TESTING FOR COVID-19
March 20, 2020

Hi, neighbors.

I know that there is a lot of uncertainty as our community faces the spread of COVID-19. I want to give you facts on who should be tested for the virus . . . and how.

First, the symptoms of COVID-19 are a fever – 100.4 degrees or higher – a dry cough and shortness of breath. If you are experiencing these symptoms, call your primary care physician. He or she will decide if you should be tested. Right now, you cannot be tested for COVID-19 without a referral.

If you do not have a health care provider, call Columbus Public Health at 614-645-1519. They can connect you with a nurse, who can give you a referral.

Those who seek a referral and do not get one are strongly encouraged to stay at home and monitor their symptoms for 14 days.
- Take your temperature daily.
- Use over the counter medication to treat symptoms just like you would do if you had the flu.
- Stay in contact with your primary care physician.

Finally – and this is very important – do not go to the ER if you suspect you have COVID-19. Work with your doctor or Columbus Public Health on a plan. Visits to the ER may expose others to the virus – or could expose you.

Columbus, we are in this together. We will weather this storm.

Be well. Be kind.