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From: Peter Schade, MPH, RS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erie County Launches Ohio's First Symptom Collector

An early detection tool to help combat the spread of COVID-19

The Erie County Health Department, in partnership with Chrysalis Partners, announced the first launch of a new COVID-19 Symptom Collector in Ohio. The tool allows people to report their symptoms in real-time, from the safety of their own homes.

This early detection system will allow the Erie County Health Department to identify and monitor new hotspots of residents who may have the virus and may soon require testing and care, in near real-time. The data submitted by the public is made available to health officials within seconds of submission.

The web-based platform can be used with a mobile phone, tablet or computer, making it easy for anyone, anywhere to use. The tool is capable of capturing latitude/longitude coordinates – with the user's permission – so that symptom reports can be mapped and will provide an early warning to public health officials about areas where cases are likely to spike, allowing them to anticipate resource requirements.

Embedded in the Symptom Collector is a specialized cough-sounds collection tool, to allow anyone experiencing a cough to submit audio of their cough sounds. This data is being used to "train" a ground-breaking artificial intelligence (AI) tool being rapidly developed to distinguish between the "COVID cough" and at least 12 other kinds of coughs, including COPD, asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and lung cancer.

Users' data privacy is carefully managed to ensure that their information is secured, encrypted and only used to support the fight against COVID-19. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, and you can visit the [Erie County Symptom Collector](#) to input your symptom information.

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