



City of Lima, Ohio

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David J. Berger, Mayor

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Mayor David Berger Announces Decision to Cancel Lima Irish Parade

Lima— March 11, 2020 — Today Lima Mayor David Berger announced his decision to cancel the Lima Irish Parade scheduled for Saturday as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The decision to cancel follows a request received from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Public Health.

On Tuesday, March 10, Governor DeWine made recommendations including:

- Screening of colleges and university students returning from spring break that traveled internationally or were on cruise ships. All international travel for school activities should be canceled, as well as university-sponsored non-essential travel and large gatherings. Universities and colleges should move toward online/remote learning.
- Limiting indoor athletic events at all levels (high school, college and pro) the only spectators should include the athletes, parents and others essential to the game. Right now, outdoor events can continue.

Since Tuesday's announcement several colleges across the state have cancelled face-to-face instruction and the Ohio High School Athletic Association limited attendance at all state and regional tournaments this week and next week to participating student-athletes, their immediate families, and the media.

On Wednesday, March 11, the Governor's office issued a second press release further recommending that:

- Religious institutions to limit practices that could spread germs. If you are at high risk, please think about staying home from services.
- Individuals should not visit nursing homes, but if they must, the visitors should be screened for illness to protect the at-risk populations residing there.
- Large gatherings of people in close proximity, even at outdoor activities such as parades, rallies and tail-gate parties, be cancelled or postponed.



The Governor's office has also suspended visitation at juvenile and adult correctional facilities.

The Governor's office did not recommend the closure of elementary, middle, and high schools, but did recommend that, school administrators should begin planning for that possibility; and that parents should also begin planning for the potential that they may need to stay home with their children or find alternate child care solutions.

“Our highest priority is the health and safety of residents. Acting now and not waiting is an important step in slowing the infection rate throughout the state and our community. It is not a time to panic, but it is a time to be well informed, to be deliberate, and to take steps to protect ourselves, our families, our associates and our neighbors.” stated Mayor Berger.

To prevent spread of the disease, public health officials recommend practicing common sense health safety tips and social distancing, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. At this time, no special sanitizing processes beyond routine cleaning are necessary or recommended to slow the spread of respiratory illness.

Vulnerable populations – consisting of those 60 years or older or with underlying health conditions – may be more susceptible to COVID-19. The City encourages members of vulnerable populations and anyone who is sick to remain home and not attend large gatherings.

“While these are difficult recommendations to make, we know that taking these measures now can slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve lives in our community and beyond,” stated Kathy Luhn, Allen County Public Health Commissioner. “Taking these actions now will benefit us in the long run.”

More information and updates on COVID-19 can be found on the Ohio Department of Health website, and the CDC website. You can also contact the Allen County Department of Health at 419.228.4457

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