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*“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Putnam County Reports First Deaths Associated with COVID-19

Ottawa, OH – Today, the Putnam County Health Department reports the death of two persons who had tested positive for COVID-19. "It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of two of our Putnam County residents related to the COVID-19 outbreak. We extend our condolences to the family and friends of these individuals," said Kim Rieman, Health Commissioner of the Putnam County Health Department. The deaths were reported to the Putnam County Health Department after the data for the Ohio Department of Health daily report was retrieved. Therefore, the ODH data for April 21, 2020 does not include the report of these deaths.

A man in his 80s and a woman in her 60s are the first two recorded deaths from the disease in Putnam County. No further information about the individuals will be released out of respect for the privacy of the families involved.

"The Putnam County Health Department has been preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since before it began spreading throughout the country and the state. As part of the investigation related to the illness, we reach out to all known contacts of COVID-19 cases to make sure we help prevent the spread of this disease," Mrs. Rieman added.

The death of Putnam County residents emphasizes even more the importance of social distancing and other standard precautions to help spread COVID-19. This includes:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Wear a cloth mask (which covers the nose and mouth) when out in public
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow
- Monitor yourself for symptoms and call your doctor for guidance



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

"As our state begins the process of slowly releasing the Stay at Home Orders, please consider how your actions may cause an increase in the spread of COVID-19 in our community," urged Mrs. Rieman. "We must do all we can to help protect our family, friends and neighbors, especially those that are the most vulnerable."

For more information about COVID-19, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call the Ohio Department of Health call center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Information can also be found at [www.putnamhealth.com](http://www.putnamhealth.com).

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