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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 16, 2020

Huron County Public Health Offers Guidance Regarding Testing for COVID-19

NORWALK, Ohio— Over the weekend, Huron County Public Health (HCPH) received a number of calls from residents asking what they should do if they believe they are ill with Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as questioning what level of testing for COVID-19 is currently ongoing in the community. This afternoon, we are hoping to clear up some of these questions and concerns.

First, it is important that residents recognize the classic symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop these symptoms, you should call your healthcare provider for medical advice. If you are unable to be seen by a healthcare professional, your insurance carrier may be able to provide telehealth services to evaluate you; contact your insurance carrier for information and availability. If a healthcare provider believes you should be tested, they will coordinate the testing process. It is important that if you need to visit your doctor, an emergency room, or urgent care setting, call ahead so that the healthcare center can take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Testing for COVID-19 is available. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) currently has a very limited number of test kits that are reserved for patients who are most severely ill. However, private/commercial laboratories also offer testing with a physician's order. Regardless of the means of testing, a healthcare provider **MUST** evaluate you to see if you should be tested for COVID-19. If you think you should be tested, please contact your healthcare provider. HCPH does not have the ability to test for COVID-19 at this time nor are we able to evaluate you to determine whether or not you should be tested. Following these protocols helps ensure our public health and healthcare systems do not get overwhelmed and can best serve ill patients needing care.



Timothy Hollinger, MPH
Health Commissioner

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As of March 16, 2020, Huron County still has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, tests are being completed as necessary. As stated above, tests may be completed if a physician deems it medically necessary. We will not be sharing the identification or health status of persons under investigation for COVID-19. As we monitor situations of infectious disease in the community, information will be shared as is necessary to protect the public while also considering the rights of any ill individual to privacy. As with other diseases, we do not routinely share suspected case information until it is confirmed. The same will be done moving forward with COVID-19.

For more information about COVID-19, visit www.huroncohealth.com/coronavirus2019. General questions about COVID-19 can be directed to ODH at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

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