



March 26, 2020

SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Summit County Reports COVID-19 Death**

[Akron, OH] –Summit County Public Health today reports the first confirmed death of a Summit County resident due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The death occurred March 25, 2020 in a resident in their 70s who recently tested positive for COVID-19. They acquired COVID-19 through an unknown source.

“My heart is with the family, friends and neighbors who are grieving,” said Donna Skoda Health Commissioner. “This loss is deeply felt by all of Summit County. Our thoughts go out to everyone affected by this pandemic.”

The case was originally reported by ODH and the local health department when it was first identified. Any identifiable information will not be released about the patient to respect their family’s privacy.

SCPH has been tirelessly preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes reaching out to all known contacts of COVID-19 cases to help prevent the spread of this disease.

It is important to continue to follow standard precautions to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Steps that residents can take to slow the spread of the virus include:

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- **Washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds**, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your face** – especially your eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms**, for seven days after your illness onset or three days after your fever resolves without fever reducing medicine, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For more information about the coronavirus situation in Summit County visit <https://www.scph.org/covid-19>. If you have questions, call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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