**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Caitlin Mathews, (330) 627-4866, ext. 1559**

**Date: May 6, 2020 Carroll County General Health District**

**Call to Action-Volunteers for Contact Tracing**

The Carroll County General Health District is asking those in our community who are interested and available to help us in our public health response to COVID-19.

We have two opportunities for volunteers to help make Carroll County Safe during COVID-19:

1. Disease Detectives-

Goal: to slow the spread of the virus in our community.

Task: these individuals would help the nursing staff in identifying people who may be infected and then finding all the people that may have come in contact with (exposed).

* 1. This work would be done at home by telephone
  2. Each Disease Detective will have a point of contact
  3. Training is required

1. Safety Scouts-

Goal: to acknowledge the businesses who are safely operating to protect the community.

Task: these individuals will help the environmental health staff by scouting the businesses in the community to look for safe operations as directed by the Governor for Re-Start Ohio.

This work would be done in the Carroll County community

Coordinated through a point of contact

Training is required

All volunteers will be interviewed and evaluated for the right fit for the roles. You can request between the two roles when you apply.

Ohio is increasing our testing capability in May with an anticipated additional 22,000 tests per day. When testing increases, we will find individuals (sick and not sick) who are infected and test positive.

When public health identifies those infected (test positive) there are steps, we take to slow the spread of the virus. These are steps:

1. We investigate every positive case, to find those people the infected person may have come into contact with when they were able to spread the virus (period of communicability). This public health management process is called Contact Tracing.
2. We go back to 2 weeks prior to their onset of symptoms (if they have them) to find who they may have been in contact with.
3. We make a list of all of these people. These people are considered exposed to the virus. Due to them being exposed, we want to watch them to make sure they don’t develop the COVID disease (active monitoring) and we keep them separated from others during this time.
4. We then do several things to separate people to slow the spread to families, loved ones and within our communities.

We will need help to perform the contact tracing investigations. Currently we have two nurses doing this work. We will need help in finding the people who may be exposed to someone who tested positive.

We are asking, if you are interested to volunteer to help us (without pay) to please contact us at 330-627-4866 extension 1530 or email [mmagellanez@carroll-lhd.org](mailto:mmagellanez@carroll-lhd.org)

We will be compiling a database of those volunteers interested. We may not need you immediately, but we will contact you, to interview those interested when our capacity is exceeded. We appreciate everyone’s help in protecting our community!

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330-627-4866 301 Moody Ave SW Carrollton, Ohio 44615 www.carroll-lhd.org