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For Immediate Release

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## **Fairfield 33 Development Alliance Postpones Career Readiness Expo Amid Coronavirus Concern**

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE] Yesterday Governor DeWine announced that he has banned all events and gatherings of 100+ people to help slow the spread of COVID-19 or the coronavirus. Schools will also be closed for three weeks. Therefore, we are postponing the Career Readiness Expo, which was scheduled for April 1. We hope to reschedule the event once the threat of the virus wanes. For now, we are working to support the state's efforts to "interrupt" further community spread.

While the direct threat of coronavirus for each of us individually is limited, it is important that the community takes measures to prevent its spread. Governor DeWine requested that we make decisions that are not only in our own best interest but also in the best interest of our community. These decisions are not easy, but they are necessary.

"This is a precautionary measure as we follow advice from the medical community and the Governor," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "With businesses implementing corporate policies regarding events and the recent mandates by Governor DeWine, this is the best plan of action to ensure the health and safety of all our partners and students."

### **What are the symptoms of the Coronavirus and what do I do if I have them?**

The reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases. If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough and/or difficulty breathing and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread, take these steps:

- Your health and the health of your fellow employees is our top priority. Therefore, **DO NOT COME IN TO WORK.**
- Instead, immediately **CALL** your healthcare professional ahead of arriving at their office, urgent care or emergency department. Tell them about your recent travel or contact and they will determine next steps (come in for in-person visit; utilize telemedicine to diagnose you, refer you to a lab or other provider, etc..)
- Your healthcare professional will work with Ohio's public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

- If you receive a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, please notify your direct supervisor as soon as possible.

### How can I prevent COVID-19? What can I do to protect myself and my family?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Like every cold and flu season, there are easy but important ways you can protect you and your family from COVID-19.

- **USE GOOD HYGEINE:**
  - Avoid handshakes and other forms of person-to-person contact if possible.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (as a guideline, sing “Happy Birthday” to yourself while washing). Be sure to complete the washing process by drying your hands thoroughly.
  - Keep hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol on-hand to use following in-person interaction.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when in public places.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in your workspace and home using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **STAY HEALTHY:**
  - Get a flu shot to generally protect your immune system
  - Keep up with your healthy routines (good nutrition and regular physical activity).
- **USE TECHNOLOGY:**
  - Hold meetings that are not essential to host in-person over the phone or via videoconference.
- **STAY UP TO DATE:**
  - The state has created a website that is dedicated to keeping Ohioans up to date: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

Please note that **the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face masks**. They should be used by the people who show symptoms of COVID-19 and reserved for health workers and people in close contact with sick patients.

Please visit [www.fairfield33.com](http://www.fairfield33.com) for updates on the Career Readiness Expo.