COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT - 6
MARCH 19, 2020

 Holmes County: 0 cases (3/19/2020)

 Global: 191,127 cases; 7,807 deaths (3/18/2020)
 United States: 7,038 cases; 97 deaths (3/18/2020)
 Ohio: 119 cases; 24 counties*; 33 Hospitalizations (3/19/2020)

* Number of counties with cases: Ashland (1), Belmont (2), Butler (8), Clark (1), Coshocton (2), Cuyahoga (53), Darke (1), Delaware (2), Franklin (10), Geauga (1), Hamilton (1), Lake (2), Lorain (6), Lucas (1), Mahoning (5), Medina (1), Miami (1), Montgomery (1), Richland (1), Stark (5), Summit (6), Trumbull (2), Tuscarawas (1)

How we’re preparing:

- Activated our Department Operations Center (DOC) and Incident Command Structure (ICS) to monitor the situation to coordinate public health response
- Opened a Joint Information Center (JIC) to coordinate messaging
- Ensuring that our local partners receive guidance published by federal and state partners
- Publishing and sending health education messages to the community
- Participating ongoing communication with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) & CDC
- Providing bi-weekly situation reports to local stakeholders (every Tuesday and Thursday)
- Health Commissioner serves on the state Public Health Preparedness Team (BTeam)
- Health Commissioner attended Governor’s Summit on COVID-19 Preparedness

OVERVIEW:

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.

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COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS

- Do NOT require a healthcare provider’s note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work, as healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home: Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4°F [38.0°C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).

- Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick. Ensure that your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies.

- Talk with companies that provide your business with contract or temporary employees about the importance of sick employees staying home and encourage them to develop non-punitive leave policies.

- Employers should maintain flexible policies that permit employees to stay home to care for a sick family member.

- Employers should be aware that more employees may need to stay at home to care for sick children or other sick family members than is usual.

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, offers the following suggestions for preventive cleaning against COVID-19 if everyday supplies, such as cleaning wipes or cleaning sprays, run out.

- Use a diluted household bleach solution if appropriate for the surface: 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water; or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation. Do not use if product is past its expiration date. NEVER mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners.

- Use an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol. Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Discard gloves after use, or, if reusable gloves are used, they should be dedicated only for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces for COVID-19 and no other purposes.

- Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.

- Clean hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Remember to keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children at all times.

ODH Guidance for Employers: Click here