Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Mayor

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Health Department

Media Release

MASSILLON MAYOR KATHY CATAZARO-PERRY AND MASSILLON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ARE WORKING TO PROTECT THE MASSILLON COMMUNITY

For Immediate Release: March 11, 2020

Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry and the Massillon City Health Department want the citizens to know that this is not a time to panic, but to work together. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that we are seeing the first case of COVID-19 to appear in Stark County.

The Health Department is in daily contact with the Stark County Health Department, Canton Public Health and the Alliance City Health Departments as well as the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Governor's office to stay current on the evolving news. We have also been in touch with the schools, nursing homes, day cares, hospitals, and other community partners to offer assistance where needed. We are actively preparing and responding to possible cases of COVID-19 in our community.

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days of being exposed to an infected person. According to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Those at high risk of COVID-19 are those over age 60 with chronic illness or a weakened immune system.

To prevent the spread of disease, the Health Department encourages everyone to follow these effective practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing

- Avoid contact with sick people

- Stay home when you are sick

- Stay home and avoid crowds and mass gatherings

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces – doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, cell phones, etc.

This is a rapidly changing situation but citizens can keep informed by going to the following websites:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Or by calling 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)