FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2020

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MCHD elevates Incident Command System (ICS) structure to Full Activation

CELINA- In response to the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation, the Mercer County Health District (MCHD) has increased our incident command system (ICS) structure to full activation. Our Department Operations Center (DOC) is open.

As of March 16, 2020, there are 3,487 confirmed cases, 68 deaths, and 49 states reporting cases of COVID-19. Ohio is reporting 50 confirmed cases and 14 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Ohio. The Mercer County Health District reports no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the county.

On March 16, 2020, The Director of Ohio Department of Health, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, signed an order closing the following: gyms, fitness centers, recreation centers, bowling alleys, indoor water parks, movie theaters, and trampoline parks. Additionally, DeWine has changed the restriction on mass gatherings from 100 people to 50 people.

On March 16, 2020, Governor DeWine recommended that the state delay in-person voting for Tuesday’s Ohio Primary until June 2, 2020. Absentee voting is encouraged.

Even though there are no confirmed cases in the county, is it likely COVID-19 is already here. MCHD encourages the citizens of Mercer County to take the orders and recommendations seriously. We are taking dramatic actions to help slow down the rate the virus is spreading. The citizens that are at high risk of getting very ill from COVID-19 include older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, etc.

If you feel that you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), there are things you can do at home. Mildly ill patients are encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance. Patients need to be vigilant in monitoring symptoms and reach out to a healthcare provider if symptoms worsen. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately. Please do not go to the emergency room or urgent care unless you have already communicated with your healthcare provider and called ahead.

MCHD continues to work with the Ohio Department of Health, county, and community partners. We will continue to keep you informed. Immunizations are still available by appointment as of now. Anyone visiting the office for other services such as birth and death certificates or environmental health permits is encouraged to call the MCHD office ahead of time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Mercer County Health District at 419-586-3251.

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