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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Shannon Lands, PIO
419.213.4143   May 22, 2020

Lucas County COVID-19 Update

The Lucas County COVID-19 numbers for today,
are as follows:

- 2091 total cases
    - 1917 confirmed cases
    - 174 probable cases
- 207 deaths
    - 179 confirmed deaths
    - 28 probable deaths
- 834 male cases
- 1257 female cases
    - Ages range from <1 to 109
- 12,762 total tests performed**

**Includes all (resident & non-resident) COVID-19 viral nasal swab tests performed in Lucas County (hospital & community testing sites). This number does not include Lucas County residents tested in other jurisdictions.
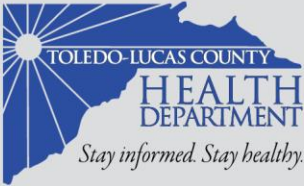
The most recent deaths reported today represent: 1 male in 90's.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Update

ALERT: Scammers posing as contact tracers have been preying on Ohioans. Legitimate contact tracers will initially reach out by phone and will never ask for your Social Security number, your bank account number, or any other financial information. NEVER click on a link or respond to a text saying you have been exposed to COVID-19. If you have concerns about whether a call is legitimate, contact TLCHD at 419-213-4100. Report suspected scams to the office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost at www.OhioProtects.org or 1-800-282-0515.

Contact tracing involves identifying people who are likely to get sick because of being in contact with those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Local health departments conduct contact tracing every day for various infectious diseases. If you're sick, local health department workers (epidemiologists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals) interview you and find out who you may have come into contact with and potentially exposed to your illness.

Limiting contacts means the virus isn't able to infect other people. The virus lives in people. Limiting contacts means the virus has nowhere to live.

To protect patient privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They are not told the identity of the patient who may have exposed them.

The following describes the contact tracing process that will take place should you start to feel ill.

1. You call your healthcare provider, who may decide to test you for COVID-19 if you are exhibiting the symptoms. While you wait for the test results, you stay home and isolate yourself from others.

2. If you test positive for COVID-19, your healthcare provider will call you to let you know that you tested positive. They will notify the local health department, who will then notify the Ohio Department of Health so that the case is added to the state's data. During this time, you continue to stay home and isolate yourself.

3. Next, a public health worker who is performing contact tracing will reach out to you to voluntarily talk and create a line list that is made up of who you have been in contact with. This traces who you may have come into contact with and may have been exposed to the virus.

4. While you are still home and isolating, the public health worker who is conducting the contact tracing will initially call those who you may have been around and may have been exposed. Those who have been exposed will self-quarantine and monitor their symptoms for cough, fever, and shortness of breath. **Contacts who have a cell phone will be asked to consent to receive text messaging to report their symptoms. Those who consent will receive a text message at 4 p.m. daily to report their symptoms.**

5. If they show no symptoms, after 14 days, their quarantine lifts. If these individuals do begin to show symptoms, they should expect a phone call from the local health department and may contact their healthcare provider who may tell them to get a test.
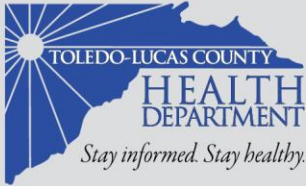
Example of a real-time text conversation sent to and received from individuals being contact traced:

To report concerns, such as businesses not adhering to sector specific operating requirements/guidelines, including appropriate social distancing and/or employees wearing face coverings, please call 419-213-4161, option 4, to leave a message.

For local information, confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Lucas County, and a map of testing locations, may be found at: https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirusupdates/.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) COVID-19 and Responsible RestartOhio website is https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home.

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