



Columbiana County Health District

P.O. Box 309 – 7360 State Route 45 – Lisbon, Ohio 44432
Phone: 330-424-0272 – **General Fax:** 330-424-1733 – **Nursing Fax:** 330-424-1843
Email: cchd@columbiana-health.org **Web:** www.columbiana-health.org

FOR RELEASE

February 5, 2020 2:30 P.M.

Public Health: An Everyday Job

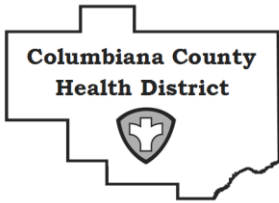
Part of the job of all health departments is to review and follow up with any confirmed communicable disease cases within its jurisdiction, whether it be Chlamydia or Coronavirus. To monitor and manage class A and class B diseases, the Columbiana County Health District employs a full-time local epidemiologist and public health nurses along with medical and administrative support staff. This group of dedicated professionals work directly with local hospital partners and health care providers; and when the need arises, the effort can be a 24 hour a day 7 day a week undertaking.

The majority of the confirmed disease reports come to our office from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) database. This database is reviewed several times a day for new cases which are investigated accordingly. This investigation may include contact with the patient, laboratory, hospital or other medical service provider. As the disease investigating grows, it sometimes includes coordination with other local health districts and the state department of health. No matter the situation, the public health mission of our office remains the same. With years of experience including H1N1, hepatitis A, preparations for ebola, constant training and excellent partnerships; this department is able to expand quickly when necessary, to accommodate any public health crisis that may occur.

Investigation is just one piece of the public health puzzle. A major part is communicating with the public about diseases and disease prevention along with combating the ever-growing battle of misinformation. One excellent example happening currently is the overwhelming public response of purchasing face masks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend the use of face masks by the public to prevent respiratory illness and does not recommend their use to prevent coronavirus. In fact, a false sense of security and neglecting other precautions like hand washing could put the public at a greater risk for disease.

To date, we still do not have any confirmed cases of coronavirus in Ohio and the risk of contracting the virus remains low but for overall health we continue to recommend:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- 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.



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- 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 more local updates about the flu or Coronavirus please visit our website at www.columbiana-health.org and follow us on Facebook!

More information can also be found at the Ohio Department of Health's website: www.odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home

Don't forget to sign up for Columbiana County Wireless Emergency Alerts (WENS) at https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/columbiana_oh/wens.cfm

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