PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak

March 9, 2020

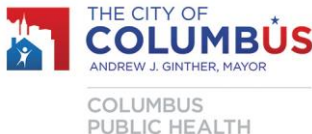**Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Public Health**

The outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which originated in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019, has now spread worldwide. Sustained transmission and outbreaks have occurred in China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea. Although thought to be zoonotic in origin, human-to-human transmission is currently the primary mode of transmission with 105,586 cases and 3,584 deaths in 101 countries, including 213 cases in the United States. To date, no COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Ohio. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports

Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL) is now able to provide COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. ODHL testing will focus on severely ill and hospitalized patients.

National clinical reference laboratories also offer testing for COVID-19, which is an option for suspected cases who do not require hospitalization.

As a Class A infectious disease in Ohio, all suspected COVID-19 cases must be reported immediately to Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) via phone at 614-525-8888. All patients who are tested for COVID-19 automatically become suspected cases. This includes both severely ill and hospitalized patients for whom testing is requested at ODHL, as well as those for whom specimens have been submitted to private clinical reference laboratories. All suspected COVID-19 cases must be isolated either in healthcare or home settings as clinically indicated.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has just issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Update https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00429.asp with guidance and recommendations for evaluation and testing of persons under investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19 to include a wider group of symptomatic patients https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html.

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH

Franklin County Public Health

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Healthcare Provider Guidance
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html

Infectious Disease Reporting System
http://idrsinfo.org