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MEDIA ADVISORY

March 23, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update, March 23

Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Commissioner Eric Zgodzinski announced today there are 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lucas County.

Those affected range in age from 30 to 87; six of the 10 patients are currently hospitalized, and four of the 10 have known travel exposure, Mr. Zgodzinski said.

Updated COVID-19 numbers in Lucas County can be found on the health department's website, www.lucascountyhealth.com.

Mr. Zgodzinski was joined during a news conference today by leaders of the major healthcare organizations in Lucas County.

“We discussed preparedness and the unprecedented collaboration the institutions are exhibiting to take care of our residents, neighbors, first responders, and medical personnel,” Mr. Zgodzinski said. “The representatives discussed how each one had initiated their incident command structures several months ago. They plan for all concerns affecting their patients today, tomorrow, and next week.”

The following healthcare and hospital executives spoke during the news conference:

- Dr. Kevin Casey, Chief Clinical Officer, Mercy Health - Toledo
- Dr. Brian Kaminski, Vice President of Quality and Patient Safety, ProMedica, and Director of Flower Hospital Emergency
- Dan Wakeman, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Luke's Hospital
- Dr. Moshir Jacob, Chief Medical Officer, Toledo Clinic

The healthcare providers and hospitals are working together to be the best stewards of the resources Toledo and Lucas County has available to contain the virus and to minimize transmission. The group repeated calls to follow the order of Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine stay at home.

All of the representatives issued an urgent call for blood donations. Healthy people can contact the American Red Cross to donate.

Mr. Zgodzinski also clarified action taken today by the Toledo-Lucas County Board of Health. In this morning's meeting, a public health order was approved to prepare a possible site to isolate asymptomatic first responders with known COVID-19 exposure. That facility is not currently operational. Discussions continue with the University of Toledo for use of its property. The facility may never be utilized, but is required planning per Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.

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