

Press Release

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Columbus Public Health Reports First Confirmed Case of COVID-19

49 year old Male Who recently traveled on a Cruise is first confirmed case in Columbus

Columbus Public Health is reporting the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Columbus.

The case is a 49 year old male who had recently traveled on the Carnival cruise ship Valor. On Feb 29, he departed from New Orleans and traveled to Cozumel and the Yucatan and returned on March 5.

He arrived back in Columbus on March 6, and started having symptoms on March 7. He sought medical treatment on March 11 and on March 12. He is currently recuperating at home in isolation.

Since the notification came in late last night, we have been working through the night contacting those we know who were with him and anyone else that he may have come in contact with.

Currently, we have 2 household contacts who are in quarantine and being monitored, and 2 contacts who are exhibiting symptoms and being tested.

Additionally, any central Ohio resident who was on this cruise should call 614-645-1519.

“This first case of COVID-19 in our community reminds us that we all must take precautions to protect health and stay safe,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika Roberts. “Columbus Public Health will continue to work closely with our local, state and federal partners – and our health care systems -- to take all appropriate measures to prevent and contain the spread of the virus.”

Columbus Public Health is conducting a contact case investigation to identify others at risk of infection. If you are having symptoms of COVID-19, have traveled in the last 14 days or been around someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, call your healthcare provider. He or she will work with you to determine if you should be tested. Testing is available in the community, but you need to be referred by your provider.

Everyone can take precautions to protect health and prevent the spread of infectious disease by taking the following steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

The Ohio Department of Health has opened a COVID-19 call center that is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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