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For Immediate Release

The Athens City-County Health Department is preparing for local COVID-19 as the capacity for testing increases.

If you have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread of the COVID-19, you are at an increased risk of exposure. If you are experiencing respiratory symptoms and are preparing to see a doctor, call your physician’s office, urgent care, or emergency department before arriving for care. Let them know that you believe you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Your doctor can determine if you need to be tested.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of March 10, 2020, there are 755 cases of COVID-19 in the United States. Currently, there are three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio, but there are no cases in Athens County. The Ohio Department of Health has opened a call center for specific questions about COVID-19, 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634).

The health department encourages residents to continue to wash hands several times a day with soap and water (warm if possible) for at least 20 seconds. Regularly clean surfaces that are frequently touched by many people. Avoid touching your face, cover your cough, and stay at home if you feel ill.


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