



Public Health News and Reports

Straight from the Source

Volume 1 Issue 2 Sunday, March 29, 2020

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@GaugaCountyHealth.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, Saturday, March 28, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

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

There are 1,406 confirmed cases in Ohio (Ages <1-96). 123 have been admitted into a hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU). There are 344 hospitalizations in Ohio due to COVID-19. There are 25 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

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

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>

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>

Geauga Transit is still open

3:00pm, Wednesday, March 25

Source of Information: Geauga County Transit

Content Contact: JoAnna Santilli, Director JSantilli@GaugTransit.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.

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 11:59p.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 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 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.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS)

11:30 am, Thursday, March 26, 2020

Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

COVID-19 Pandemic Child Care Information

Effective March 26th, only Child Care centers operating as Pandemic Child Care Centers will be open. Child care will only be provided for children of health, safety and essential services workers as defined by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS). Application and enrollment will be completed at the child care centers. For a list of centers, forms and additional information on pandemic child care, visit: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>

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 par-

enting 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.Sprows@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 Man-dy.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

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.

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.

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

@GPHOhio

Cleaning and Disinfecting

10:30am, Friday, March 27, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

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

A study recently published by the New England Journal of Medicine observed the lifespan, half-life, and decay rate of COVID-19 on various surfaces. Here is the link if you'd like to take a look at the study in full: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>

The lifespan of the virus on different surfaces varies:

- Steel: up to 72 hours
- Plastic: up to 72 hours
- Cardboard: up to 24 hours
- Glass: up to 96 hours
- Copper: up to 4 hours

With that in mind, the Ohio Department of Health has issued some guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in the event everyday supplies, such as cleaning wipes or cleaning sprays, run out:

Use a diluted household bleach solution if appropriate for the surface: 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water; or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Do not use if product is past its expiration date. NEVER mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners.

Use an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol.

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Discard gloves after use, or, if reusable gloves are used, they should be dedicated only for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces for COVID-19 and no other purposes. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed. Clean hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Remember to keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children at all times.

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.

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.