



**CARROLL COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**
Healthy People — Safe Communities

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carroll County General Health District Date: February 21, 2023

CARROLL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HELPS STAFF HEALTH ASSESSMENT CLINIC AT EAST PALENSTINE

Health Commissioner Kelly Morris was contacted on Saturday morning February 18th by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding the health department staff helping to staff the Health Assessment Clinic that Columbiana County Health Department is operating. This clinic is a coordinated effort by the ODH and Federal resources deployed at Governor DeWines request from the Health and Human Services medical team.

The Health Assessment clinic is in response to citizens concerned and fearful of chemical exposures as the train derailment that occurred on February 3rd, 2023.

The Health Assessment clinic will be operational beginning today Tuesday February 21, 2023 through Saturday February 25, 2023, running 12 hour days from 8am to 8pm most days. “ Our leadership team worked over the weekend and finalized a schedule today to send 12 of our 19 staff to work split shifts of the 12 hour days. We also reached out to the Carroll County Emergency Management Agency who is also sending our Deputy EMA Director to assist. Anything we can do on site to assist and in getting the correct information out to our community we will do to help our neighbors during this hazardous event.” States Health Commissioner Morris.

The clinic will include health consultations with Registered Nurses, have toxicology experts on site and mental health services for residents. The assessment center is to assist in evaluating concerned and fearful residents who may or may not be experiencing symptoms after returning home.

The clinic is taking place at the First Church of Christ on 20 West Martin Street in East Palestine. Residents can call to schedule an appointment by calling 234-565-7755

The response to the train derailment has been managed by Federal Environmental Protection Agency with assistance from ODH and Ohio EPA for the air, soil and surface water monitoring. Columbiana County Health Department has managed the water sampling of private water wells in homes in the affected area. Continued response from all parties and coordinated efforts from across the region have been assisting to protect the public's health.

Carroll County resident and our animals are safe from the chemical exposures that occurred on Feb 3rd and February 10th from the train derailment. Please visit our website carroll-lhd.org for the most recent information from Ohio EMA, Ohio EPA and ODH.

“Our biggest advantage in this event is our geographical location. Being West of East Palestine protects us since the winds travel West to East and the surface water that had contaminants flows south to the Ohio River. Our water aquifers are not connected underground, therefore our water municipal supplies and our private water wells are naturally protected from the chemical spilled during the derailment.” Says Health Commissioner Morris.

“These are the types of events that we prepare for. In public health our role in a hazardous chemical exposure like this is in the recovery. The initial response is Fire and Hazardous Material Teams. But once the site is secured, it is our job with our partners to identify risk to health and help the community feel they are being heard, and protected. We have practiced exercises/drills like this for many years. Pulling resources from all levels and managing the communications are the largest tasks. Columbiana County and our State and Federal partners have been doing just that. We ask that you help us get the correct information out to our community.” Kelly Morris, Carroll County Health Commissioner

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