

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

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February 14, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

We continue to work with the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and local partners on the response to COVID-19, the new name established by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the 2019 novel coronavirus. The risk for community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States remains low at this time, with 15 total cases being reported in US.

The national temporary travel restrictions that suspend entry in the United States of foreign nationals who have visited China within the past 14 days remain in place. Measures to detect this virus among those travelers who are allowed entry into the United States (U.S. citizens, residents and family) who have been in China within 14 days also are being implemented.

We will continue to monitor returning travelers from China under voluntary self-quarantine during this 14 day period. In Ohio to date, five people have been formally identified as Persons under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 and all five that have been tested are negative.

We are following standard public health procedures for infectious disease response in addressing COVID-19: **identify, diagnose, isolate, treat, and contact trace.**

Those at risk for contracting COVID-19 are **identified and diagnosed** through specific testing. If someone is found to be positive for COVID-19, they are **isolated** to prevent exposing others and receive clinical treatment. **Contract tracing** involves tracking close contacts of the individual for evaluation.

It is important to understand the difference between the following terms: **isolation** is used to separate **ill or infected** persons who have a communicable disease from those who are healthy, whereas, **quarantine** is used to separate and restrict the movement of **well** persons who may have been exposed to a communicable disease to see if they become ill.

We are working closely with the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management in this response and information is being disseminated widely to hospitals, schools, businesses, safety forces and the general public.

Please remember that we are currently in the middle of flu season and CCBH data indicates that flu activity in the county is HIGH.

CDC estimates that so far this season, there have been at least 22 million flu illnesses, 210,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 deaths from flu.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against influenza and its potentially serious complications.

- Flu vaccination can [reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu](#), as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations
- Data suggest that even if someone gets sick after vaccination, their illness may be milder
- Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year
- Vaccination of [high risk persons](#) is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- [People at high risk of serious flu complications](#) include young children, [pregnant women](#), people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and [people 65 years and older](#)
- Vaccination also is important for [health care workers](#), and other people who live with or care for high-risk people to keep from spreading flu to them
- [Infants younger than 6 months](#) are at high risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated. Studies have shown that flu vaccination of the mother during pregnancy can protect the baby after birth from flu infection for several months. Additionally, people who live with or care for infants should be vaccinated.

Links to more information can be found on CCBH's website at <https://www.ccbh.net/coronavirus/>

We will continue to update you on new developments as we move through this rapidly evolving COVID-19 response.

Please contact us at 216.201.2000 with any questions or concerns.