

Public Information Release

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2020

Preble County Public Health Investigating COVID-19 Outbreak at Long-term Care Facility

Preble County Public Health (PCPH) has identified an outbreak of COVID-19 at the Greenbriar Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Eaton and is working with the facility to test all individuals and prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the illness COVID-19. At this time, there are 15 positive, but asymptomatic residents, as well as two employees who have tested positive through the (RT)-PCR test.

As there has been a high level of public discussion on testing in Ohio over the past 72 hours, it is appropriate to note that COVID-19 at this facility was confirmed through the (RT)-PCR test rather than the rapid antigen test. For the purposes of reporting laboratory confirmed case numbers, positive antigen test results are not included in the laboratory confirmed numbers released by Ohio Department of Health or PCPH. Positive antigen test numbers are only reflected in the probable case numbers if the individual tested is both symptomatic and has been exposed to a PCR positive person.

What exactly is PCR? PCR or more precisely (RT)-PCR is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid (RNA) from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs) collected from individuals suspected of COVID 19 by their healthcare provider, as well as upper respiratory specimens collected from any individual, including from individuals without symptoms or other reasons to suspect COVID-19 infection.

The residents of the Greenbriar Nursing and Rehabilitation Center were tested as the result of two employees testing positive. Further investigation of this outbreak will continue through both contact tracing and further (RT)-PCR testing.

Long-term care facilities continue to be an area of focus for Public Health response due to the vulnerable age range of residents as well as the high rate of infection identified at these facilities throughout the country since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

For more information and up to date data on COVID-19 in Preble County please visit preblecountyhealth.org/coronavirus or follow us on Facebook via facebook.com/preblecohealth.

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