

## *News Release*



### *Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office* *William R. Johnson, Sheriff*

Pg. 1 of 2

Date: 3/17/20

To: News Media

Subject: COVID-19 Response Efforts

Occurrence Date: 3/17/20

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#### **Summary:**

JEFFERSON – In response to the recent events concerning COVID-19, the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office will be implementing the following measures as a result of the recommendations and requirements established by the Ohio Department of Health, as well as those of the Governor.

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, we will suspend our CCW and background check operations until further notice. This is being done to reduce the amount of traffic into the office, for the safety of the public as well as our employees. Sheriffs in adjoining counties have suspended their operations as well. Anyone having additional questions regarding CCW or background checks can contact Jackie at (440) 576-3545 or Melissa at (440) 576-3542.

Effective immediately and until further notice, we will not be taking complaints at the Civil Office window. If you need to file a report, please call our dispatch center at (440) 576-0055 for non-emergency issues and 911 for emergencies. All emergencies will be handled by our Road Division deputies, who will continue to patrol our community. Non-emergency complaints, such as identity theft or fraud complaints will be handled via telephone at the earliest convenience of our staff.

Effective immediately and until further notice, all inmates entering the Ashtabula County Jail will be screened prior to entrance. Anyone showing signs or symptoms of the flu or COVID-19 virus will not be accepted into the jail without medical clearance. If an inmate

that we are currently housing shows signs and symptoms, including a fever, they will be isolated in medical administrative segregation until seen by medical personnel.

Inmate visitation will also continue to be suspended. All outside inmate programs have also been suspended, including AA, GED, Bible studies and church services. Attorney visits are being limited to non-contact visitation phones.

We recognize the inconvenience these measures may present to our residents and we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this trying time. We will do our best to keep the community informed of any updates or further disruptions of the services we provide.

For the most up-to-date information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones, please visit the Ohio Department of Health's website at [www.coronavirusohio.gov](http://www.coronavirusohio.gov) or call the staffed hotline at 1-833-427-5634. The hotline is staffed daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please educate yourself on how to prevent community spread through techniques such as social distancing, sanitizing and hygiene.

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Sheriff William R. Johnson  
Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office

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