

CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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Carteret County COVID-19 Death of COVID-19 Positive County Resident Press Release #33

Carteret County, NC – Carteret County Health Department reports the first confirmed COVID-19 death of a Carteret County resident. The individual died on April 2, 2020 from complications associated with the virus. The resident was in their 80's and had several underlying medical conditions. To protect the family's privacy, no further information about this patient will be released. At the time of death, Carteret County Health Department had not yet received the positive COVID-19 test results from the testing laboratory. This death should be reflected on the NC Department of Health and Human Services case count for confirmed cases and deaths in Carteret County on Monday April 6, 2020. On Monday, March 30, the Health Department announced a COVID-19 death in a Virginia resident. However, this death was not reported as a Carteret County death as all deaths are reported in the county of residence.

“We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones during this difficult time,” stated Health Director, Stephanie Cannon. “As of April 6, 2020, Carteret County has had 18 confirmed COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 is present in our community. Over the next several weeks, it is really important for all community members to stay home to the extent possible, practice social distancing when conducting essential business, and employ preventive measures such as cleaning/disinfecting surfaces frequently and washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. At this time, this is the best way to fight the spread of this virus,” Ms. Cannon added.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people who get COVID-19 will recover without needing medical care. For that reason, people who think they have COVID-19 showing mild symptoms such as fever and cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing are encouraged to isolate themselves at home, separate themselves from others within the household as much as possible, and call their medical provider for advice.

It is extremely important for people at higher risk of getting sick with COVID-19 to call their medical provider if they develop symptoms of fever or cough. High-risk individuals include:

- Are 65 years or older
- Live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Have compromised immune systems
- Severe obesity-body mass index of 40 or higher
- Other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease
- People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk for severe viral illnesses.

For individuals with more serious or worsening symptoms, please call your medical provider or 911 immediately. Those symptoms include worsening shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest pain or pressure, confusion, or blue lips.

For more information on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus or call the Citizens Inquiry Hotline at 252-728-7060. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

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