



Date: July 16, 2020
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To: All Local Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coronavirus testing in Erie County, Ohio

The Erie County Health Department and Erie County Community Health Center (ECHD/ECCHC) currently have in stock approximately 1,650 coronavirus test kits (950 from a private laboratory, and 700 from the Ohio Department of Health). Of those test kits, 250 are allocated for ongoing follow-up testing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, and 550 test kits are allocated for testing appointments scheduled at the ECHD/ECCHC in upcoming weeks.

The supply of coronavirus test kits is limited due to increased demand for testing and the increased number of positive coronavirus cases throughout the country. Recent orders placed by the ECHD/ECCHC for more coronavirus test kits have gone unfulfilled. At this time it is unclear when we will be able to obtain additional test kits.

To maximize the usefulness of the remaining test kits, testing will be limited to people who are currently experiencing symptoms. Testing will still be completed for those who already have an appointment scheduled at the ECHD/ECCHC. We will continue to keep the community updated on the availability of testing kits and will revise testing criteria if and when there are changes in availability.

All Erie County residents are reminded to take the following actions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus:

- **Practice thorough hand hygiene** – Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. Scrub as if you are a surgeon.
- **Stay home if you are sick** – Symptoms of COVID-19 may not be severe, and include: fever, chills, muscle aches, runny nose, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, fatigue, and conjunctivitis. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you must stay home. If symptoms worsen, contact your primary care provider or the ECHD/ECCHC at (419) 626-5623 x174 to schedule an appointment.
- **Wear a mask** – Take a mask with you whenever you leave your home. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth at all times inside indoor public spaces and outdoor spaces when you cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others.

- **Practice social distancing** – Avoid large gatherings and maintain at least six feet of distance from others. Gatherings of greater than 10 people are still prohibited in Ohio.

You can help us fight the spread of COVID-19 in our community. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath, enter them into our [Symptom Collector](#). This tool helps public health officials track the spread of the virus in Erie County and allocate resources where needed. For up-to-date local information, visit the Erie County COVID-19 Dashboard at [CovidErieOhio.com](#). For questions about COVID-19, call the Erie County COVID-19 Information Center at 567-867-3243.

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