

CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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Carteret County COVID-19 Additional COVID-19 Confirmed Case Reported Press Release #32

Carteret County, NC – On April 3, 2020, Carteret County received another confirmed positive case for a total of 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County. Carteret County medical providers, including the Health Department, have collected specimens for COVID-19 testing for 315 patients resulting in 16 positive confirmations, 1 inconclusive, 226 negative results and 72 pending test results. Of the 16 confirmed cases, 9 of those patients have recovered and have satisfied the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) isolation requirements. The Health Department expects to see more positive cases given the amount of pending tests.

The case count reflects only those patients who have been tested for COVID-19 and not all individuals in our County are receiving test. Based on the updated testing guidance by the NCDHHS, persons with mild illness (e.g. fever and cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) are being asked to treat their symptoms at home and to self-isolate. The NCDHHS guidance is sent to all local health departments and medical providers in NC. Also the testing guidance has changed, so medical providers are no longer required to send the persons under investigation (PUI) forms to the Health Department. Without these forms, the Health Department cannot track all the testing in the county that is sent to the labs. However, the Health Department will continue to track any provider forms that may be sent to them. Since these changes in the NCDHHS guidance, we know the counts do not accurately reflect the number of actual COVID-19 cases in the community.

COVID-19 is spreading within our community and our State. All residents should take necessary precautions by washing their hands frequently, employing social distancing measures, and eliminating unnecessary travel in and out of the County to reduce their chances of becoming sick.

To stay up-to-date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus or call the Citizens Inquiry Hotline at 252-728-7060.

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