



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Holmes County General Health District Reports First Confirmed Positive Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Holmes County

Millersburg, OH – The Holmes County General Health District (HCGHD) has been notified of a positive test result for Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a resident in Holmes County. This is the first positive test result for Holmes County. HCGHD has already identified close contacts of this resident who require testing or monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19. The positive case is a 51 year old female and is recovering at home. To protect the privacy of the individual, HCGHD will not be releasing any additional demographic information related to this case.

The Holmes County General Health District, along with Pomerene hospital, our local healthcare providers and community partners, have been actively preparing to respond to possible cases of Coronavirus/COVID-19 in our community.

Coronavirus/COVID-19 is a respiratory tract disease that can cause mild to more severe respiratory illness. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 2-14 days of being infected with the virus. According to the CDC, the virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Those at higher risk for more severe illness from COVID-19 are adults over 60 and people with chronic health conditions such as heart, lung or kidney disease and those who are immunocompromised.

To prevent the spread of disease, HCGHD encourages everyone to follow these effective practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently objects and surfaces – doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, etc.

Along with these precautions, HCGHD supports the orders and recommendations of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, during this public health crisis. These orders and recommendations can be found at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

In addition, HCGHD does not provide sick care, treatment, or testing for COVID-19. Call your medical provider immediately (before seeking care) if you are developing symptoms of COVID-19. If you are unable to reach a medical provider, do not have a provider, or have questions regarding symptoms or testing, you may call Pomerene's Coronavirus Hotline, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, at: 330-763-2055.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Information is being shared as it becomes available. Please visit the following websites for more information: <https://holmeshealth.org>, <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>, <https://cdc.gov/coronavirus>. People with questions about COVID-19 can call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center, 7 days a week from 9AM – 8PM at: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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