



# PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE FOR COVID-19

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**To Logan County** - Logan County Health District would like to update you weekly during this challenging time. This is the first so it attempts to cover one month's activities. Usually when public health is working well in your community the general public doesn't notice what is taking place at your local Health Department. Public health is defined as "the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting physical health." The response needed for our fight against COVID-19 involves many public health activities. I will post a weekly report on activities taking place in this response. Our Response started about one month ago as we organized our incident command to better respond and coordinate this coming public health emergency challenges.

Essential Functions for the health district were defined early. These are services that must continue no matter what. Birth and Death Certificates, Food Service Programs, Water Testing/Safety, WIC Services, Infectious Disease Reporting and Investigations, Sharing Information about COVID-19 with Healthcare, Mary Rutan Hospital, First responders, Long-term Care Facilities, Home Health, Schools, and General Public and keeping [www.loganhealth.org](http://www.loganhealth.org) updated with current information.

We are meeting, updating and coordinating with Logan County Commissioners, EMA Director, Medical Professionals, Healthcare Community, First Responders, Mary Rutan Hospital, Schools, Ohio Department of Health, and Logan County Board of Health.

## **Things accomplished: 3-1-2020 to 4-1-2020:**

**Communication;** Press releases, many contacts and information shared with multiple community agencies, churches, camps, businesses and the healthcare community. This information, rules, and orders are continually changing so frequent updates are necessary. Improved Website and Social Media Outreach; Set up LCHD Call Center for Logan County specific questions from Healthcare Providers and Possible Testing with limited testing Resources; Dr. Hoddinott has been communicating important public health messages on the radio, Facebook, media releases and our Website.

**Point of Dispensing (POD)** – This is a model for dispensing medication/vaccines or possible help with testing. It is what we have prepared to do; LCHD began gathering resources that we have available through past exercises and real-life events to be ready when our community receives direction/orders from ODH. These are all possibilities so we need to be ready.

**Preparing Staff to work Remotely:** Guidelines, Agreements, IT issues; Started working with employees in the "most vulnerable age groups for teleworking from home.

**Holding Monthly Board Meetings Remotely and Holding the Yearly District Advisory Council Remotely-** IT capabilities are being tested (remote access/internet capabilities from our home/ hosting online meeting with multiple agencies) and we were prepared thanks to our IT Manager. So important in these COVID-19 Pandemic times!

**Evaluate Countywide PPE Needs-** This is a nationwide shortage; We have received PPS's for the entire County from a national stockpile; Three agencies (EMA, Hospital and Public Health) are working together to get PPE's to the ODH Designated at risk groups; For PPE needs Law Enforcement/Jail & EMS contact EMA; Health Community Contact the LCHD at 937-592-4060 option#1; Donations are being taken at MRH Logan View location at 110 Dowell Avenue in Bellefontaine (between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm). We ask that items are bagged or boxed for easy drop-off.

**Public Health Surveillance/Testing/First COVID-19 case/PPE disbursement** - The call center and nurses are working to screen for testing; starting contact tracing and notifying those contacts of 3 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Logan County; Looking for testing resources to increase the capability of testing in our community; Working closely with MRH regarding local testing process and criteria; Getting Up to date information to healthcare providers in the community.

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