"Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Antibody testing for COVID-19

As antibody testing for COVID-19 becomes more available in Ohio and ramps up in our area, the Putnam County Health Department anticipates an increase in the number of probable cases of COVID-19 that is reported. Kim Rieman, Putnam County Health Department's Health Commissioner stated, "Identifying probable cases of COVID-19 is not an effort to inflate the numbers. Rather, it is to account for a person who had the symptoms of the disease in the past, but never tested positive did, and acknowledge that they did, in fact, have COVID-19 at some point."

"We have heard from many individuals who think they may have had COVID-19 beginning in January," Ms. Rieman added. "This will help to provide a clearer picture of the extent of the illness, both past and present, in our community."

If you are interested in having an antibody test, it is recommended that you consult your physician to discuss whether or not a test is warranted. Most testing facilities in the area require a doctor's order to obtain the test. It is also recommended that you check with your insurance to determine if the test is covered as there may be a cost involved. Some facilities in the surrounding area are providing the test without a doctor's order and with payment at the time of service.

The Putnam County Health Department follows the guidelines provided by the Ohio Department of Health when determining probable cases of COVID-19. When a positive antibody test is reported to the health department, the nurses will follow protocol and contact the individual to determine if contact tracing and isolation or quarantine is needed.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or putnamhealth.com.

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