

# KNOX COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



## COVID-19

### SITUATION REPORT 14

Knox County Emergency Management Agency

March 23, 2020

The Information contained in the report is accurate as of 3:30 P.M.

There are now **442** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in **46** Ohio counties, **104** of which are hospitalized and **6** deaths. For a list of counties with cases go to: [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

**Knox Public Health** has been notified of a second lab confirmed case of COVID-19 in a Knox County resident. The individual is a 71-yr-old male who is hospitalized at Knox Community Hospital. According to Health Commissioner Julie Miller, the agency was notified of the second positive case Sunday night by the Ohio Department of Health, less than 48 hours after notification of the county's first case. The latest positive individual had no travel history or known contact with a positive case, and is being attributed to community transmission. The two cases are not related.

**Strategic National Stockpile Update** - Ohio did not receive as much PPE as what they had requested and they do not feel that it is enough to handle this pandemic. Ohio has requested additional supplies, but we have no confirmation if and when we may receive them. Conservation of PPE is still remains a priority. There will be four types of PPE allocated: fit tested masks (N95 and P100), surgical masks, disposable gowns and gloves. The allocation was based upon the CDC's Pandemic Plan that takes into consideration critical users. Critical users have been identified as: EMS, hospitals, long term care, other healthcare and law enforcement.

**Governor Mike DeWine** announced today a state hiring freeze. The announcement came as the governor said state revenues are expected to drop precipitously as the economy comes to a virtual standstill due to the spread of the pandemic. Analysts have compared the looming economic hit to the Great Recession, which saw Ohio tax revenue shrunk by double-digit percentages during 2009. "Commercial activity is slowing down dramatically across the state of Ohio," Mr. DeWine said. The governor also announced a freeze on new contract services and directed cabinet officials to find cuts of up to 20% in their departments, while acknowledging that some can't meet that goal due to the nature of their missions.

## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

The first cases of COVID-19 were identified in Ohio on March 9, 2020. Governor DeWine declared a State of Emergency in order to increase resources available for state-response. March 11, 2020, a fourth case, the first of "community spread" was confirmed in Stark County. President Trump declared a national state of emergency on March 13, 2020 over the global COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic. The first case of COVID-19 in Knox County was confirmed on March 20, 2020.

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



## EVENT RESOURCES

- Ohio Department of Health (ODH) COVID-19 call center 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). (Open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- ODH COVID-19 information ([www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov))
- COVID-19 status (<https://ohio-sentry-2019-ncov-oema.hub.arcgis.com/>)
- COVID-19 information for the public (<https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>)
- COVID-19 confirmed cases in the US (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>)
- CDC Guidance for Administrators of Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>)
- CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>)
- For information on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act go to: <https://fisheldowney.com/families-first-coronavirus-response-act-passed-will-quickly-impact-employers/>

## INCIDENT ASSESSMENT FOR KNOX COUNTY

**Lead Agency:** Knox Public Health

**Unified Command:** Unified Command (UC) was officially established on Friday March 20, 2020. UC is comprised of Health Commissioner Julie Miller, Sheriff David Shafer, Mount Vernon Fire Chief Chad Christopher, Knox Community Hospital Safety Officer Russell Maroni, and Emergency Management Director Mark Maxwell.

**Emergency Operations Center Status:** Knox County EOC will be going from Assessment to Partial Activation.

**Declarations:** The Board of Knox County Commissioners have issued a Declaration of State of Emergency due to COVID-19.

**Fatalities:** None

**Injuries:** None

**Evacuations:** None

**Shelters:** None

**Critical Infrastructure Impacted:** None

**Gaps or Unmet Needs:** There is and will be unanimous need for hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and personal protective equipment (PPE). The varying availability of these items is something that is being seen within Ohio and nationwide. The state EOC is working through procurement channels to better identify the current and future availability of these resources

***\*\*\*It is critically important to use conservation measures for all PPE\*\*\****

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



**On-going Missions:** All local missions are for PPE.

**Requests for State Assistance:**

Requesting Entity	County Mission Request Number	Ohio EMA Tracking Number	Summary of Request
Knox Public Health	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Fire and EMS Agencies	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Knox Community Hospital	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Knox Community Hospital	2020-01-03	20088	IV Tubing
Additional EMS and Law Enforcement Agencies	2020-01-04	20343	PPE

**\*If you have exhausting all local resources and points of contact, contact Mark Maxwell to discuss forwarding your request to the State.**

## INCIDENT IMPACTS BY JURISDICTIONS

**Knox County** – The County Service Center at 117 E. High St will be closed to the public. Essential services are still being conducted. Please call or email the appropriate office.

**City of Mount Vernon** – All members of the public are requested to call before visiting city facilities. All department heads have been authorized to reduce their workforce or move to remote work to the extent practical.

**Village of Centerburg** – The Village of Centerburg is limiting access to public facilities.

**Village of Danville** – All village offices are closed to the public. For village services call 740-599-6888, follow the prompts and leave a message.

**Village of Fredericktown** – The Fredericktown Municipal Building will be closed to the public.

**Village of Gambier** – The village is limiting access to public facilities. The Library, Head Start, and the Community Center are closed to the public. Water bill and tax payments should be placed in the drop box.

## CURRENT EOC OBJECTIVES

1. Establish and maintain situational awareness and common operational picture of the event and potential impacts.

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



2. Using all available sources, communicate details to key partners in a coordinated manner.
3. Support executive decision making.
4. Receive, prioritize, and fulfill requests for resources.
5. Conduct planning for future needs and contingencies.

## KEY PARTNER ACTIVITIES

**Call Line** - Knox Community Hospital and Knox Public Health are providing a “Call Line”. The call line will allow residents who think they might have COVID-19 to talk directly with a medical professional. The call-line number is 740-399-8014. The call-line will be operational from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The call line has taken over 200 calls to date.

**AEP Ohio** – Currently AEP is not disconnecting service and not doing planned outages unless absolutely necessary due to the large amount of people working from home.

**Board of Elections** - The Ohio Primary Election was postpone to June 2. Absentee ballots will be permitted, but in-person voting would not take place until June 2.

**Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS)** – The Regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness (RHEP) Coalition is in response mode for COVID 19. COTS has activated their Hospital Incident Liaison (HIL). Central Ohio hospitals continue to make preparations for a medical surge. Testing supplies (viral swabs and viral medium) and PPE is in extremely short supply.

**Common Pleas Court** - Criminal cases involving jail inmates will be handled by video conference. All non-jail criminal cases will be continued until after April 15. Civil and domestic relations cases will be handled by telephone. Civil Protection Orders will be accepted as normal. Anyone having an emergency or urgent matter can file a request with the Court for a hearing.

**Kenyon College** – Kenyon has suspended its residential program, effective immediately. Coursework will be conducted remotely starting March 23 through the end of the semester.

**Knox Area Transit** – KAT will continue to provide service as directed during this covid-19 event. All buses will continue to be disinfected on a daily basis with many disinfected more often, especially those transporting to and from medical appointments. Riders are asked to practicing social distancing, not ride if they have a fever or are feeling ill, and if you begin a fever or feeling ill, notify the driver so they may disinfect the bus.

**Knox Community Chaplain Corps** – KCCP has agreed to coordinate local service organizations to provide any assistance including food and items such as diapers as well as mental health and spiritual support.

**Knox Community Hospital** – KCH has opened their Incident Command. Non-necessary office visits are being cancelled. Triage locations are now in place outside of the Emergency Room and Urgent Care Center. The Wellness Center has been closed. A no visitor policy has been implemented. There are exceptions for: end-of-life patients, patients with disabilities who need assistance, Patients under 18, Maternity patients (one support person) members of the clergy and those with power of attorney.

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



**Knox County 9-1-1** – Call takers will be asking callers viral illness screening question early in the call is to provide additional situational awareness for responders.

**Knox County Foundation** – KCF is providing an Emergency Funding Grant program for Knox County non-profits seeing a financial strain due to COVID-19 (press release and application attached).

**Knox County Sheriff's Office** - the procedure for incoming inmates and visitors to the Jail will contain additional screening measures. In person visits and jail programs will also be temporarily suspended.

**Knox County Clerk of Courts, Title Division** - The Title Office located at 671 North Sandusky has been closed.

**Knox Public Health** – If you would like someone to make a presentation regarding coronavirus, email Pam Palm at [ppalm@knoxhealth.com](mailto:ppalm@knoxhealth.com). KCP is providing guidance on the prevention of COVID-19 to local businesses, elected officials, churches, nursing homes, individuals and others. Educational materials are available for businesses and other groups to use. Non-necessary office visits are being cancelled.

**Mount Vernon Nazarene University** - Beginning Thursday, March 19, all courses will be delivered remotely through the end of the academic year. Student dorms will be closed effective March 19. The campus will remain open to accommodate specific student housing needs. Those approved to stay on campus will have food service available.

**Mount Vernon Police Department** – Calls not requiring a physical response to the scene of an incident may be handled via phone call if possible. Officers responding to calls that require an in-person response will be directed not to enter private residences or enclosed spaces if it is not necessary to address the incident. Complainants will be requested to meet the Officers outside. Background checks, and fingerprinting, tours and PR events are suspended.

**Ohio Department of Health** -Received COVID-19 test kits from the CDC.

**Ohio EMA** – The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains Partially Activated (8a-5p, 7 days). Ohio EMA's Watch Office will be available 24 hours per day. Operational and planning efforts were focused on public information & warning, healthcare systems support, responder security and protection, and private sector coordination.

**Pathways/2-1-1** – Remember to direct callers to 2-1-1 for non-emergency questions. They are referring callers with COVID-19 questions to the ODH call center or the CDC website.

**Public Library of Mount Vernon & Knox County** – The library has closed all of its locations until further notice.

**PUCO** – Transportation Department has granted limited regulatory relief from the hours of service requirements for the intrastate commercial motor vehicle operations to meet the immediate needs for consumer goods (food, paper products, and groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores), medical supplies, gasoline, diesel, propane, heating

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



oil, and waste removal (residential waste and transfer of waste between transfer stations and landfills and remain in effect for the duration of the declared State of Emergency or until rescinded.

**The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon and Knox County** - The Salvation Army building is closed to the public and is providing only essential services including the food pantry. All programming and group meetings are suspended. Sunday services will be livestreamed. Food bags will be provided during hot meal times. Food Pantry days and times are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-noon and 1-3pm; Tuesday, Thursday, 4pm-6:30pm. Please call the office at 740-392-8716 with name, address, number in family and pick up time. Please call the office at 740-392-8716 with name, address, number in family and pick up time.

**Station Break Senior Center** - The Station Break is closed to the public. Meals are still being provided to homebound seniors.

**United Way of Knox County** - Announced a partnership between Knox Area Transit and the Knox County Community Chaplains group to provide delivery of prescription medications and groceries, to seniors and those with at-risk medical conditions in Knox County. Deliveries will be scheduled from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M., Monday through Saturday. Sunday deliveries will be from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Those needing this service can call 740-485-5002.

## Current Orders and Recommendations:

- The State has issued an order to a Stay Home for Ohioans effective 11:59 p.m. March 23, 2020.
- The State has issued an order to close adult day centers for persons with developmental disabilities unless it is a group of 10 or less.
- The State has issued an order to close older adult day care services and senior centers at the close of business on Monday, March 23, 2020.
- The State has issued an order to expand telehealth options for Ohio Medicaid recipients and their providers to relax regulations to allow recipients access health care providers from home.
- The State has issued an order to allow for the establishment and licensure of Temporary Pandemic Child Care Centers to provide health, safety and other essential services. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services issued emergency rules setting licensure requirements.
- The State has issued an order to allow the Ohio National Guard to help with hospital setup of tents for the purposes of testing and quarantining. They will also be aiding local food banks and similar organizations with normal operations distributing food and supplies.
- The State has issued an order closing bowling alleys, health clubs, fitness centers, gyms, yoga studios, indoor trampoline parks, indoor water parks, movie theaters, performance theaters, public recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, barbershops, beauty salons, tattoo parlors, hair and nail salons.
- The State has issued an order closing 181 Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle Register locations (five remain open). The Governor also requested law enforcement not to issue tickets for expired licenses.
- The Ohio Department of Health issued an Order that all non-essential or elective surgeries and procedures that utilized PPE should not be conducted.
- The State has ordered all bars and restaurants to close. This does not apply to drive through and carryout.

Situation Report  
Knox County Emergency Operation Center



- The State has issued an order easing the teacher/student ratio currently required for day cares and preschools.
  - The State has issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings events of 50 or more people (with exceptions).
  - The State issued an order for K-12 schools statewide to be closed for three weeks starting the end of school on March 16. Each school will determine access to building after that three week period.
  - The State issued an order prohibiting visitors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities except for end of life situations.
  - Recommended that all employers screen employees and check temperatures daily to help protect against the spread of COVID-19.
  - Recommended all religious institutions consider limiting practices that could spread germs and consider appropriate outreach to those who may not be able to attend services.
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- **\*\*\*The next scheduled Situation Report will be disseminated on March 24<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***