

COVID-19 Release of Protected Health Information to Ohio's First Responders

Protecting Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, signed an order on April 14, 2020 to release protected health information on individuals who test positive for COVID-19, when necessary, to Ohio's first responders. Protection of our first responders is a top priority.

What does this order do, and what does this order not do?

- This order requires local health departments to provide the **names** and **addresses** of those individuals living within their jurisdiction who test positive for COVID-19 to the jurisdiction's dispatch agency or agencies.
 - This does not include the release of any other information other than name and address.
 - This information will not be shared about individuals with suspected COVID-19, or anyone not having COVID-19.
- This information will only be released to first responders, who are responding, or may be called upon to respond.
 - This information will not be used for any purpose other than to control, mitigate, or prevent the spread of COVID-19 during interactions with first responders.
 - First responder agencies and dispatch centers may not use, disclose, or access this information for any other reason. Any such use will be subject to criminal liabilities.
- Name and addresses of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are being provided to first responders so they know what to expect when they answer a call and can be wearing appropriate personal protection equipment.
 - Dispatch agencies are required to keep this information confidential.
- First responders must continue to use the recommended standard precautions for all emergency

calls. They should assume that any individual they come into contact with has been exposed to and may have COVID-19.

- Once a person has recovered from COVID-19 the information will be removed from the dispatch agency's system.
 - The names and addresses of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not stay in the dispatch system after the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists.
- Many local health departments have already provided their local police/EMS dispatch agency with the addresses of COVID-19 positive residents in their jurisdiction. This will ensure consistency across the state, and formalize guidance previously issues to local health departments on March 24, 2020.
 - Individual local health departments will not be making the decision independently to release or not release the names and addresses of those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department
of Health

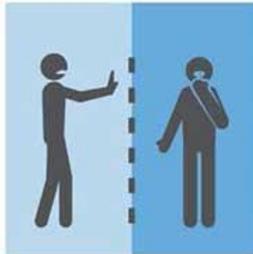
Protect yourself and others from
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

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STAY HOME



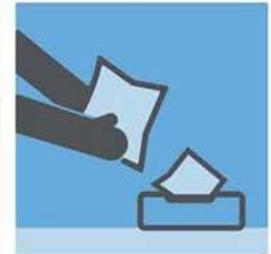
PRACTICE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP
AND EAT WELL-
BALANCED
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH
A CLEAN TOWEL
OR AIR DRY
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH
WITH A TISSUE OR
SLEEVE WHEN
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov