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Communicable Disease Unit

scph.org/cdu

March 13, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akron, Ohio – Summit County was informed today of the first patient confirmed with COVID-19. The patient is a female in her 50s and is currently hospitalized. The patient had no known travel associated risk or known exposure to someone infected with the virus. Therefore, this is most likely the result of spread of the virus in our community.

Health Commissioner Donna Skoda wants to emphasize SCPH will not be releasing any additional demographic information relating to our case. We want to protect the privacy of the individual, and will be working on contact tracing and will be in touch with anyone who needs to take action.

Please remember these simple steps you can take to reduce the spread of viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands)
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Clean high touch surfaces frequently – phones, doorknobs, light switches, cell phones, etc.
- If you have any signs of sickness, **stay home!**

As this disease spreads, SCPH supports the directive and recommendations of Governor Mike Dewine and Dr. Amy Action, ODH Director to ban mass gatherings and to limit unnecessary exposures. While challenging, limiting the community's exposure to this disease will make a lasting impact on reducing deaths associated with the virus.

SCPH has been actively involved in planning/coordination efforts with our partners throughout the county to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents. With the guidance of the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC we will continue to update Summit County residents with new information as it becomes available.

General public questions can be answered by calling:
SCPH call center Sat/Sun 9a-3p and M-F 9a-5p - 330-926-5795
ODH call center 7 days 9a-8p - 1-833-4-ASK-ODH

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