptoms as many other respiratory illnesses).
4. There are people in Ohio who traveled to countries with widespread COVID19 cases, returned to Ohio, and have no symptoms of COVID19 at all. These people are under Public Health Supervision (PHS). These people are staying home, monitoring themselves for two weeks, and reporting in to their local public health department if they develop symptoms of COVID19. This is not a new process and has been going on for weeks across the country.
5. There is no sustained community transmission of COVID19 in Ohio or the US. Community transmission occurs when people get sick who did not travel to a country with widespread COVID19 cases.

Madison County residents should continue to adhere to travel bans and travel warnings. No one should travel to China or Iran right now. You should strongly reconsider your travel to other countries including Italy, Japan, and South Korea. You should also reconsider any cruise to the Asia area. The latest CDC travel recommendations can be found at [cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel)



Prevention is still the best tool for COVID19 across Ohio. We talk about prevention all the time. We firmly believe that personal choices are going to play a huge part of how this illness, or any respiratory illness, plays out. We all have a personal responsibility to help prevent COVID19:

1. Cover every cough and sneeze with your arm.
2. Stay home when you are sick.
3. Wash your hands often.
4. Don't put your hands in your mouth, eyes, or nose.
5. Avoid people who are sick.
6. Clean frequently touched surfaces.

We also strongly encourage residents to use common sense about face masks. There is no simpler way to say this: face masks are for sick people and healthcare workers. Masks work well to help limit the spread of illnesses from those who are already sick. Masks are essential for our healthcare workers. However, **masks do not work well to help the general public stay healthy.** Save masks for those who are sick and our healthcare workers.

If you traveled to a country with widespread COVID19 cases in the last two weeks (or have been around a confirmed case of COVID19) and experience symptoms of COVID19, you should *CALL* your healthcare provider first if possible. If you do not have a healthcare provider, you should *CALL* Madison Health at 740-845-7333. The list of countries with widespread COVID19 cases can be found at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers

If you have questions about COVID19 you can contact Madison County Public Health at 740-852-3065 or at info@madisonpublichealth.org.

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