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"Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County"

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Ohio sees first cases of COVID-19

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health announced earlier this week that there are now 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Ohio. All three individuals are from Cuyahoga County. A State of Emergency was also declared by Governor DeWine, which is a necessary legal step that assists in the public health response and aids in obtaining supplies needed for the response. The Putnam County Health Department has been preparing for an event such as this. Kim Rieman, Putnam County's Health Commissioner stated, "As we have seen, the COVID-19 has continued to spread across the country. It is not a surprise to us that it is now in Ohio. We have been working with our local and state partners to respond to such a situation, and we will continue to do so." Ms. Rieman added, "Our focus is on protecting our community. While we do not want our residents to panic, we do want them to be very aware of the situation and to stay up-to-date as we continue to learn more about this virus, who is at most risk and ways to reduce the spread of the disease."

There are prevention efforts that everyone can and should take to help prevent the spread of disease:

- Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds

- Cough or sneeze in your sleeve or a tissue (then discard the tissue immediately)

- Stay home if you are sick. Do not go to school, work or other public places (stores, restaurants, etc.)

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

- Call before you go. If you think you are ill, call your healthcare provider, urgent care or the emergency room before you go. This will help determine if you need to be seen and helps them prepare if you must see a healthcare provider.

The general public is still at low risk for COVID-19. There are, however some populations that are at higher risk. This includes individuals over age 60 and people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and heart or lung disease. It is recommended that persons with high risk should avoid crowds, wash hands often and keep hands away from the nose, mouth and eyes. Others can help protect the high risk individuals by limiting visits to long-term care facilities and to homes of family and friends with chronic health conditions.

The Ohio Department of Health has opened a call center for COVID-19 questions and concerns. The call center can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Updated information is also available at coronavirus.ohio.gov, cdc.gov or putnamhealth.com.

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