



Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency
315 Madison Street, Annex Basement
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452-1936
FRED PETERSEN, Director

Office: 419-734-6900
Countywide: 800-788-8803
Facsimile: 419-249-2361
fpetersen@co.ottawa.oh.us

www.co.ottawa.oh.us/ottawacoema

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Thursday March 19, 2020

OTTAWA COUNTY RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

Ottawa County continues to make critical decisions with the best possible advice during this rapidly changing event to keep the safety of our residents, staff and community our priority. Ohio Governor DeWine issued Executive Order # 2020-013 on March 9, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 and the State of Ohio announced its first case of community acquired COVID-19 on March 11, 2020.

Effective today, Thursday March 19, 2020, the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners are declaring a State of Emergency for Ottawa County until further notice.

Effective Friday March 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners are announcing that all Ottawa County facilities will be closed to the public until further notice. The courts and administrative offices within Ottawa County will remain open and staff will be working to serve the public by phone, email, on-line or by scheduled appointment if necessary. The office directory is available at <https://www.co.ottawa.oh.us/index.php/office-directory/> or you may call 419-734-6700.

The following information was gathered from local organizations and partners in relation to the Ottawa County COVID-19 response. Due to the rapidly changing

nature of this emergency, whenever possible links to individual websites are listed and you are encouraged to check those links for updated information.

Ottawa County Health Department – Public Information Sheet on COVID-19:

<http://www.ottawahealth.org/pdf/COVID%2019%20Public%20Information%20Sheet.pdf>

MAGRUDER HOSPITAL RESPONSE:

For the health of our patients, visitors, health care providers and community,

Magruder will be prohibiting visitors at our hospital, starting March 19th. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We recognize this can be disappointing to our visitors, patients and community, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Your health, the health of our patients and our healthcare providers is top priority.

Reminder:

- If you are sick, but normally would NOT see your doctor, please stay home and self-monitor.
- If your symptoms get worse (fever, chills, difficulty breathing) call Magruder's triage line 419-301-4304 for further instruction. This line is available around the clock, 24/7.

For a current list of precautions Magruder is taking for the health and safety of our community, patients and staff please view the following link:

<https://www.magruderhospital.com/blog/coronavirusandmagruder?hsCtaTracking=e6c3b2f-e8c0-431e-ada0-6d03172f7f49%7Cf1e0dd9e-1a17-4980-b4f0-09423b5c1726>

UTILITY AND RENT ASSISTANCE

Columbia Gas, First Energy and AEP have announced that they will suspend shutoffs for nonpayment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, effective immediately. Customers should contact the appropriate company to make arrangements – a local link with additional information is listed below:

https://ocic.biz/coronavirus-notice/?fbclid=IwAR0E8ZTBYjxB_CEBjHwix1X2G32-bX0CRPRrmQ4jUlv2_Zde39ANcYVBf0M

The Salvation Army of Ottawa County offers both utility and rent assistance – call 419-732-2769 for details. It is important to note that no utility services provided by any community in Ottawa County will be shut off for non-payment during this crisis. Customers who have had a direct loss of employment due to the Coronavirus pandemic need to communicate this to their local billing office so future structured payment plans can be arranged.

FOOD ASSISTANCE:

Free Community Meals will be provided at Bistro 163 in collaboration with The Salvation Army, Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center, United Way - Ottawa County, Community Support Services and Senior Resources. Meals will be distributed at Bistro 163 at the side door for pick up from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Bistro 163 is located at the Sutton Center 1848 E. Perry Street, Port Clinton. Home Delivered Meals continue for current clients. Entrance into homes restricted if at all possible. Senior residents needing food assistance who are not already receiving meals through Senior Resources are asked to contact the Salvation Army 419-732-2769.

All Senior Centers closed with Grab & Go meals available based on Senior Center schedule. Reservations must be made day prior - Pick up time 11:30- 12:00 Noon.

Contact your local Senior Center to make a meal reservation.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE:

OCIC Response – PC Area Chamber Website:

https://ocic.biz/coronavirus-notice/?fbclid=IwAR0E8ZTBYjxB_CEBjHwix1X2G32-bX0CRPRmQ4jUlv2_Zde39ANcYVBf0M

Includes information on:

- SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Program
- Rapid Response Program
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program
- Statements from First Energy
- Ohio Unemployment Insurance Updates and links for sign ups
- Family First Coronavirus Response Act
- Medical Mutual Updates
- Ohio Liquor Returns instructions and link.
- Columbia Gas and AEP regarding utility shut offs

DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER:

There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA is providing this important information about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water and wastewater to provide clarity to the public. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. **Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.**

AVOID SCAMS WITH THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

- Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products

available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.

- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

For updates to potential Coronavirus Scams check the link below from the Federal Trade Commission:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>

For additional information on the Ottawa County response to COVID-19, please contact Fred Petersen, Ottawa County EMA, at 419-734-6900.

###