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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local, State Health Officials Taking Steps to Prevent Coronavirus, Report Possible Cases

January 24, 2020 – Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) declared novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), an immediately reportable disease today. ODH confirmed that no cases of coronavirus have been reported in Ohio and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the risk to the American public is low.

Classifying a disease as a class a reportable disease means that confirmed or suspected cases of 2019-nCov must be reported immediately to the local health district where the person lives. Required reporters include physicians that are providing care, administrators in charge of the hospitals, clinics or institutions providing care or treatment, laboratories, schools, or any individual having knowledge of a person with 2019-nCov.

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have reported fever, cough and difficulty breathing that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. If you suspect you may have been exposed to 2019-nCov because you have traveled to China or have been around people who may have been exposed and/or are exhibiting symptoms, contact your healthcare provider and let them know that you have been exposed to 2019-nCov before visiting the healthcare facility. This will help the healthcare provider's office take preventative steps to protect others from being exposed.

Just as with seasonal flu and other illnesses, it's important to protect yourself. Marietta/Belpre Health Department reminds residents to practice good hand hygiene, follow appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette, stay home when you feel sick and avoid others who are sick.

"Marietta/Belpre City Health Department is monitoring this situation, in conjunction with ODH and CDC, and is ready to respond if a case should be reported locally," states Health Commissioner Anne Goon. "Disease monitoring and preparedness activities performed daily at our local health department ensure a prompt public health response to health events like this one. Because this situation is rapidly evolving, information will be provided and updated as it becomes available."

More information can be found on the CDC website; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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