Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency
Joint Command for COVID 19 Response

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MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release 9-4-20, 4:30 PM
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Muskingum County COVID-19 Update
(Muskingum County Unified Command consists of the following agencies: Health Department, Genesis Healthcare System, City & County Elected Officials, Law Enforcement/EMS/Fire, Emergency Management, Red Cross, Food Pantries/Hot Meal Programs, Muskingum Valley Health Center, United Way, 211 Call Center)

COVID-19 cases 324-329 in Muskingum County
The Muskingum County Joint Unified Command Center is reporting six Muskingum County residents have tested positive for COVID-19.

Case 324 is a 77-year-old man who is hospitalized and not connected to previous cases.

Case 325 is a 28-year-old man. Case 326 is a 61-year-old woman. Case 327 is a 34-year-old woman. These cases are not connected to previous cases and are recovering at home.

Cases 328 and 329 are currently under investigation. More details will be released when available.

No additional personal information about the cases will be released in order to protect personal privacy, following HIPAA regulations.

Please note: all data displayed on www.coronavirus.ohio.gov is preliminary and subject to change as more information is reported to the Ohio Department of Health. Muskingum County is reporting the following:

- 322 Confirmed Cases
- 7 Probable Cases
- 329 Total Cases
- 20 Active Cases
- 2 Current Hospitalization/35 Total Hospitalizations
- 2 Deaths

Click on the following link to access the Muskingum County COVID-19 Dashboard. This is a living document updated daily.
For Daily Muskingum County COVID-19 Updates follow: Muskingum County EMA & LEPC on Facebook; Health Department website http://www.zmchd.org/coronavirus; communications by the Muskingum County Center for Seniors. Updates are posted Monday through Friday by 4:30 p.m. To sign up for Muskingum County Citizen Alerts, visit https://www.muskingumcountyoh.gov/.

The next Facebook Live: Muskingum County COVID-19 Update is Tuesday, September 8 at 12pm. Please note: this event will be on Facebook Live ONLY. You’re invited to email your questions about COVID-19 to covid19@muskingumcountyoh.gov. Questions will be answered by community leaders.

Public inquiries should be directed to the ODH COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or the ODH website at coronavirus.ohio.gov. ODH updates the statewide numbers every day at 2pm. The public hotline is available from 9:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday-Sunday.

Safety Message from Jack Butterfield, MD (Safety Officer)

Labor Day Activities

In late July and early August, Muskingum County saw a relative explosion of positive COVID-19 cases that resulted in a risk level designation of RED, indicating a very high risk of community exposure and spread. The timing of those cases coincided with the COVID-19 exposures associated with July 4th activities.

However, at this time, Muskingum County is fortunate to currently be in the bottom 5 Ohio counties for number of new cases of COVID-19 over the last 2 weeks. I believe this is due to our community strongly embracing masks and social distancing. It is in our best interest to maintain that status. Therefore, it is vitally important for our residents to remember that this virus will not be taking a holiday. As you participate in Labor Day activities, please remember to keep safety at the top of your list of priorities. When enjoying celebrations with people other than your immediate household, please remember:

- Maintain social distancing of 6 ft or more, indoors and outdoors.
- Face coverings/masks at all times when indoors, and anytime outdoors when social distancing cannot be guaranteed.
- Sanitize frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Do not share eating and beverage utensils.
- Avoid crowded parks.
- Don’t share sunscreen.
- If you feel ill in any way, stay home. Do not expose others to your symptoms.

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