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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Increase in COVID-19 cases in Putnam County

The number of cases of COVID-19 in Putnam County increased significantly in the last day largely due to a cluster of cases identified in an area long term care facility. The Meadows of Leipsic tested several residents and staff to determine the significance of the disease in their facility. Unfortunately, several residents and staff members were confirmed to have COVID-19 through laboratory testing. As required by the Ohio Department of Health Director’s Orders, the facility is contacting family members and guardians of those residents involved. There are now 14 cases of COVID-19 in Putnam County residents, with an age range of 34-95. Ten of these residents are female and 4 are male.

“Long term care facilities across the nation are experiencing outbreaks of COVID19. Because of the nature of the caring work that happens in these facilities, disease can spread quickly. This, coupled with the advanced age and the underlying medical conditions of many residents, makes this a very concerning situation,” stated Kim Rieman, Health Commissioner of the Putnam County Health Department.

The Putnam County Health Department is working with the Meadows of Leipsic staff to contain the spread of COVID-19 through isolation of those who are ill and contacting those who may have been exposed. Mrs. Rieman continued, “The health department will help in any way possible to decrease the spread, both in the facility and in the community in general.”

“While the community has done a great job of taking precautions to help decrease the spread of the disease, it is important to not let up at this crucial time,” said Mrs. Rieman. These precautions include:

- 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.



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- 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

Residents are also reminded to monitor themselves for symptoms, such as:

- fever
- dry cough
- 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. Call your health care provider for guidance and prior to visiting the office.

More information about COVID-19 can be found at [putnamhealth.com](http://putnamhealth.com), [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov). You may also call the Ohio Department of Health Call Center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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