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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Updates

*There are no confirmed novel coronavirus cases in Stark County or Ohio*

Public health officials work 24/7 to make Stark County safer and healthier — in emerging situations like this and more routine cases. All four of our local health departments have been working together along with our hospitals during these initial stages. Information sharing and communication is essential.

Public health has been communicating with and sharing novel coronavirus guidance with our local: universities/colleges, healthcare facilities, Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/First Responders, Chambers of Commerce, Community Officials, and school districts.

There are currently 12 confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus in the U.S., the most recent case reported in Wisconsin. There are two cases of person-to-person spread in the country, one in Illinois and one in California. Both of these cases involve close personal contact. There continues to be no cases in Ohio and the risk remains low in the U.S.

The reporting for Ohio is going to now follow the CDC recommendations for all states and report the number of cases of Patients Under Investigation (PUI), the number of positive results, and the number of negative results. This will be updated each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon on the ODH website.

The county of residence of the patients under investigation will not be disclosed. This is to parallel with all other standard communicable disease reporting. This protects patient's personal health information and the families of those who may test negative as well as those who may test positive and need treatment.



This decision is fluid and may change based on CDC or ODH guideline updates. Quarantine guidelines have changed frequently in the past week and we will continue to remain in daily contact with the ODH and follow the evidence based direction of the CDC.

To help prevent infection with 2019-nCoV, practice the standard precautions you normally would during cold and flu season:

- Frequently wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water. If unavailable, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does not routinely recommend the use of face masks by the public to prevent respiratory illness and is not recommending their use for the prevention of 2019-nCoV.

For those traveling or returning from anywhere in China find additional information at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/novel-coronavirus/resources/coronavirus-travel-risk-assessment>

Please remember to follow the CDC website for updates at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the Ohio Department of Health for Ohio specific information at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov).

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