

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ohio Department of Health to Update Coronavirus Disease 2019 Numbers Daily**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will start a new process for publicly sharing updates on Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Starting today, March 2, the department will begin posting numbers of any confirmed COVID-19 cases and PUIs in Ohio on the ODH website by 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

As PUIs are resolved as either positive or negative, these also will be reported on the website following the same posting schedule. If there happens to be a confirmed case, ODH will update the local health department and the general public to provide guidance as appropriate regardless of the posting schedule.

Local health districts and ODH are committed to monitoring and promoting the public health and welfare. As local health districts monitor situations of infectious disease in the community, information will be shared as necessary to protect the public while also considering the privacy rights of any ill individuals.

“We want to be as transparent as possible when it comes to giving the latest information about COVID-19,” said ODH Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH. “Ohio stands prepared, and we have taken a very aggressive approach to make sure we are ready if a case does happen in Ohio.”

Ohioans in general remain at low risk, and there have been no confirmed cases in the state.

There are currently 212 people in Ohio who have returned to the U.S. after having been in China within the past 14 days. These numbers are a rough estimate and not to be considered an exhaustive count of all travelers in Ohio. The numbers will fluctuate depending on the investigation. None of these travelers fit the criteria to be considered a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for possible COVID-19, none are showing symptoms and will not undergo laboratory testing unless those criteria are met. We will update this number every Wednesday.

For more information about COVID-19 and Ohio’s response, please go to our website at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

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