

KNOX COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



COVID-19

SITUATION REPORT 8

Knox County Emergency Management Agency

March 17, 2020

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

The Board of Knox County Commissioners have issued a Declaration of State of Emergency due to COVID-19 (attached).

Effective 3/18 the Knox 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. Information is available on the county website <https://www.co.knox.oh.us/> and is posted on exterior doors.

Pathways/2-1-1 has agreed to receive calls from community residents who are in need of food and other necessary supplies. Once received by 2-1-1, the requests will then be forwarded to the Knox County Chaplain Corps who will coordinate efforts to fulfill the requests.

Knox Community Hospital in cooperation with Knox Public Health and Knox EMA will be providing a "Call Line". The "Call Line" will be for Knox County residents who think they might have COVID-19. Residents will be able to talk directly with a medical professional about their symptoms and concerns. The call-line number is 740-399-8014. The call-line will be activated Wednesday morning, March 18, and will be operational from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

There are now **67** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in **16** Ohio counties, **17** of which are hospitalized and no deaths. Counties with cases are: Belmont 2, Butler 6, **Coshocton 2**, Cuyahoga **31**, Franklin **4**, **Geauga 1**, **Lake 1**, Lorain **4**, Lucas 1, **Mahoning 1**, Medina **3**, Stark 3, **Summit 4**, Trumbull 2, and Tuscarawas **1**.

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.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, which is thought to be spread through person-to-person contact. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The virus is thought to spread via droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or among people who are in close contact with one another.

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The outbreak was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

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)
- 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>)
- CDC’s Travel Health Notices (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>)

INCIDENT ASSESSMENT FOR KNOX COUNTY

Lead Agency: Knox Public Health

Declarations: None

Fatalities: None

Injuries: None

Persons under Investigation (PUI): None

Evacuations: None

Shelters: None

Critical Infrastructure Impacted: None

Requests for State Assistance: See on-going mission list below.

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. Ohio has received a shipment from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). There has been no information on what may be provided to counties at this time.

It is critically important to use conservation measures for all PPE.

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On-going Missions:

Requesting Entity	County Mission Request Number	Ohio EMA Tracking Number	Summary of Request
Board of Elections	2020-01-01	20067	Hand Sanitizer
Knox Public Health	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Fredericktown EMS	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Mount Vernon Fire	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Knox Community Hospital	2020-01-02	20066	PPE
Knox Community Hospital	2020-01-03	20088	IV Tubing
Additional Fire 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

None

CURRENT EOC OBJECTIVES

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

KEY PARTNER ACTIVITIES

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.

City of Mount Vernon - Effective Monday, March 16, 2020 all members of the public are requested to call before visiting City facilities. A Public Notice to this effect has been provided to each department and they are required to post this notice at the entrance to all facilities. (Entire Plan Attached)

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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 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.

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).

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 Hospital – KCH has opened their Incident Command. KCH is providing additional education for staff on proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). KCH is reviewing and updating their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and discussing Tele-Medicine options. Non-necessary office visits are being cancelled.

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 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 Public Health – If you would like someone to make a presentation regarding coronavirus, please email Pam Palm at 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.

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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.

PUCO – Transportation Department has granted limited regulatory relief from the hours of service requirements for intrastate operation of commercial motor vehicles transporting relief supplies including consumer goods and medical supplies that will expire at 11:59 PM, March 27, 2020.

Station Break Senior Center - The Station Break is closed to the public. Meals are still being provided to homebound seniors. Drivers will be tested for temperature and wear gloves and mask. Drivers will need to see the client before the meal can be left. The box of frozen meals will contain 5 meals in each box and will replace the hot meal that is delivered daily. These will be delivered once a week.

Current Orders and Recommendations:

- The State has ordered all bars and restaurants to close effective 9:00 P.M. March 15. This does not apply to drive through and carryout.
- 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 100 or more people, with a number of exceptions, until the order is modified or the Governor's State of Emergency ends. Additional exclusions are listed in the full Ohio Department of Health order.
- 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 limiting visitors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities to one per day per resident. Those facilities must be a single point of entry and everyone will be screened for potential illness.
- The CDC has recommended that no gatherings of 50 plus take place for a period of eight weeks.
- Recommended physician practices, ambulatory surgery centers, dental offices and vet practices give serious consideration to implementing the cancelation of elective surgeries and outpatient procedures or limiting to only necessary.
- Recommended large, indoor gatherings in Ohio be canceled or postponed
- Recommended all universities and colleges screen students returning to school from international travel or cruises, spring break travel.
- Recommended university-sponsored international travel, non-essential travel, and large gatherings be canceled or postponed.
- Recommended higher education institutions consider offering online/remote learning.

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- *Recommended* K–12 *school* administrators should begin planning for that possibility of school closures. Parents should begin planning for child care solutions.
- Recommended all indoor high school, college, and professional sports competitions take place only with athletes, parents, sporting officials, and media without spectators. Outdoor sporting events can continue as planned.
- Recommended all religious institutions consider limiting practices that could spread germs, such as shaking hands or sharing a communal cup of wine during communion. Those in faith-based communities who are high-risk should consider staying home. Faith-based communities should also consider appropriate outreach to those who may not be able to attend regular services.
- ******The next scheduled Situation Report will be disseminated on March 23rd******