

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 599**

**Representatives Blair, O'Brien**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Lepore-Hagan, Galonski, Miranda**

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**A BILL**

To require, during the period of the emergency 1  
declared by Executive Order 2020-01D issued on 2  
March 9, 2020, and for six months thereafter, 3  
prompt notification of an emergency medical 4  
services worker or funeral services worker who 5  
has treated, handled, or transported a patient 6  
who tested positive for COVID-19 and to declare 7  
an emergency. 8

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

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section: 9

(1) "Emergency medical services worker," "funeral services 10  
worker," and "peace officer" have the same meanings as in 11  
section 3701.248 of the Revised Code. 12

(2) "Presumptive positive case" means at least one 13  
specimen taken from a patient has tested positive for the virus 14  
that causes COVID-19. 15

(B) This section shall be in effect during the period of 16  
the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D issued on 17  
March 9, 2020, and for six months thereafter. 18

(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