

## **Announcement on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for New Concord Residents – March 11, 2020**

Update of the statement read during the March 9 meeting of the Village Council

Village of New Concord leadership is closely and carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation as it relates to us locally.

Yesterday afternoon Muskingum University announced that “due to coronavirus concerns and at the urging of Governor DeWine, the University will be moving to an off-campus instructional format starting on Monday, March 16.” (please refer to [www.muskingum.edu](http://www.muskingum.edu) for the full details)

Governor DeWine has taken a strong preventive stance for our state regarding the spread of COVID-19, especially since just yesterday, March 10, he confirmed the first three Ohio cases – all in Cuyahoga County. As many know from the news, last weekend he curtailed attendance at the very popular Arnold Festival in Columbus, so his guidance to Ohio's higher education institutions during yesterday's conference call is very much in line with his overall strategy.

I appreciate the Governor's approach, as I believe his actions will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our state. As he stated, “We've learned from what has happened in other countries and we've seen how fast this moves. Our goal is to dramatically slow down the spread, thus saving lives and at the same time getting us through this period.”

We in the Village are continuing with business as usual and are committed to providing for the public's needs. We have no plans to shut our doors and will continue to provide full services to residents, businesses and visitors. If the situation changes residents will be notified immediately, using every means at our disposal. Continuing to provide services will remain our top priority regardless of the situation.

As a municipality, New Concord follows guidance from the Muskingum County Health Department and Emergency Management Services Agency (EMA). The EMA will provide coordination and support to us if needed. We are in regular communication with leadership at the university and the school district as their plans evolve.

My recommendation is to remain calm – but not complacent. So, please continue with your daily activities but consider bumping elbows with people instead of hugs or hand-shaking. I witnessed this new protocol during a mayors' conference yesterday in Columbus.

In the meantime, please rely on information from reliable sources. Here is a great list:

- Ohio Department of Health call center: 833-427-5634, open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Ohio Department of Health dedicated website at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).
- National Centers for Disease Control – [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)
- World Health Organization – [who.int](http://who.int)

Continue to take the same precautions you would to prevent the common flu:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
2. Use hand sanitizer when soap and hot water are not available.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

I will continue to work closely with village staff and council. All of us in village leadership will rely on guidance from our county health department and Emergency Management Agency, the State of Ohio and the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

To everyone's good health!

Mayor Jennifer Lyle