



Franklin County Public Health
280 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4562
(614) 525-3160
www.myfcph.org

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Jurisdiction & County Agency Situational Update—Notes

March 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Joe Mazzola, Franklin County Health Commissioner

2. Chet Chaney

Chair, Franklin County Township Association

- Working with many organizations to address the potential gaps in meal distribution for senior citizens and other members of the community.
- During these times, every day ordinary people are doing extraordinary things to make their community better.

3. Commissioner Kevin Boyce

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

- The Franklin County Board of Commissioners appropriated a little under \$6 million to the Community Shelter Board to continue their work around homelessness and community shelter.
- Community Shelter Board is planning for an extension of their shelter facilities as a result of needing to apply social distancing in their shelter centers.
- The Community Shelter Board is in the process of identifying more facilities to accommodate the current needs.
- There is a spirit of cooperation in Central Ohio.
- Things are moving along in the direction that gives me confidence that as this pandemic matures, we will have put our best foot forward and will have done our best to protect everyone.

4. State Representative Laura Lanese

23rd District of the Ohio House of Representatives

- House Bill 197 passed unanimously on 3/25/2020
- Highlights from HB 197:
 - Keeping the election date, March 17, and are allowing absentee ballots to come in as late as April 28.
 - Secretary of State will be sending out postcards with instructions on how to request an absentee ballot.
 - Waiving K-12 testing and graduation requirements. High-school seniors will be allowed to graduate if their school determines they were on track to do so before classes were interrupted.
 - Allowing distance learning to take the place of attendance.
 - Trying to make it as easy as possible to get food to students who do not have access to food during the day. Director of Agriculture is working to eliminate some of the regulations that would have hindered food prep, etc.
 - Prohibiting the cut off of water to residents.
 - Extended the tax filing date for Ohio taxes to July 15, 2020.

- Giving Governor DeWine the ability to tap into our rainy-day fund. DeWine's requests will have to go through the Controlling Board.
- Expanding unemployment insurance, temporarily waiving the typical waiting period required to qualify for unemployment benefits and removing the requirement that applicants must seek work.
- Allowing the rehiring of recently retired workers in certain key industries such as prisons, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Veterans Services, and Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Temporarily allows public meetings to be held remotely, so long as the public has access.

5. **Senator Stephanie Kunze**

16th Senate District

- Additional highlights from HB 197:
 - Provisions that adjusted dates and timelines in regard to childcare centers.
 - Allowing recent nursing-school graduates to obtain a temporary license to practice as a way to address the shortage of healthcare workers.
 - Granted certified registered nurse aestheticians, under certain conditions, the ability to perform additional duties-this is a permanent law change. Trying to increase and build up capacity within the health system as much as we can, creatively.

6. **Franklin County Public Health Updates**

Operations Updates – Alex Jones, Assistant Health Commissioner

- Case Count: (As of 3/25/2020 @ 3:15pm)
 - Worldwide: 454,398 cases
 - US: 61,167 cases
 - Ohio: 704 cases
 - Franklin County: 32 cases within FCPH jurisdiction
 - As of 3/25, FCPH is investigating 32 confirmed cases of COVID-19 outside of the Cities of Columbus and Worthington.
 - Age range is 2-84 years of age, illness onset dates 3/2-3/22.
- Signs/symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Fever >100.4, dry cough, shortness of breath
 - Other common symptoms can include nausea/vomiting, upset stomach, general malaise/fatigue
- Testing:
 - There is not enough testing to go around. As a result, there has been a prioritization and a tiering effort in Ohio to prioritize testing for individuals considered high-risk.
 - New guidance for individuals who are encouraged to be tested based on clinician assessment:

1. Individuals who are hospitalized in one of our acute medical hospitals.
 2. Healthcare or first responders who are symptomatic.
 3. Individuals who are hospitalized and perhaps a little less sick, but have the potential to become very sick (such as those who are very elderly and those who have severe medical conditions).
- Mildly/moderately symptomatic patients are not being tested.
 - Encouraging those individuals to stay home and manage symptoms at home as long as they do not need acute medical treatment or emergency care.
 - Encouraging those managing symptoms at home to self-isolate, as if they were a positive confirmed case. Avoid public places.
 - Use the following criteria before you resume normal activity:
 - Seven days since symptom onset
 - Fever free for 72 hours (without taking any fever reduction medication)
 - Improvement in other symptoms
 - If you fall into one of the high-risk groups mentioned above, please call your doctor's office or urgent care center before you arrive so they can have the appropriate PPE.
 - Same guidance goes for calling EMS, 911, or an ambulance- tell dispatcher of symptoms before emergency personnel arrive
- Reporting:
 - Suspected or tested clients are no longer a Class A reportable disease.
 - Only individuals that test positive must be immediately reported to their local health department via the normal 24/7 Class A Reportable Disease Line.
 - Once Local Health Department is notified, epidemiologists and public health nurses begin contact tracing the close contacts of the confirmed cases to notify them of the need to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor health symptoms for signs of COVID-19.
 - Note: jurisdiction of the case is determined by home address; the jurisdiction that receives the case will coordinate with other local health departments for potential contacts within their jurisdictions.
 - Employer notification:
 - Employers will be notified by the local health department if an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

Communications Updates – Mitzi Kline

- Actively expanding Franklin County Public Health's website: <https://covid-19.myfcph.org/>
 - Information on how to reach out to Ohio Department of Health for questions
 - Current case count for Franklin County Public Health's jurisdiction
 - Resources page for residents
 - Printable resources
 - Link to CDC information
 - Updates
- Franklin County Public Health does not release case count information by city/village/township.

- Franklin County Public Health only releases case count data for Franklin County as a whole.

Logistics Updates – Jennifer Robinson

- County agencies are directed to request from Emergency Medical Agency (EMA) directly, and we are assisting if they are unsure with that process.
- Nonprofit and private companies requesting PPE supplies are working with us, and we are requesting the supplies from the EMA on their behalf.
- Anyone requesting hand or surface sanitizer are being connected with GoJo out of the Cleveland area; there is another potential supplier we are still working on.

Safety Updates – Garrett Guillozet

- Continuing to advise staff and entities of best use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Please continue to check our website and coronavirus.ohio.gov for that information.
 - Encouraging businesses and other entities who have extra PPE to donate it to the EMA.
- Working alongside Infectious Disease Investigators to issue Isolation/Quarantine Orders to positive cases.
- Enforcing the Director's Stay-At-Home Order and other applicable orders.
 - The Health Department is getting many questions/concerns.
 - The Health Department is providing information to businesses on essential vs. nonessential. And if they are essential, making sure that they understand and are fully aware of the social distancing requirements that are in the Directors Order.
 - Encourage businesses who many have questions to read the FAQ document on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website.

Liaison Updates – Niki Lemin, Assistant Health Commissioner

- Focused on connecting our staff with partners and stakeholders out in the community.
- Working closely with Columbus Public Health and other partners on connecting residents with resources.
- Promoting and linking those resources on our website.
- Outreach to vulnerable populations.

7. Call to Action

Joe Mazzola, Franklin County Health Commissioner

- Franklin County Public Health is so thankful for everyone's assistance. Everyone is playing a role with this response and we cannot thank everyone enough for that effort.

Visit covid-19.myfcp.org for the latest information.