



Public Health News and Reports

Straight from the Source

Volume 1 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Reported Cases

2:00pm, Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)

There are 25 confirmed cases in Geauga County. There are 2,547 confirmed cases in Ohio.

There are 9 hospitalizations in Geauga County due to COVID-19. There are 679 hospitalizations in Ohio.

There are currently no COVID-19 deaths in Geauga County. There are 65 deaths in Ohio.

Collectively, there are 889 confirmed cases and 22 deaths in the counties that touch borders with Geauga County.

4:00pm, Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Source of Information: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

There are 186,101 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States.

There are 3,603 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

Helping Geauga County Seniors

3:00pm, Thursday, March 19, 2020

Source of Information: Geauga County Department on Aging Director, Jessica Boalt

Content Contact: JBoalt@CO.GEAUGA.OH.US

The Geauga County Department on Aging is asking for help with the collection of shelf stable / non-perishable items that they can distribute to home bound seniors in need.

Please drop the following items in the drop off box in the lobby at the Department on Aging, 470 Center St., Bldg #2, Chardon (Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.)

Bread, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Oatmeal, Box Cereal, Box Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Soup, Crackers, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Rice/Noodles Packet/Meal, Canned/Plastic Bottled Juice, Granola Bars, Powdered Drink Mix.

Access the sources public health professionals use for credible COVID-19 information. Visit the ODH Website

www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov & <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

Assisting the Needs of Geauga County Residents

11:00am, Friday, March 20, 2020

Source of Information: United Way Services of Geauga

Content Contact: kperko@uws.org

2-1-1 HelpLink is available 24/7 for assistance connecting with local health and human care services. For local resources related to COVID-19 in Geauga County, dial 2-1-1 or visit 211oh.org. Please be aware that hold times may be longer due to the increased number of calls. More information about Coronavirus can be found at CORONAVIRUS.OHIO.GOV. Individuals can also get information about the virus when calling 211. (Information provided by Cuyahoga County Public Health).

The United Way Aging and Disability Resource Center can assist with rent, gas, utilities, and Geauga Transit passes and can assist those not over 60 or disabled in conjunction with the Salvation Army.

The Geauga Hunger Task Force pantries are still open providing food with drive up, curbside service. Call 211 for pantry locations and hours of operation or go to: <https://www.geaugahungertaskforce.org/how-to-find-help>

Information on Closures of Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Locations

3:00pm, Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634)

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that 181 deputy registrar agencies and 52 driver examination stations would close at the end of the business day. A deputy registrar location will remain open ONLY to provide the issuance and/or renewal of commercial driver licenses (CDL) at the 22125 Rockside Road, Bedford location. A driver examination station will remain open ONLY to perform commercial knowledge exams at the 22123 Rockside Road, Bedford location. The continuance of CDL testing and issuance is based on the need to keep our supply chain open and moving. Supplies, such as medical, cleaning, or food supplies, are critical to the health and welfare of our residents amid the COVID-19 outbreak. For more details, go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources/bmv-closures>

Geauga Transit is still open

3:00pm, Wednesday, March 25

Source of Information: Geauga County Transit

Content Contact: JoAnna Santilli, Director JSantilli@GaugTransit.Org

Geauga Transit is still open and helping clients get to their medical appointments and other essential places such as grocery shopping or the drug store. They have drivers on the road from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm., Monday through Friday. They can take reservations up to 1 week in advance. They can even schedule rides for the same day, based on availability. All of their vehicles are handicap accessible. The bus fare is \$6.00 for a 1 way trip. Clients 65 and over or disabled can apply for a reduced fare of \$3.00 for a 1 way trip. For more information, please call 440-279-2150 or toll free at 1-888-287-7190. Please help us spread the word, so we can help Geauga County residents get to their essential appointments.

Stay Tuned to the Hospital Systems News

**<https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/category/news-releases/>
&
<https://news.uhhospitals.org/>**

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Governor's "Stay at Home" Order

2:00pm, Monday, March 23, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

When does the order take effect?

The order will take effect at 11:59p.m.EDT on Monday, March 23, 2020

Is this mandatory or just guidance?

This order is mandatory. The reason for this is to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19. This is to protect our family, friends, and vulnerable populations.

What will still be open?

All essential services, including, but not limited to: Grocery stores, Gas stations, Pharmacies, Police and Fire stations, Financial Institutions, Hospitals, clinics and healthcare operations, Garbage/sanitation, Public transportation, Public benefits (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid) hotlines

Can food/groceries be ordered?

Yes, these services will remain available along with drive through and take-out options.

Will public transportation and ridesharing be available?

These services will be available only for essential travel, if possible walk or drive yourself.

Will roads be closed in Ohio?

Roads will NOT be closed, but please only travel when necessary (essential to health or work)

Can there be visits with family or friends?

For safety reason and to make this order effective as possible to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, please remain at home. However, if it is to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or vulnerable person in need of assistance, drop off supplies, food and medication to minimize interaction as much as possible.

What about my pet?

Dogs may be walked and medical care can be sought out for pets should they require it. Continue to practice social distancing while out on walks.

Does the Stay at Home order mean I can't take my kids to the park?

Families are able to go outside, take a walk, run, ride bikes, but social distancing should still be practiced by remaining 6 feet from other people. Playgrounds are closed.

Regarding all the calls and emails about businesses that are open and complaints about working conditions:

Geauga Public Health and many county and local government officials are receiving an incredibly large number of calls and emails from the public to inform us about things they have witnessed, things they have been told, things they assume, things they themselves have experienced that do not align with the way things should be.

- These are important pieces of information to share but please recognize that the volume of reports is such that we will be prioritizing our response. Please do not expect a personal reply or dialogue. Just share the issue.
- If there is something you wish to share, please share it once and only to one recipient. We do share information with each other. County leadership meets regularly regarding our coordinated COVID-19 response.
- There are a very large number of businesses that are exempt from the order as it was written. The Health Department is working closely with the County Prosecutor's Office to explore options regarding closures.
- The Health Commissioner is making unannounced visits to those businesses about which we are receiving public comment to assure they are taking every possible step to protect their employees and the public. A business that has been visited and has been issued an order to take action will be ordered closed if those actions have not been taken
- The Amish have been strong partners with public health and have reached out to us on their own trying to help. Their efforts, especially with school and transportation, may look different but they have been approved.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS)

11:30 am, Thursday, March 26, 2020

Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

COVID-19 Pandemic Child Care Information

Effective March 26th, only Child Care centers operating as Pandemic Child Care Centers will be open. Child care will only be provided for children of health, safety and essential services workers as defined by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS). Application and enrollment will be completed at the child care centers. For a list of centers, forms and additional information on pandemic child care, visit: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>

UPDATES NOW AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES:

Video of Ohio Briefings can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's YouTube page](#).

The Ohio Channel will make these briefings available in numerous languages, including Spanish, within a few hours after each update is complete.

A list of all available press conferences can be found under the "Video" tab, and translations are ready when the "CC" symbol for closed captioning is visible the lower right of the player.

To choose a language for subtitles, first click on the "CC" symbol in the lower right of the player, select the settings icon (the gear next to the CC button), and choose the subtitles/CC option. Click the "auto translate" option and choose your preferred language for closed captioning.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

11:50 am, Monday, March 23, 2020

Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

Effective March 20, 2020 the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS) transitioned to an alternative temporary service model whereby all public interfacing was suspended, and our building is now closed to public access. Our office will maintain normal operating hours with flexible staff levels, and we will be conducting business via regular mail, email, phone, and fax. County residents may also visit our website to receive critical information regarding our benefits and/or services at www.geaugajfs.org

GCJFS can be contacted using any of the following methods:

Email: info@geaugajfs.org (preferred method)

Mail: Geauga County JFS
12480 Ravenwood Dr
Chardon OH 44024

Phone: (440) 285-9141 Fax: (440) 286-6654

Child and Adult Protective Services

Child and adult protective services staff will remain accessible during regular business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. You may reach out to your caseworker directly via phone or email. To report child or elder abuse or neglect during working hours please call **(440) 285-9141**. We will continue to provide emergent on-call coverage outside of normal business hours at **(440) 285-5665**. We are evaluating our ability to safely provide supervised par-

enting time and other interfacing services to assure the safety of staff and our clients. Please contact your caseworker if you have any case-specific questions and/or concerns.

OhioMeansJobs – Geauga County

The Career Resource Center is closed to the public; however, career services are still available:

- For assistance with resume development, job searching, interviewing skills, or your LinkedIn profile, please call (440) 285-1116; or email Lisa.Sprows@jfs.ohio.gov or Cathi.Leonello@jfs.ohio.gov.
- Applying for Unemployment Compensation benefits must be done online at www.unemployment.ohio.gov or call (877) 644-6562.
- For the Business Community in Geauga county in need of resource information, please email Man-dy.Monroe@jfs.ohio.gov

For more details, please visit www.geaugajfs.org and www.OhioMeansJobs.com

Child Support

Correspondence for Geauga County child support cases should be submitted by mail or via the Ohio Child Support Customer Service Web Portal by visiting <http://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/CustServWebPortalWelcome2.stm>

While in-person child support payments at GCJFS are suspended, there are several other options available for parents to make timely payments:

ONLINE: from a checking or savings account or by debit or credit card, free of charge, by visiting <https://oh.smartchildsupport.com>

BY PHONE: with a debit or credit card by calling (888) 965-2676 Option 5

BY MAIL: Ohio Child Support Payment Central, P.O. Box 182372, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2372. Be sure to include your name, case number and order number.

Public Assistance

Public Assistance Program clients should visit <https://benefits.ohio.gov/> to:

Apply for benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid, Child Care)

Renew your benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid)

Upload documents to your case (Food, Cash, Medicaid)

Documents can alternatively be sent as email attachments to info@geaugajfs.org or faxed to (440) 286-6654 (all documents including childcare)

Check the status of your benefits (Food, Cash, Medicaid)

Important public assistance phone numbers:

SNAP EBT Customer Service: (866) 386-3071

EPPIcard (Cash Assistance) Customer Service: (866) 320-8822

Medicaid Consumer Hotline: (800) 324-8680

FOR EVERYONE’S MENTAL HEALTH...

The mental health provider community has geared up for increases in the crisis calls. Everyone that contacts you for a mental health, substance abuse emergency or just a warm line should be directed to **Copeline** for help.

Copeline is on 24 hours a day, seven days a week with access to master’s level clinicians and psychiatry at all times.

The numbers are (440) 285-5665 or toll free at 1-888-285-5665.

If people would rather text than talk they can access the Crisis Text Line by texting 4HOPE to 741741, again 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What to do if You Become Sick

10:00am, Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of Health for the Ohio Department of Health stressed yesterday during her Press Conference with Governor Mike DeWine that we are still climbing the steep slope of the COVID-19 pandemic curve. In order to prepare for the inevitable increase in confirmed and unconfirmed cases alike, the Ohio Department of Health has created a checklist for what to do in the event you become ill:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Call 911 if you have a medical emergency. Notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19.
- Stay home except to get medical care. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home but should not leave or visit public areas.
- Keep in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home. As much as possible, stay in a specific “sick room.” Use a separate bathroom, if available. Limit contact with pets and animals; there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more is known.
- If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor’s office or emergency department, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19.
- Cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, and avoid touching your face. Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom every day with household cleaners and disinfectants, using as directed on the label; ask someone else to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home. Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
- Monitor your symptoms and seek medical care if they are worsening (for example, if you have difficulty breathing). Call the doctor or emergency department before going.
- If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include but are not limited to the following:
 - ⇒ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
 - ⇒ Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
 - ⇒ New confusion or inability to arouse.
 - ⇒ Bluish lips or face.Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

**Follow Geauga Public Health on Facebook for daily posts
from the Geauga County Health Commissioner.**

@GPHOhio

Cleaning and Disinfecting

10:30am, Friday, March 27, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

A study recently published by the New England Journal of Medicine observed the lifespan, half-life, and decay rate of COVID-19 on various surfaces. Here is the link if you'd like to take a look at the study in full: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>

The lifespan of the virus on different surfaces varies:

- Steel: up to 72 hours
- Plastic: up to 72 hours
- Cardboard: up to 24 hours
- Glass: up to 96 hours
- Copper: up to 4 hours

With that in mind, the Ohio Department of Health has issued some guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in the event 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.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

PLEASE HELP PROTECT YOURSELVES AND ALL THE REST OF US BY STAYING HOME UNLESS YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY.

HELP US WITH DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE FORWARD "STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE".

These are difficult times. People are making difficult choices. Peoples are under incredible pressures.

People want information they can trust.

Geauga Public Health wants to be where they look for that. We are here and that is our job... well, that and trying to keep you all safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There have been many questions from the public about the Amish and what is being done to communicate the COVID-19 risks. I have had several very positive phone conversations and in-person meetings with a number of community leaders. I have also submitted the following document for a direct mail to include Amish homes.

**The Plain Truth about the Coronavirus and COVID-19
Frequently asked questions and answers from the County Health Commissioner**

Q: What is COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 is a disease that can be very serious and require a stay in the hospital and has already resulted in death for too many people who get it.

Q: How will I know if I have it?

A: Most people who get it don't even know they have it. You may spread it to others without knowing it. Others who get it from you or from others will get very ill and some will die. The symptoms vary widely. For some, there are no symptoms. If you get a fever, have a dry cough, have stomach problems, have body aches, have chills, have a headache, lose your sense of smell, or lose your sense of taste, you may have COVID-19. These symptoms can come and go or they may not show up at all. That is why you need to act as though you have it and that others have it and keep your distance from each other always.

Q: How will I know if someone I am near has it?

A: You will probably not know if someone near you has it. They may not know they have it and they may be spreading it to you.

Q: How does this compare to the flu?

A: COVID-19 is far more contagious than the flu. With the flu, each person who has it will infect about 1 other person. With COVID-19, each person who has it will infect about twice as many people as the flu. COVID-19 is far more dangerous than the flu. The flu typically kills about 1 in 1,000 people who are cases. COVID-19 is expected to kill about 10 times more than that, or 1 in 100 who are cases.

Q: Should I go to church for service?

A: Your Bishop will give you advice on church. Every time you are in a group of others in close contact for any period of time, you are placing yourself and all those other people in much higher risk of getting COVID-19.

Q: Should I attend weddings and funerals?

A: Your Bishop will give you advice on attending weddings and funerals. Every time you are in a group of others in close contact for any period of time, you are placing yourself and all those other people in much higher risk of getting COVID-19.

Q: Who is at greatest risk?

A: Your elders are at greatest risk of becoming seriously ill and possibly dying if you or someone else exposes them to the virus. Also, people who have other illnesses are at increased risk for serious health problems.

Q: What can I do to protect myself and my community?

A: Stay at home. Keep at least 6 feet away from everyone else. Wash your hands with soap and water often. Stay home from work if you feel sick. Stay at home from any work that is not absolutely critical to life.

Q: Is my taxi safe?

A: Crowded taxis are definitely not safe. If you are closer than 6 feet from each other you are at risk and so are the other riders and the driver.

Battelle and OSU Wexner Medical Center Create a new Test for COVID-19

11:30am, Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio State News, The Ohio State University

Content Contact: 614-292-9681

It was announced Wednesday, March 30, 2020 that Battelle, in conjunction with The Ohio State University has created a new rapid, diagnostic test for COVID-19. The test will allow for a faster turn-around time of test results ultimately helping to “flatten the curve.” The lab is located in The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and they are working on getting a new one up and running in West Jefferson.

Test results can be available in as little as 5 hours. Currently, the testing capacity is at 200 tests per day. However, when the infrastructure is built to capacity, the expectation is that testing will increase to 1,000 tests per day.

COVID-19 Out-of-Network Insurance Coverage

1:30pm, Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that Ohioans are aware of the following information provided by the Ohio Department of Insurance regarding out-of-network insurance coverage specific to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

Effective March 20, 2020, the Ohio Department of Insurance issued a bulletin defining COVID-19 testing and treatment as emergency services. The bulletin is available at <https://iop-odicontent.s3.amazonaws.com/static/Legal/Bulletins/Documents/2020-05.pdf>.

Health insurance corporations (HICs) and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are required to pay for COVID-19 testing and treatment at both in-network and out-of-network hospitals, with no balance bill.

Other plans that are subject to the Ohio Department of Insurance’s jurisdiction are also required to pay for COVID-19 testing and treatment at both in-network and out-of-network hospitals.

- a. In the case of an out-of-network hospital for these types of plans, the health plan is required to pay what they would typically pay an in-network provider or out-of-network provider, or the Medicare rate – whichever is the greatest.
- b. As a result, the hospital will be receiving either a market rate or the Medicare rate – whichever is higher. However, the consumer may receive an out-of-network bill that the insurer is not required to pay.

If consumers receive bills for testing and treatment of COVID-19, they should reach out to the Ohio Department of Insurance at Consumer.Complaint@insurance.ohio.gov to ensure claims are being processed according to the Ohio Department of Insurance guidance.

The Ohio Department of Insurance does not have regulatory authority over a significant number of health plans in Ohio. As a result, the Ohio Department of Insurance’s order does not apply to Medicare, Medicaid, or self-insured employer plans.

Setting a New Routine

11:00am, Monday, March 30, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

President Trump has declared that social distancing will remain in effect until April 30, 2020. Staying at home to work, providing children education, being unemployed, or spending excessive time alone, can present challenges for many families and individuals. One way to help cope is to set a new routine:

- Create a schedule. Find an online template or app that provides a way to list activities for every hour of the day or make one of your own. Schedule something at least every hour.
- Establish times for waking up, meals and snacks, going to bed, and sleeping. Get ready for the day, bath or shower, brush your teeth, get dressed. Don't wear pajamas all day.
- Set start and end times for things like hobbies, meditating, self-care, taking walks, bicycling, other exercise, making phone calls or video conferencing with friends or family, social media activity, reading, playing games, walking/playing with pets, music, cooking, gardening or yard work, watching TV, journaling, movie time, and other leisure activities.
- Routine and schedule are especially important for children and help them feel a sense of stability, security, and structure. Set consistent start and end times for schooling or education. If possible, find out how your child's school organizes the day and frame your schedule in a similar way. Set times for chores, crafts, snacks, music, play, and naps or relaxation.
- If working from home, set hours similar to those worked on site. Create a space in your home for work activities, preferably away from distractions. If possible, make it a space you can get away from when you are not on the clock. Schedule time for meals and breaks.
- Make time for breaks.
- Make sure everyone gets some alone time.
- Be sure to keep any essential medical or mental health appointments. Try telehealth when available and appropriate.
- Schedule time to go out for necessities. Try to do this once a week or less and pick a non-peak time.
- Build in time for helping neighbors and others, such as doing their yardwork or dropping off meals, baked goods, groceries, medications, or mail at the doorstep. Look for other ways to safely volunteer.

**Follow Geauga Public Health on Facebook for daily posts
from the Geauga County Health Commissioner.**

@GPHOhio

Ohio-Based Nonprofit Company, Battelle, to Begin Sterilizing N95 Masks for Re-Use

10:00am, Monday, March 30, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

The Governor held an unexpected press conference on Sunday, March 29, 2020 to address some issues he has been having with the FDA and their approval processes during this time. An Ohio-based nonprofit, Battelle, has produced two machines capable of sterilizing upwards of 80,000 N95 masks per machine per day. Through this decontamination process, which takes several hours to complete and involves vapor phase hydrogen peroxide, each mask can be sterilized up to a maximum of twenty times without affecting its integrity.

Yesterday afternoon the Governor announced that a partial approval from the FDA had granted Battelle the ability to sterilize only 10,000 of their 160,000 mask capacity a day. After a call to the President and more discussions with the FDA, Battelle is now fully approved to utilize their machines to their maximum capacity.

Battelle CEO, Lewis Von Thaer, expressed that as soon as the approval from the FDA was granted, their machines could be put to use for the state of Ohio. Battelle is actively working on getting more machines out to New York, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington D.C. with the expectation that they will be able to build two new machines a week as the supply chain allows.

Together Ohio

9:45am, Sunday, March 29, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Ohio officials are developing strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concerns and uncertainties it brings, but they cannot flatten the curve on their own. Every Ohioan has a part to play in helping to save lives. For many, this will mean staying at home. For others, it will mean taking care of the most vulnerable among us or providing healthcare, food, education, information, or the things we need to stay safe at home.

We are all in this together, Ohio. If you are interested in helping your fellow Ohioans, please email: together@governor.ohio.gov with the following:

- Name
- Contact information
- How you are interested in helping

Another way to help is to support local businesses. Visit Support Local Ohio at: <https://ohio.org/supportlocalohio/> to find links to local restaurants and retailers you can support by ordering delivery or carryout, making online purchases, or buying gift cards.

For information on ways officials have addressed the pandemic, visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/public-health-orders/public-health-orders>.

For additional information on financial resources being made available through state or federal programs, visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/Resources-for-Economic-Support/econ>.

Staying Safe at Home

10:15am, Sunday, March 29, 2020

Source of Information: Ohio Department of Health

Content Contact: 1-833-4AskODH (1-833-427-5634) www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

If you need support, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7 through any of these measures: calling 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224, visiting thehotline.org, or by texting LOVEIS to 22522.

The Stay At Home Order announced by Governor Mike DeWine specifically exempts victims of domestic violence. The order states: "Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternate location."

Some ways to stay safe, from the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline include:

- Create a safety plan. A safety plan is a personalized, practical plan that includes ways to remain safe while in a relationship, planning to leave, or after leaving.
- Consider alternative places of shelter, such as a family or friends home or a motel, or sleeping in your vehicle.
- Try to maintain social connections online or over the phone, if it is safe to do so, and try to stick to your daily routines as much as possible.
- Make a list of supportive people and have regular check-ins via phone or video chat.
- Take breaks outside, keeping social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others as much as possible) in mind.
- Consider what places in your home are easy to get in and out of during a conflict.
- Create a code word to share with your support network to indicate when you need immediate help.
- Make and hide an 'escape bag' with your important documents, medicine, keys, and other items.
- Practice self-care. Be gentle with yourself.

Ways COVID-19 could uniquely impact intimate partner violence survivors, from the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

- Abusive partners may withhold necessary items, such as hand sanitizer or disinfectants.
- Abusive partners may share misinformation about the pandemic to control or frighten survivors, to keep them away from their children or family, or to prevent them from seeking appropriate medical attention if needed.
- Abusive partners may withhold insurance cards, threaten to cancel insurance, or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they need it.
- Programs that serve survivors may be significantly impacted -- shelters may be full or may even stop intakes altogether. Survivors may also fear entering shelter because of being in close quarters with groups of people.
- Survivors who are older or have chronic heart or lung conditions may be at increased risk in public places where they would typically get support, like shelters, counseling centers, or courthouses.
- Travel restrictions may impact a survivor's escape or safety plan – it may not be safe for them to use public transportation or to fly.
- An abusive partner may feel more justified and escalate their isolation tactics.

Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services (GCJFS)

11:40 am, Friday, March 27, 2020

Source of the information: Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

Content contact: Paul.Reiman@jfs.ohio.gov.

SNAP, Cash and Medicaid Workers are working remotely

Geauga County Job and Family Services is informing Geauga residents that our SNAP, Cash and Medicaid eligibility workers are now working from home. Our calls may show up as “**No Caller ID**” or “**Call Restricted**” or something similar. This means if you get a call from us, it will not display “Geauga County JFS.” We are asking you to answer these calls as our workers may be returning your voice mail message or calling you for your phone interview.

Notice to Geauga County Employers: SharedWork Ohio

SharedWork Ohio is a voluntary layoff aversion program. It allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. Under a SharedWork Ohio plan, the participating employer reduces affected employees’ hours in a uniform manner. The participating employee works the reduced hours each week, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provides eligible individuals an unemployment insurance benefit proportionate to their reduced hours. For more information go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/SharedWorkOhio/index.stm>

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)

The Regular HEAP Program provides a one-time HEAP benefit to income eligible households and is applied as a direct credit to your main source of heat or fuel vendor. The amount of your benefit will vary and is dependent upon federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income, and the primary fuel you use to heat your home.

For the Winter Crisis Program, eligible households in emergency situations may qualify to receive (once per heating season) up to \$175 in payment assistance to help maintain, restore, transfer or initiate their gas or electric utility services. In addition, those with 25% or less supply of bulk fuel (wood, coal, propane, fuel oil) may also qualify to receive up to \$750 in assistance.

Both programs had been scheduled to end March 31, 2020, but the deadlines have been extended. **Regular HEAP applications will now be accepted through June 1, 2020 and HEAP Winter Crisis applications will be accepted through May 1, 2020.** Households which have already received a benefit from either program are not eligible to re-apply. Telephone interviews will be scheduled for the Winter Crisis Program. Additional information, including applying online, may be found at www.energyhelpohio.gov or by calling (800) 282-0880.



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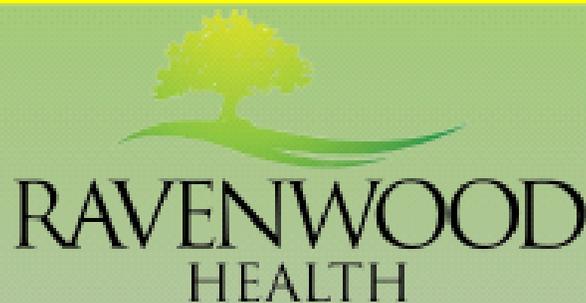
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