

## Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release  
Jennifer Hiestand, Public Information Officer  
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4-7-20, 4:30 PM

### Muskingum County COVID-19 Update

(Consists of the following agencies: Health Department, Genesis Healthcare System, City & County Elected Officials, Law Enforcement/EMS/Fire, Emergency Management, Red Cross, Food Pantries/Hot Meal Programs, Muskingum Valley Health Centers, United Way, 211 Call Center)

Please be aware this situation is being followed consistently and is ever-changing. To be consistent with the Ohio Department of Health, we are reporting the following:

- **6 Confirmed Cases**
- **1 Total Number of ICU Admissions**
- **0 Current Number of Hospitalizations/2 Total Number of Hospitalizations**
- **0 Number of Deaths**

**For Muskingum County COVID-19 Updates follow:** Muskingum County EMA & LEPC on Facebook; Health Department website <http://www.zmchd.org/coronavirus-disease>; communications by the Muskingum County Center for Seniors. Updates are posted daily at 4:30 p.m. To sign up for Muskingum County Citizen Alerts, visit <https://www.muskingumcountyoh.gov>

**The next Facebook Live: Muskingum County COVID-19 Update is Tuesday, April 14 at 12pm. It will also be broadcast on WHIZ Live at Noon.** You're invited to **email your questions about COVID-19 to [covid19@muskingumcountyoh.gov](mailto:covid19@muskingumcountyoh.gov)**. Questions will be answered by community leaders.

Public inquiries should be directed to the ODH COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or the ODH website at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov). ODH updates the statewide numbers every day at 2pm. The public hotline is available from 9:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday-Sunday.

### Safety Messages

#### Churches

In-person and drive-in church services are not recommended.

- The Governor and Director Dr. Acton specifically and daily issue the directive that people stay home. This directive is to leave home only for necessary supplies and medical reasons. So, simply going to this service violates that directive. Also, violating the directive for this reason may encourage the congregation to violate for other reasons that they might feel are important.
- Although you may ask people to stay in their vehicles, that is not likely to happen in a loving church family as they share personal affection.
- If you plan on having Communion, even if the Communion elements are individually

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- wrapped/ sealed and the people distributing the elements are wearing gloves, they physically cannot socially distance while doing this.
- The technology exists to stream services. This is not complicated and can be done for free on multiple platforms. Even the Pope is preaching to an empty Vatican, but streaming it around the world.
- Please make the decision that is socially responsible to your congregation. We are being warned of the impending surge in the next two weeks. Please do not subject your congregation to this additional risk.

### Car Washes:

Car washes may be permitted to remain open, but only under certain limitations that reduce employee and customer contact.

- a. Self-serve car washes should be permitted as this is the least interactive, as long as the following parameters are met:
  - i. an attendant must be on-site to sanitize equipment (vacuum hoses, sprayers, touch screens or pay stations, etc.) after each use and between each customer
  - ii. maintain only the minimum number of employees necessary to meet these requirements and maintain social distancing requirements
- b. All other car washes should be limited to:
  1. Exterior car wash service only for the general public;
  2. Limit the number of employees to two or less if possible; one to wipe/sanitize the pay stations after each customer use and one to direct vehicles into the car wash bay and/or take payment; prepaid customers are preferred since they limit payment interactions;
  3. No interior vehicle cleaning or detailing services except for government essential functions which would include police, fire or EMS government issued vehicles;
  4. No employees of the car wash are to be drying the vehicles at the end of the line;
  5. Car owners and passengers are to stay in their vehicles and ride in the vehicle through the car wash;
  6. It is preferred that car wash businesses restrict payment to outside/on-line payment if at all possible; If that is not practical, all requirements of Paragraph 15 - Social Distancing Requirements of the State Health Director's Stay at Home Order issued on March 22, 2020 must be implemented and maintained.

### Salons:

Upon the release of an Amended Stay at Home Order on April 2, 2020 the Muskingum County Unified Command Group reviewed the decisions we had previously made related to businesses being open or closed in Muskingum County.

In the case of Salons, such as yours, we determined that while the Order clearly directs Salons to remain closed, Section 5-b of the order indicates that individuals may leave their home to purchase "household consumer products" which we interpret to include personal care products such as would be sold in a Salon.

Therefore, effective beginning Monday, April 6, 2020 at 11:59 pm until 11:59 pm May 1, 2020, or when additional Public Health Orders override this permission, you may resume your practice of

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taking orders and payment for products from your customers online or by phone and arranging with each customer a time for curbside pickup outside your business.

We encourage you to sanitize each product before placing it in a bag and washing or sanitizing your hands between each curbside pickup. We also encourage maintenance of at least 6 feet of distance between employees and customers as much as possible. This may include having the employee place the product in a rear seat or back of the vehicle instead of handing it directly to a person in the vehicle. Per CDC guidelines, we also recommend that the employee taking the product curbside wear a homemade mask to provide further protection from viral spread.

Finally, we ask that you minimize the number of hours you provide this service to no more than 4 hours per week in order to meet the need while still supporting the intent of the Order as stated in

Section 16 - "The intent of this order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible."

### Delivery Drivers:

For increased safety, employees will politely ask the customer to step back a safe distance or close the screen door/door so that they may leave the item in the mail receptacle or appropriate location by the customer door. One person per vehicle.

### Dog Grooming & Day Cares:

All dog grooming and dog day care services should close.

### Curbside Pickup of Non-Essential Products

Curbside pickup for orders of non-essential products should close.

### Playgrounds:

Please respect signs that say playgrounds are closed. Avoid using all playground equipment including basketball hoops and any other activities that encourages gathering and close contact. With everything, maintain social distancing of 6 feet.

### Rent to Own Rental Centers

For increased safety, employees will politely ask the customer to step back a safe distance or close the screen door/door so that they may leave the item at the appropriate location by the customer door. No repossessions. One person per vehicle.

### Yard Sales

All yard sales should be postponed until May 31, 2020.

### Employers:

We applaud those businesses that are helping to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

If a business, employee or resident has questions or concerns about business operations, you may call the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department Call Center at 740-454-9741.

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ZMCHD will provide guidance for businesses to include these questions:

1. Why do you think your business is essential?  
How would you explain this to your employees?
2. Can some/all of your employees work remotely?
3. How will you comply with monitoring employee temperatures, providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizing facilities and supplies, providing frequent surface sanitizing (hourly), and enforcing social distancing of 6 feet to protect your employees who are working onsite?

Complaints to the Call Center will be monitored. Any business that is the subject of a complaint will receive a follow-up call to review the guidelines for remaining open. Businesses who present a viable plan to comply with the order will be encouraged to remain open and to be diligent about staff and environmental monitoring

Any business who cannot provide a reasonable rationale for why their business is essential or cannot detail a reasonable plan for employee safety and worksite cleanliness will be encouraged to minimize staff onsite and/or close. If the business refuses to close, they will be referred to law enforcement.

### Law Enforcement

The Muskingum County Sheriff's Office and the Zanesville Police fully supports the Governor's Stay At Home Order and all of the precautionary measures being taken. We hope that everyone follows the order and recommendations. Not doing so can put first responders in jeopardy.

Both the Sheriff's Office and ZPD will be screening callers through dispatch as they are sending first responders to calls. Law Enforcement will also be practicing safe measures when interacting with the public which may include delaying the report or taking reports over the phone. If an officer/deputy responds to a location, he/she will want to have the interaction outside if possible.

- LE will NOT be doing random stops for violating the Governor's Stay At Home Order
- LE will continue to do regular patrols and normal traffic stops
- LE will not determine "essential" - "non-essential" employees
- LE will investigate complaints regarding business operations in conjunction with the Health Department and Liquor Control. The Muskingum County Prosecutor & the Zanesville City Law Director will review all cases for charges.

### Golf Courses:

If your golf course is operating as an outdoor recreation opportunity and abiding by the social distancing requirements in Governor DeWine's orders, there is likely no health concern. However, if the golf course is operating other businesses as part of the operations (restaurants, clubhouse, spa, driving range, putting and practice greens, etc.), then you should be prepared to explain why you deem those business operations essential. Remember, if you are running an essential business, you have a responsibility to make sure that physical distancing and other protective measures are being adhered to.

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### Command Center Updates

#### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is looking for local volunteers throughout Ohio that would be willing to help at blood drives and local disasters. In addition, we are also looking for "HELP FROM HOME" volunteers to help with volunteer support. All required training and resources will be provided. For more info, send an email to [volunteerohio@redcross.org](mailto:volunteerohio@redcross.org) or visit our volunteer website at [www.redcross.org/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer) .... Blood Donors are also needed in every area - visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to find the closest donation site near you to schedule an appointment!

#### Board of Elections

The 2020 Primary Election will be April 28, 2020. There will be NO in-person voting at polling locations on this date. There will be NO in-person voting at the Board of Elections office on April 28 EXCEPT for voters with qualifying disability (blind or visually impaired) or are unable to receive mail where the elector lives or at another location.

Absentee voting by mail will continue for any qualified voters who have not already cast a ballot. Visit <https://www.muskingumcountyoh.gov/Agencies/Board-Of-Elections/> and click on "Absentee Ballot Links" to download and print an application to request your ballot by mail...or pick up an application from the blue box outside the Board of Elections office. Completed applications can be returned by mail or put in the gray box outside of the BOE office. Be sure the application is complete including party choice or issues only ballot. An incomplete application will delay the process. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is noon on Saturday, April 25. If a

voter has already sent in an application they do not need to send in another.

#### Genesis HealthCare System

If community members think they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they are instructed to call their doctor. If they do not have a doctor or if their doctor is not available, they can call the Genesis On-demand COVID-19 Virtual Screening Telemedicine Clinic at (740) 297-8610. The clinic's hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For questions after these hours, community members can call the Genesis NurseLine at (740) 455-4949.

If community members are experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, stroke or other emergent health concerns unrelated to COVID-19, they should go to the Genesis Emergency Department in Zanesville or Somerset.

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Donations of PPE and cleaning supplies (nitrile gloves, N95 or P100 masks, surgical or dust masks, Tivex suits or gowns, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, half mask respirators with P100 or N95 filters) may be dropped off at your local EMA office. In Muskingum County, office hours are M-F, 8:00-4:30. Call ahead of time (740-453-1655) before going in person.

#### Muskingum County Government

County offices are staffed with essential personnel. Public access to most county offices is restricted. Employees are available to assist you by phone or email. Please call ahead for instructions and assistance.

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### Clerk of Courts/Title Office

Beginning April 2, 2020, the Muskingum County Title Office, located in the Hixson Building on Fifth Street, will modify in-person operations. All title processing for the general public will be conducted by mail only. Title processing for Dealerships will be conducted by appointment only. Modified office hours are 8 AM to 4:30 PM. For appointments or questions, call 740-455-7103.

### United Way & 2-1-1 Crisis Hotline & Information Center

For information on human services agencies, food and shelter providers, special services for seniors, child care resources, county and city information, and non-emergency issues: dial 2-1-1, toll free 1-800-544-1601, or text your zip code to 8-9-8-2-1-1. The Muskingum Hunger Network is looking for volunteers. Interested persons may contact 2-1-1.

### Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department (ZMCHD)

- Practice social distancing by avoiding crowds and keeping at least 6 feet away from other people as much as possible.
- Stay home if you are sick. If someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19, everyone should quarantine themselves for 14 days.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes. Don't share food or drinks. Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Ask your employer about the possibility of working from home.

## Community Updates

### Behavioral Health Services

Providers are open and available to serve clients in a variety of ways. For information: call the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board at 740-454-8557 or follow them on Facebook.

### Food Donations at Secrest Auditorium

The Muskingum County Hunger Network (16 food pantries and 4 hot meal programs) needs your nonperishable food donations. Items can be dropped off at Secrest Auditorium (334 Shinnick St) CURBSIDE via the 4<sup>th</sup> Street, performance entrance across from the Center for Seniors. To limit exposure, donations will be taken on Friday ONLY, 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All foods must be closed, sealed, and labeled. If unlabeled, the complete ingredient information must be provided. Pallet drop off capability is available. Checks can be made payable to: Muskingum County Community Foundation with Community Cares written in the memo line. Mail to: MCCF, 534 Putnam Ave, Zanesville, OH 43701.

### Zanesville-Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce & Convention and Visitors Bureau

Please regularly visit [Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov/BusinessHelp](https://www.covid19.gov/businesshelp) for COVID-19 resources for businesses and families. For local business resources, visit [www.visitzanesville.com](http://www.visitzanesville.com) and [www.zmchamber.com](http://www.zmchamber.com).