



WAYNE COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM 2 MORE CASES OF COVID-19

RICHMOND- The Wayne County Health Department announced today they have received two more Wayne County residents who have tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. This brings the total number of residents who have tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 to four. One resident was tested in Ohio. The Wayne County Health Department is working closely with the Ohio State Department of Health and the Indiana State Department of Health to provide a complete case investigation.

As part of a case investigation, the Wayne County Health Department was informed an individual from a neighboring county tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. The individual attended an event in Wayne County on March 14, 2020. The event was attended by 200 other people. "Since we have been notified outside of the 14 day quarantine period, there is little case contact we can do. It is hard to tell if the individual was shedding the virus on March 14, but does shows the importance of the stay at home orders and limiting gatherings," said Christine Stinson, the Executive Director of the Wayne County Health Department. "At this point, if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you should be responsible and stay home. It is that simple, stay home! Most people will experience mild symptoms of a cough, a fever and/or a headache. They will feel bad for a while and then get better. But if they do not stay home, they will spread this virus to someone who will get severe symptoms, their lungs will not be able to function, and they will succumb to the disease. We cannot be more clear, if you are sick, stay home. Everyone else should be staying home too and only leaving for essential visits to your grocery store, pharmacy or physician," explained Dr. David Jetmore, the Wayne County Health Officer.

Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-14 for the continuation of Executive Orders 20-04, 20-10 and 20-11 pertaining to restaurants and alcoholic beverages to prevent establishments from having in-dining services. This limits the establishment to carry out and

drive thru services. In Wayne County, carry-out is only available from curbside service, no one is allowed to enter the establishment to order food or pick up food. Establishments are encouraged to use cashless methods for payment and to also use online ordering and payments as much as possible. This Order is extended until 11:59 pm April 6, 2020.

Indiana and Wayne County continue to be under Gov. Holcomb's Executive Order 20-08, the Directive for Hoosiers to Stay Home. This order is slated to end at 11:59 on April 6, 2020. The stay at home order also requires all non-essential business to close. Non-essential business includes but are not limited to, beauty salons and hairdressers, tattoo parlors, dog groomers, gyms, fitness centers, nail salons, tanning beds, massage parlors and many others. The Wayne County Health Department expects the Governor to extend both the Restaurant Order and the Stay at home Order until at least the end of April or the middle of May 2020. "You do not close up your umbrella in the middle of the storm and by lifting these orders prior to the epidemic peaking and the numbers coming down would be doing the same thing," said Dr. Jetmore.

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands; and
- Rarely, fecal contamination.

The best way to protect yourself from any respiratory illness, including the flu, is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

You should wear a mask if a healthcare professional recommends it. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms to protect others from the risk of infection.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) will provide updates as new information becomes available. Visit the ISDH website at [in.gov/coronavirus](https://www.in.gov/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Indiana.

The Wayne County Health Department can be reached at 765-973-9245.