



March 23, 2020

HEALTH ALERT: COVID-19

Dear Colleagues,

As testing for COVID-19 becomes more widespread, the incidence of positive test results within our community has steadily increased. It has always been the policy of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) to give primary care providers the opportunity to notify their patients of any positive test results prior to follow-up by OCDPH.

Currently, however, positive COVID-19 test results are frequently being received from testing centers without the names of primary care providers. Also, results are being received over the weekends when offices are closed which makes immediate physician notification extremely difficult.

Because of this, OCDPH will now be notifying individuals directly of positive COVID-19 results as soon as they are received so that contact investigation can be initiated. Every effort will still be made to notify primary care providers of positive test results as soon as possible.

As always, we appreciate your continued cooperation and support. Please contact OCDPH if we can be of any further assistance to you during these very challenging times.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH  
Medical Director  
Ottawa County Department of Public Health