

Public Health Press Release

From: City of Middletown Health Department

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For Immediate Release:

Potential COVID-19 Exposure on Bus - City of Middletown

The City of Middletown Health Department (CMHD) is currently investigating a potential COVID-19 exposure on several City of Middletown Transit (MTS) buses. Public health officials believe the risk for developing an infection is low. However, out of an abundance of caution people who were on MTS-Blue Line, Red Line, Gold Line and Green Line in Middletown during the hours of 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM Monday - Friday, and Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM from August 21 - 31, are asked to please self-monitor for 14 days after your last ride on any of these routes during the dates listed.

The symptoms to monitor are as follows:

- Sinus like symptoms:
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore scratchy throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or new difficulty breathing

If you develop any of these symptoms, please contact a healthcare provider and ask about getting tested. Please do not walk-in without calling ahead to any healthcare provider if you believe that you have the symptoms of COVID-19.

CMHD is contacting anyone believed to have been in close contact with an infected individual. Should you receive a call or letter from the Health Department, we encourage your complete cooperation. Some things that you can do to keep your close contacts (family members, friends, coworkers, etc.) safe are as follows:

- **Wear a mask.** This is a simple way to reduce the spread of droplets that could carry the virus.
- **Wash your hands thoroughly.** This is one of the most proven methods to prevent disease transmission.
- **Understand what is normal for you.** If you feel off, something is probably off.
- **Avoid mass gatherings.** Some people never develop symptoms or get symptoms so mild that they do not know they are sick, but we know that they can spread it to others.
- **Stay 6 feet away from others.** Studies show that this is likely the maximum range the virus can travel in droplets spread from your mouth. Make this even more effective by wearing your mask.
- **Stay home if you're sick.** Most people report that they continued to work while not feeling well.
- **Avoid interacting with your high-risk loved ones until your incubation period is over.**

For more information on COVID-19 visit CMHD's website at <http://cityofmiddletown.org/> or the Ohio Department of Health at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>.

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