



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

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Health Commissioner

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STATEMENT

The Holmes County Board of Health, comprised of President Kurt Rodhe, President-Elect Misty Burns, Past-President Carol Miller, Dr Eric Miller, MD, and Paul Miller, have been working diligently alongside Health Commissioner Michael Derr, and Health District staff, to ensure the health and safety of Holmes County residents as COVID-19 spreads throughout Ohio and into Holmes County.

The Board of Health asks all residents of Holmes County, including the Amish and Mennonite communities, to do their part by following the Director's Amended Stay at Home Order which lasts until 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2020. Holmes County residents and employers are encouraged to read the Director's Amended Order and comply. Visit the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) COVID-19 website for the full document: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>. If you do not have the internet and need a copy, please contact the Health District at (330) 674-5035.

All Ohio residents have been ordered to stay home or place of residence until after May 1st, with exceptions for Essential Activities, Essential Government Functions and/or to participate in Essential Businesses and Operations. All public and private gatherings of any number of people outside of a single household or living unit and any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited, with exceptions. However, exempted entities, including Essential Businesses and Operations, are required to follow social distancing guidelines.

Non-essential businesses and operations must cease. Businesses that are home-based may continue operations if employers or contractors are performing activities at their own homes or if the business consists of a single person. All Essential Businesses and Operations must follow social distancing and sanitary guidelines. The Board of Health, along with the Health District, are prepared to take action against non-compliance.

In addition, Holmes County leaders and community members are asked to consider the following to ensure adherence to the Stay at Home Order:

Church: Postpone church services or conduct religious services remotely until after May 1, 2020.

Weddings: Postpone weddings and receptions until after May 1, 2020 or allow only immediate family and at a marriage ceremony (not exceeding 10 people), following all social distancing guidelines.

Funerals: Limit funeral services to immediate family until after May 1, 2020 (not exceeding 10 people) and plan memorial services for later.

Note: Receptions of weddings and funeral services, along with any group dining (potlucks, etc.), cannot exceed 10 people until after May 1, 2020. The Board of Health will use appropriate action as allowed by law to address non-compliance.

In an effort to keep Holmes County protected, it's vital that all community members participate in social distancing, but this doesn't stop us from working together by being apart. Make the most of this time: Go outside, get exercise, read a new book, try a new recipe, check-in with family and friends via phone or online (or a six-foot distance), support local food banks, and continue to encourage each other. Together, we will get through this.

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10

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