

## **COVID-19 UPDATE – BEREAFIRE DEPARTMENT**

March 31, 2020

Six City of Berea firefighter/paramedics have tested positive for COVID-19. Several other firefighters were tested with negative results.

Those employees with positive test results and their families are subject to quarantine orders issued by various Boards of Health and are recovering comfortably at home.

The cases are monitored by the Board of Health in the county where they employee resides. Therefore, we are in close contact with the Boards of Health from Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties. In addition, we continue to work under the close supervision of Dr. Susan E. Tout, of Southwest General Health Center.

The safety of our first responders and the public is a paramount concern. The fire station is routinely cleaned. However, upon notice of the first positive test, cleaning and disinfecting has become even more frequent. In addition, the City contracted with a company to professionally disinfect the station and apparatus through the use of commercial grade equipment and products.

Out of an abundance of caution, employees having direct exposure to an employee with a positive test result, were sent home for one or more shifts.

While we do not anticipate any issues with staffing, Berea Fire Chief Mark Kaufhold communicates regularly with the Chiefs in our neighboring cities to ensure that we are in a position to continue to assist and support each other for the duration of the public health crisis. The City appreciates the cooperation and support of Local 1836 of the International Association of Firefighters.

Personal protective equipment is in short supply throughout the area. Donations of PPE may be dropped-off in the lobby of the Berea Police Department, located at 17 Berea Commons.