



COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE

March 24, 2020

Dear New Albany Community:

As part of the City's commitment to keep you informed and up to date, we want to share with you that we have our first confirmed community case of COVID-19. The New Albany-Plain Local School District was notified this evening that a staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. This staff member works at the Early Learning Center. The school district provided a notice to all families in our school district to protect the safety and welfare of everyone. Since not all New Albany residents have students in our schools, we are sharing this information to try to make sure all New Albany residents know.

Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) has confirmed that they will contact parents/guardians of any child and any staff member who may have had direct contact with this person. FCPH has confirmed for our district that being in the Early Learning Center with this person who has tested positive for COVID-19 DOES NOT mean that everyone at the Early Learning Center has been exposed to COVID-19. Regardless, as recommended by FCPH, our school district will continue to thoroughly sanitize all facilities, including the Early Learning Center, prior to being occupied again.

HIPAA laws do not allow us to provide information beyond letting you know about the positive test, but know that we are working closely with FCPH and other local authorities to keep our community as safe as possible.

Based upon our discussions with FCPH and local health professionals in the community, it is important for everyone in the community to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (fever >100.4, cough, shortness of breath). **Parents this is important for your entire family, especially your children.** Research shows the majority of children are asymptomatic carriers, which means they may not exhibit any symptoms but still be able to pass the coronavirus onto loved ones, some of which may be very susceptible to the disease.

You do not need to contact FCPH if you have concerns or think you may have COVID-19 symptoms. Instead, contact your healthcare provider. **You should not go to the emergency room if your symptoms are not life threatening (e.g., unable to breathe, high fever that will not come down even when taking fever reducing medication).** If you are contagious, you will potentially spread the disease to everyone in the ER. **If you need ER services or an ambulance, please notify the dispatcher and/or ER staff that you are experiencing COVID-19 like**

symptoms. This will alert the healthcare providers and first responders to wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep them and other patients safe.

Any tests which come back with a positive result for COVID-19 will result in FCPH requiring close contacts of the individual to immediately self-quarantine and monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. FCPH will not make this information public to preserve the privacy of the individuals involved.

The circumstances regarding the COVID-19 outbreak change quickly but we will continue to work with FCPH and be transparent to our public with whatever we find out. We encourage everyone to visit the [CDC website](#), the City's [COVID-19 web page](#) or the [health department's website](#) for more information.

Remember that the best thing you can do in the face of COVID-19 is to take precautions to protect yourself, your family, and your community:

- Stay at home in accordance with Ohio's public health order.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surface areas in your home.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Adhere to social/physical distancing recommendations.
- Consult your healthcare provider with questions.

Let's continue to remain positive and look out for our neighbors. If you are sick, please take care of yourself and stay home for a minimum of 7 days from when you became sick. You can return to your normal activities when:

- A week has passed from symptom onset;
- Your symptoms have improved; and
- You have been fever free without taking fever reducing medications for 72 hours.

Whether you are sick or not, please remember to maintain proper social distancing for yourself, your family and your neighbors. **This self-distancing is absolutely critical to reduce the potential of COVID-19 spread.** We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

Sloan Spalding, Mayor

Joseph Stefanov, City Manager