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OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS COVID-19 RESPONSE



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MONDAY APRIL 6, 2020

TOURISM AND COVID-19

Visitors to Ottawa County – Plan now, visit later!

While we love and depend on our visitors, the health and safety of our guests and all who live and work in Ottawa County is our top priority. Therefore, we strongly urge you to postpone your trip to Ottawa County until this public health crisis has passed.

It's a difficult time. There's a lot of fear and uncertainty. We don't know where we'll be in a few weeks—or even months. But there's one thing we are sure of and that is how the State of Ohio and Ottawa County have responded to COVID-19 by encouraging everyone to follow the directives in Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's orders. Our residents are following these orders and we ask those considering visiting Ottawa County to do the same.

We ask that you follow the orders in Governor DeWine's directives. Our residents are following these orders and we ask those considering visiting Ottawa County to do the same.

Ottawa County has developed a reputation as a tourist destination. We love showing off our area and everything it has to offer. We love welcoming newcomers and visitors, and we're grateful for everything tourism means to our area.

For the present we are asking visitors to plan now, **visit later!**

Ottawa County residents should continue to follow orders and use their discretion when considering visiting places frequented by visitors.

Ottawa County EMA and our county partners continue to explore methods to enforce the State's orders.

We encourage outdoor activity, but it's better to stick close to home. Do not drive except to provide or obtain an essential service. The less we all travel, the less chance the outbreak spreads.

Additionally, if you're thinking about coming here long-term, to ride out the coronavirus storm in a vacation rental or your second home, ***please reconsider***. Some jurisdictions, including many Lake Erie Islands, have forbidden residents from traveling there without a 14-day self-quarantine. Governor Mike DeWine has issued a mandate that anyone coming to Ohio from out of state is asked to quarantine for 14 days. Ottawa County's working hard to take care of our residents. It just makes sense to stay home, near your own health care providers who know your medical history. Please don't put additional strain on our small community.

Visitors... we look forward to the day when we can welcome you back, but for now please stay home and stay safe. Use this time to plan your vacation to Ottawa County for when travel is possible and you can enjoy all that we have to offer.

We look forward to that day. Until then, stay safe.

For additional information on the Ottawa County response to COVID-19, please contact Fred Petersen, Ottawa County EMA, at 419-734-6900.

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