April 28, 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 prepares for Governor Dewine’s Responsible Restart Ohio Plan**

On Monday, April 27, 2020, Governor DeWine announced the framework of his Responsible Restart Ohio Plan. The plan, which will take effect May 1, 2020, identifies three specific dates in May slowly phasing in businesses that are considered lower risk and easily monitored for compliance. Many businesses will remain closed throughout the end date of this new order; the “stay at home” order limiting gatherings to less than 10 people remains in effect. For a complete list of businesses that will remain closed, please visit the Ohio coronavirus website at [www.coronovirus.ohio.gov/ResponsibleRestartOhio](http://www.coronovirus.ohio.gov/ResponsibleRestartOhio).

Beginning May 1, 2020, the health care system will be permitted to expand their services to include all procedures, including elective surgeries, that do not require an overnight hospital stay. Starting May 4, 2020, manufacturing, distribution centers, construction industries, and general offices will be permitted to return to work with mandatory safety guidelines. On May 12, 2020, consumer and retail businesses will be permitted to re-open following the same safety guidelines that were required for the businesses that were permitted to open May 4, 2020. For a complete list of requirements businesses will be expected to follow see the Ohio coronavirus website at [www.coronovirus.ohio.gov/ResponsibleRestartOhio](http://www.coronovirus.ohio.gov/ResponsibleRestartOhio).

The Governor and Director of the Ohio Department of health acknowledge that the virus is still present, and we must remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. Dr. Amy Acton reminds us that “we have to go slow to go fast” in order to keep the economy strong.

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

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](http://www.athenspublichealth.org) and Facebook page, twitter@acchd_oh, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and the Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus page, [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov).

###