



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County
General Health District**

May 23, 2020

For Immediate Release

Contact: Butler County General Health District, (513) 863-1770

Health District investigates COVID-19 cases linked to social gatherings in Oxford

BUTLER COUNTY, OH – The Butler County General Health District (BCGHD) is currently investigating several COVID-19 cases among Miami University students with links to off campus social gatherings in Oxford, OH from May 8 – 16, 2020, and is contacting anyone believed to have been in close contact with an infected individual.

“We want everyone potentially exposed to be aware so they can self-monitor and get tested quickly to reduce potential further spread. Should you receive a call from the Health District, we encourage your complete cooperation,” said Jennifer Bailer, Health Commissioner for BCGHD.

If you were at off campus social gatherings in Oxford from May 8 – 16, 2020 you are asked to self-monitor for fever or COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from your last day in Oxford. Should you develop a fever or any symptoms, call your healthcare provider or an emergency room for instructions and let them know you were possibly exposed to COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms:

- A fever over 100.4
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Bailer continues, "As we know, the COVID-19 virus can spread quickly between people and infect groups of people in a hurry. This disease is serious. In young adults it is often mild, but has the potential to become critical for those with underlying disease or other risk factors."

Miami University released a notice and statement Friday evening to students, parents and local organizations. "Having an existing partnership with Miami University has been extremely helpful to our investigation. They have been supportive and collaborative during this entire process," said Bailer.

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman Epidemiologist at BCGHD states, "One of the main functions of public health is to identify persons who have been in contact with COVID-19 cases as quickly as possible and ask them to quarantine for 14 days and monitor themselves for symptoms. This helps in preventing the disease to spread any further."

Anyone with a potential exposure should stay home and limit time with family, friends and roommates.

Should any fever or symptoms appear, please call your health care provider, an urgent care or emergency room and let them know you may have been exposed to COVID-19. The facility will give instructions about how to get tested.

Please notify your local health department if you test positive and let them know of your possible exposure.

How to protect yourself and others:

- Wear a facial mask (mask, bandanna, cloth covering)
- If you are over 65 years old or have underlying health conditions, stay at home.
- Practice social distancing/physical distancing by keeping 6 feet way from others at all times
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.

Ohioans can call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 hotline with any questions or visit health.bcohoio.us/ or coronavirus.ohio.gov. The call center is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

###