



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Tuscarawas County  
Health Department**

**News Release - For immediate release 3/14/2020**  
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## **County Health Department Reports First Presumptive Positive Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Tuscarawas County**


DOVER, OH – The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) has been notified of a “presumptive positive” test result in a resident of Tuscarawas County for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital. This is the first presumptive positive result for Tuscarawas County. The case has not traveled outside of Ohio and had no known exposure of this virus.



The positive case is a 38-year-old male, who is recovering well. Health Commissioner, Katie Seward, emphasized, “We will not be releasing any demographic information relating to this new case. We want to protect the privacy of the individual during this time of illness and will contact anyone who needs to know or take action.”



The Tuscarawas County Health Department, along with our local health systems, healthcare providers, The New Philadelphia City Health Department and community partners have been actively preparing to respond to possible cases of COVID-19 in our community.

“The news of a COVID-19 case in our county is not a surprise. We have been planning and preparing to respond to cases when they occur. We have community interventions in place that are designed to slow transmission in our community while lessening the impact. Our investigation is on-going. Our main goal is to isolate those who are ill, identify close contacts and monitor for illness,” said Seward.

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can cause mild to more severe respiratory illness. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days of being exposed to an infectious person. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Those at high risk for illness of COVID-19 are those over 60 with chronic illness or a weakened immune system.

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To prevent the spread of disease, TCHD encourages everyone to follow these effective practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces – doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, etc.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Information is being shared as it becomes available on the TCHD Facebook page and on the following websites:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) , [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) , [www.tchdnow.org](http://www.tchdnow.org). People with questions about COVID-19 can call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center, 7 days a week from 9AM – 8PM at: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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