Public Information Release

Statement on Business Reopenings and Public Health in Preble County
May 3, 2020

On May 1st Preble County Public Health (PCPH) met with the Preble County Commissioners to discuss the current COVID-19 situation as it relates to the gradual reopening of business in Preble County. Discussion revolved around the Ohio Department of Health Director’s new Stay Safe Ohio Order as well as Governor DeWine’s plan to reopen Ohio businesses.

In the days following this productive meeting, there has been great misrepresentation and rumors of what was discussed by various media outlets outside of our jurisdiction as well as through social media, which have reached cities and counties throughout Ohio.

PCPH would like to reiterate that our department will be enforcing the Stay Safe Ohio order. It is the law and our job to do so. The Director’s order outlines a gradual, safe plan for the reopening of business. PCPH is dedicated to helping businesses in Preble County get ready to open as quickly and safely as possible as milestones in the Governor’s plan are reached. We encourage our local business partners to reach out to our department to develop plans and protocols to protect the health of their employees and patrons. Finally, while it is a last resort, our department can and will work with law enforcement to the extent set forth by Ohio law.

It would be an understatement to say that staying at home and quarantining has been tough economically, socially, and mentally. But we need to go slow. We also acknowledge that the success of reopening ultimately relies on individual choices. We ask that Preble County citizens continue to do an excellent job at protecting themselves and their community.

PCPH encourages residents to monitor preblecountyhealth.org/coronavirus for the latest information on the Governor’s order for reopening Ohio and to find the latest on COVID-19 in Preble County.