

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**OTTAWA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 12, 2020**

Effective immediately the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners are requesting you limit unnecessary visits to county offices and we recommend you phone or email ahead to ensure staff will be available. It may be necessary for you to schedule an appointment due to limited staffing. This action is being taken due to the severity of the COVID-19 virus.

On March 9, 2020 Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency. As of 2:00 p.m. on March 12, 2020 there are 5 confirmed cases in Ohio and 52 persons under investigation. We applaud Governor DeWine and his staff for their swift action to implement mitigation strategies to lesson and/or slow the impact that this will have in our state and community.

Everyone should stay as informed as possible. By following the advice of our healthcare professionals, we can collaborate to reduce the spread of this virus. This will ensure that needed resources remain available to our healthcare providers to protect those vulnerable to this pandemic. Each individual doing their part to follow these steps will help contain the spread of this virus.

Some of the suggested best practices are below:

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Keep your distance from other individuals. Six feet apart is the recommended distance to limit contact.

Plan for the possible cancelling of non-essential travel, consider staggered work schedules, web-based seminars, postponing meetings or holding them remotely

Do not shake hands with one another; do not use public pens

However, please see the numerous websites available online including but not limited to [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

The Commissioners, elected officials and department heads ultimate goal is to protect our community from this horrific pandemic. We respectfully request your total cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented event.