FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Confirmed Death from COVID-19 in Shelby County

The Sidney-Shelby County Health Department (SSCHD) is reporting the first confirmed death from COVID-19 in Shelby County. The individual was a male in his 80’s.

“My entire staff extends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to all the family members in the wake of this tragedy,” said Steven Tostrick, Health Commissioner. “Shelby County is a close community. This affects us all. We strongly recommend the Shelby County community take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against COVID-19.”

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), older adults age 65 years and older are at higher risk for severe illness. COVID-19 is a new disease, and we are learning more about it every day.

On Sunday, March 22nd, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH issued a director’s order to require all Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. This order prohibits holding gatherings of any size and closes all nonessential businesses. It does NOT prohibit essential activities like going to the grocery store, receiving medical care, or taking your pet for a walk. Residents can return home from out of state and can leave the state.

SSCHD will continue working with local, state, and community partners in order to prevent future cases and to educate those in Shelby County to practice social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can follow these steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or allow to air dry.
- Use at least 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or cough into your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, noses, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. Stay at least 6 feet away from each other.
- Clean “high-touch” surfaces often. These include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, light switches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, desks, and tablets.

Please be advised that the SSCHD does not diagnose, test or treat COVID-19. If you are feeling sick or have questions about your personal health, please contact your health care provider or an urgent care provider. Emergency rooms should only be used for immediate life-threatening conditions.
As a reminder for the public, symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If a person believes they may have symptoms or have come in contact with a positive COVID-19 case, they should CALL their doctor. People with mild illness are encouraged to stay home and care for themselves. It is strongly discouraged to show up to your healthcare provider office or hospitals without calling first, which can risk the health of others.

For more information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call ODH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). The ODH call center is open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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