



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Board of Health Sidney-Shelby County

202 W. Poplar Street, Sidney, OH 45365

Steven J. Tostrick, MPH, REHS, RS
Health Commissioner

Phone: (937) 498-7249
Fax: (937) 498-7013
sschd@shelbycountyhealthdept.org
shelbycountyhealthdept.org

Dear Families and Staff,

The primary concern is the health and safety of our students and staff. In recent weeks we have seen a rapidly evolving situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the world and the United States. As of this letter, Ohio currently has 4 confirmed cases. Shelby county has no reported cases. With an increase in the number of confirmed cases throughout the U.S., the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department (SSCHD) would like to provide an update on how we are monitoring the situation and taking measures to reduce the potential spread of disease.

What Is Known

- COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus that produces a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia.
- Most (81%) of the people diagnosed with COVID-19 in China had mild disease, including most children.
- The people who are most likely to have severe disease and complications from COVID-19 are older individuals (>60 years old) and those with other medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes.
- There has been community spread in the U.S. Public Health is preparing for when/if this happens in Shelby County.

How The Virus Spreads

- COVID-19 is believed to spread like common cold or flu viruses.
- People who are most likely to become infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within less than 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are sick with fever and respiratory symptoms.

What You Can Do Now

- Keep children home when they are sick. Do not return to school until at least 24 hours without a fever and without any fever-reducing medications.
- Teach your children to always cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Remind them to wash their hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available) after they touch their face, use the restroom and before they eat.
- Tell children to avoid touching their mouth and nose since that is how germs get into the body.
- Frequently clean touched surfaces and objects (everyday household disinfectants can be used)
 - Enhance cleaning of high touch surfaces like door knobs, toilet handles, and sink handles.
- Plan for when community spread occurs.
 - Know your child's school plan to communicate with you when needed, such as robocalls, email or checking their website.

In the event that Public Health recommends closure of your child's school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, it is important for parents/guardians to have a plan for who would take care of your child if school is closed.

Your school is working closely with the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to monitor the situation. If cases arise in our community we are prepared to execute recommendations of local, State and Federal health officials.

Prevention is the key strategy with any virus, such as influenza or coronavirus, so it is important to both protect yourself and take measures against the spread to others.

The SSCHD is working to monitor this evolving situation and will continue to provide new information to the community as things change. We encourage you to call the ODH Coronavirus/COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634) for general information. Additional information is available at the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and OHD at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home>.

Sincerely,

Steven Tostrick, MPH, REHS, RS
Health Commissioner