



ASHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**For Immediate Release
July 24, 2020**

NEWS RELEASE

The Ashland County Health Department (ACHD) is dedicated to providing our community with continual support through the new level of protection put in place by Governor DeWine and the State of Ohio yesterday. The new mask order for all Ohioans now charges all citizens to be vigilant with their personal efforts to stop the spread of the COVID-19.

The new Director's Order dated July 23rd strongly encourage as many businesses as possible to allow employees to work from home by implementing policies in areas such as teleworking and video conferencing.

ACHD Health Commissioner Heather Reffett states the additional cases are validation for this measure as COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the country. "We support the recommendations of Governor Mike DeWine and the Health Director of the Ohio Department of Health. We must stay home as much as possible to limit our community's exposure to COVID-19. Not only will that have a tremendous impact on reducing the number of unnecessary deaths, but we will also be protecting our healthcare system."

As of today, the following are the numbers for Ashland County. There are a total of 116 COVID-19 positive cases. Of which, 113 are confirmed and 3 are probable. Seventy-seven (77) of these cases have recovered but there are currently 35 active cases in the county. Unfortunately, there are 4 deaths. Additionally, public health nurses are monitoring 127 individuals for symptoms of COVID-19 and we continue to investigate outbreaks as they occur. There are no new large-scale outbreaks to report.

The health department will be releasing up-to-date COVID-19 data on its website on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Monday, July 27th.

As the ACHD works diligently to contain COVID-19, the public health staff will be working remotely for a period of time. This action is needed to ensure that while the virus continues to spread in the community, that nurses and other team members can stay healthy and ensure 24/7 coverage in working to control the spread of the virus. This is similar to the public closure that occurred earlier this year in March and April. The health department will continue to provide services to the public, including the issuance of vital records, but the Department will not be open to the public. If assistance is needed, staff will still be answering the phone and returning any missed calls.

Commissioner Reffett also shares that no comments will be issued to any media source regarding Cattleman's Restaurant. The health department does not comment on pending legal litigation.