

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2020

Put-In-Bay Outbreak Response

PORT CLINTON - The Ottawa County Health Department (OCHD), along with several public health partners, conducted mass testing for COVID-19 on Put-in-Bay on Friday July 10 and Saturday July 11, 2020. The Ohio Department of Health verified that 954 specimens were collected and of those 66 were positive. The 984 number that was originally given was a communication issue on how the samples were bundled. That doesn't change the fact that again 66 were positive and those people have been notified and are isolating at this time to stop the spread of COVID-19. Individuals with negative test results are also being notified and the health department will continue to contact them until all have been reached which could take several days.

The testing focused on employees of Put-in-Bay, but no one was turned away. The mass testing held last week was to gain baseline knowledge of the number of employees having an active COVID-19 infection and to isolate those individuals to stop the spread of the virus. The final results demonstrated a 7% positivity rate of COVID-19 on Put-in-Bay. This number is actually lower than originally anticipated by health officials. 43 of the 66 cases were considered Ottawa County residents.

This testing would not have been possible without the tremendous help of our partners at Magruder Hospital, Ottawa County EMA, the Ohio National Guard, Put-in Bay Fire Department, Put-in-Bay EMS, Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce and the American Red Cross. We also want to thank the Miller Ferry, the Jet Express, Cameo Pizza and Fire Engine Pizza Company for their assistance in this event.

The businesses on Put-in-Bay want to take all precautions available to protect their employees and visitors from COVID-19 and were very grateful for the testing site. It would not have been possible without their willingness and support of our event. We all want to make sure we have a safe and healthy community and that starts with fostering positive relationships between OCHD, Magruder Hospital and the local business owners. Planning for this event began on Tuesday July 7 and we began testing on Friday July 10. This event was a great example of how coming together as a unified front produces exceptional results!

OCHD continues to recommend that all Ottawa County residents and visitors keep taking measures to protect themselves from this virus. Continue social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet of distance between individuals, avoid groups of 10 people or more, wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes, cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, clean frequently touched surfaces, avoid those that are sick, and stay home if you are sick. We also advise all residents and visitors to wear a mask when in public or around people other than those that live within your household. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at 419-734-6800. Our website, Ottawahealth.org also has information regarding COVID-19.

END OF RELEASE

For information regarding this press release contact Jerry Bingham, MPH, RS, Health Commissioner, Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at (419) 734-6800.