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“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downgrade COVID-19 to Class B Disease

PUTNAM COUNTY-On March 6, 2023, the Ohio Department of Health downgraded COVID-19 to a Class B disease from a Class A. What does that mean for the residents of Putnam County? Nothing changes as far as the COVID-19 guidance for isolation or quarantine for residents. What really changed was how physician offices and organizations that test for COVID-19 must report COVID-19 cases to the local health department by the end of the next business day. Class A diseases such as anthrax, botulism, cholera must be immediately reported to the local health department upon recognition that a case, a suspected case or a positive laboratory result exists.

This recent change in disease classes lets the public know that public health is moving in the right direction. In February 2023 there were 96 COVID-19 cases reported in Putnam County residents and 58 reported COVID-19 cases in March 2023.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be the best tool against the virus. Ensuring vaccines are up-to-date is critical to having the best protection possible. PCHD still provides COVID-19 vaccines to the public and offers free COVID-19 test kits that are available in the health department’s lobby during business hours.

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