FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2019 Novel Coronavirus
No cases reported in Ohio and the risk to the American public is low

CELINA- As of February 3, 2020 there are 11 confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus, also called 2019-nCoV, in the United States. There are no confirmed cases in Ohio. The United States is still considered low risk for the spread of the virus and there has not been any community spread in the United States to date.

It’s important to know that that are different types of coronaviruses and it’s possible to be diagnosed with coronavirus that is not related to the current outbreak. The 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus is the newest strain.

On Sunday, February 2, 2020 new federal travel restrictions for persons traveling from China went into effect. The travel restrictions are expected to help contain the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus:

- As of 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, citizens returning to the U.S. who have been in Hubei Province, China, in the previous two weeks are subject to screening and up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine.
- U.S. citizens returning to the United States who have been to other parts of mainland China within the previous two weeks are subject to screening and up to 14 days of self-monitored, self-quarantine.
- Foreign citizens who have been to China in the previous two weeks are being denied entry to the U.S. Immediate family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents are exempt.

People returning under the new federal guidelines outlined above are being routed to 11 airports where they will be screened before returning to local communities. They will only be allowed to return home if they are asymptomatic.

Although influenza viruses and the 2019 novel coronavirus have similar symptoms, the risk of catching the flu in the United States is far greater. To help prevent infection with 2019-nCoV, take the 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.

For further information, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

The Mercer County Health District continues to monitor the situation closely with the Ohio Department of Health and will issue information as warranted.
If you have any questions, please contact the Mercer County Health District at 419-586-3251.