



Defiance County Board of Commissioners

Ryan Mack, Michael Pocratsky, and Gary Plotts

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2020

CONTACT: Commissioner (Chairman) Ryan Mack, commissioners@defiance-county.com
Finance Manager/Administrator Sherry Carnahan, sc@defiance-county.com

The County Commissioners are granted the authority to approve a state of emergency for the county.

A COUNTY GOVERNMENT STATE OF EMERGENCY IS...

- an executive action that has to be passed by a county's commissioners in order to qualify for state and federal resources like grants, equipment and supplies that might be needed.
- an administrative tool that allows a local government to streamline its operations temporarily. Instead of it taking a week or two to get approval for large purchases, we can do it much faster.
- a necessary step that gives a local government the legal permission to allow certain classes of its employees to work from home.

A COUNTY GOVERNMENT STATE OF EMERGENCY IS NOT...

- a martial-law order that forces everyone to stay home.
- an order that means any other organization, business or jurisdiction's employees have to stay home from work.
- like a snow emergency AT. ALL.

In light of the Defiance County Public Health District informing the Commissioners of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Defiance County, the Commissioners, in special session on Friday, March 20, 2020, declared a state of emergency in Defiance County, Ohio due to COVID-19 and exercised all necessary emergency authority for the protection of lives of the people of Defiance County.

Finally, a county government's State of Emergency does not mean that we have ceased to provide services to you. Our offices and departments are still in operation, but we are utilizing all kinds of communications tools to make it possible to serve you: phone, email, mail, fax, Skype/Zoom, dropboxes. And, of course, our people who have to be hands-on to do their jobs — our 9-1-1 dispatchers, our EMS paramedics, our Sheriff's deputies, our sewer-plant operators — are still hands-on and doing their jobs.

We will continue to monitor the developments of COVID-19 and will provide further updates via the Defiance County Commissioners' Facebook page. We continue to follow the guidance of the Defiance County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

###

500 Court Street, Suite A
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Email: commissioners@defiance-county.com

Phone: 419-782-4761
Fax: 419-782-8449
www.defiance-county.com