

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 599

Representatives Blair, O'Brien

Cosponsors: Representatives Lepore-Hagan, Galonski, Miranda

A BILL

To require, during the period of the emergency
declared by Executive Order 2020-01D issued on
March 9, 2020, and for six months thereafter,
prompt notification of an emergency medical
services worker or funeral services worker who
has treated, handled, or transported a patient
who tested positive for COVID-19 and to declare
an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency medical services worker," "funeral services
worker," and "peace officer" have the same meanings as in
section 3701.248 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Presumptive positive case" means at least one
specimen taken from a patient has tested positive for the virus
that causes COVID-19.

(B) This section shall be in effect during the period of
the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D issued on
March 9, 2020, and for six months thereafter.

(C) Notwithstanding section 3701.248 of the Revised Code, 19
a health care facility or coroner that becomes aware of a 20
patient's presumptive positive case of COVID-19 shall promptly 21
determine whether the patient was treated, handled, or 22
transported for medical care by an emergency medical services 23
worker or was handled by a funeral services worker in the thirty 24
days prior to becoming aware of the presumptive positive case. 25
If the patient was treated, handled, or transported by one or 26
more emergency medical services workers or funeral services 27
workers under those circumstances, the health care facility or 28
coroner shall promptly provide verbal notification of the 29
presumptive positive case to each emergency medical services 30
worker or funeral services worker involved with the patient's 31
treatment, handling, or transportation. The health care facility 32
or coroner also shall notify the Director of Health in writing 33
that the notification was made. 34

(D) On receipt of a report under section 3701.23 of the 35
Revised Code that a case of COVID-19 has been confirmed, the 36
Director of Health shall promptly determine whether the Director 37
received a written notification under division (C) of this 38
section in connection with that patient. If the Director did 39
receive such a written notification, the Director shall provide 40
verbal notification of the patient's confirmed case of COVID-19 41
to each emergency medical services worker or funeral services 42
worker who received a verbal notification under division (C) of 43
this section in connection with that patient. 44

(E) No person shall knowingly fail to comply with division 45
(C) or (D) of this section. 46

(F) Any record of a verbal or written notification made 47
under division (C) of this section or a verbal notification made 48

under division (D) of this section is not a public record under 49
section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 50

(G) The Director of Health shall determine that the 51
release of COVID-19 test results under this section comes within 52
the exception in division (B) (4) of section 3701.17 of the 53
Revised Code and may be released without the written consent of 54
the person to whom the results pertain. 55

(H) Whoever violates division (C) of this section is 56
guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on each 57
subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 58
fourth degree. 59

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 60
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 61
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that 62
immediate action is crucial to protecting public health during 63
the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the act shall go into 64
immediate effect. 65