April 13, 2020

Contact:
Dr. James Gaskell, Health Commissioner, 740-592-4431 ext 5903, jgaskell@athenspublichealth.org
Ruth Dudding, Public Information Officer, 740-592-4431 ext 5912, rdudding@athenspublichealth.org

For Immediate Release

**Athens County residents continue to do a great job of “flattening the curve”**

It has been two weeks since the last confirmed COVID-19 case in Athens County. Public health measures are working to slow the spread of the virus and everyone who is following the Governor’s stay-at-home order is making a difference locally. According to Dr. Amy Acton, the Ohio Department of Health Director, our case-per-day projection for peak COVID-19 activity in Ohio is down from the original prediction, thanks to implemented public health policies. Physical distancing, hand washing, sanitizing surfaces, and wearing a face covering when out in public must be maintained in order to continue to the slow the spread of the virus.

There are too many people to thank individually who are dedicating their time and resources to help Athens County communities endure the hardships of this pandemic. School staff delivering meals to students, businesses providing food to community members, organizations and businesses donating personal protective equipment, community members sewing masks for first responders, and neighbors taking care of each other are among our many hometown heroes. These contributions are significant and impactful.

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 are experiencing symptoms related to the COVID-19 virus. Your doctor can determine if you need to be tested.

USE. TRUSTED. SOURCES. The potential for misinformation and rumors during times of high-profile global events/public health threats is high. Verify information before trusting.

The Ohio Department of Health call center is open for specific questions about COVID-19, 1-833-4 ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). The Ohio Department of Health updates the states numbers everyday at 2pm. For Athens-specific questions regarding COVID-19, contact the Athens City-County Health Department at 740-592-4431. For the most recent information regarding COVID-19, visit the Athens City-County Health Department website www.athenspublichealth.org and Facebook page, twitter@acchd_oh, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov, and the Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus page, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

###