PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prevent Promote Protect

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"Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Putnam County resident tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) is reporting the first confirmed case of COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) in a Putnam County resident. The positive test was recorded in a woman in her 50s who lives in Putnam County. The Putnam County Health Department is working to identify any close contacts of this resident who may require monitoring of symptoms or testing for COVID-19. The PCHD continues to follow protocols and guidance that are in place, which requires close contacts to be monitored for illness and to self-quarantine for 14 days.

No additional personal information about the Putnam County case will be provided in order to protect personal privacy.

"With confirmed cases of COVID-19 being reported in counties around us and throughout most of Ohio, we are not surprised with the notification of our first case," said Kim Rieman, Putnam County Health Department's Health Commissioner. "The health department has been working with many partners including our healthcare providers, EMA, agencies, first responders and other partners to prepare for our response to cases of COVID-19 in our community." Mrs. Rieman continues, "I ask that all of our residents continue to follow social distancing measures and proven methods to stay healthy." Those methods to help prevent the spread of disease are:

- Practice social distancing by avoiding crowds and keeping at least 6 feet away from other people as much as possible.
- Stay home if you are sick. If someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19, everyone should quarantine themselves for 14 days.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes. Don't share food or drinks.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Ask your employer about the possibility of working from home.
- Cloth face coverings are recommended to help prevent spread from a person who is not showing any symptoms of the virus

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Our mission is to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community.

As COVID-19 becomes more widespread in Ohio and in the nation, the PCHD continues to work with local and state partners to plan and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ohio has taken wide actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on the health care system. Orders and guidance from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health have been put into place. For information on COVID-19 including ways you can help protect the health of yourself and others, go to www.coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Information and resources are also available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.coronavirus.gov.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms that have been noted lately include headache, body ache, gastrointestinal upset and loss of taste or smell. If you are sick, stay home and isolate yourself from other people until you have experienced no symptoms for at least 72 hours (without using medication to help with symptoms) and it has been at least 7 days since the onset of symptoms. Call your health care provider prior to visiting the office so they can take steps to protect other patients. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility.

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including death. Most healthy people recover but need to be isolated from others while they are contagious. Severe illness is more likely in older people and people with compromised immunize systems or chronic medical conditions.

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