



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES REPORTS CASE COUNTS

Elizabeth City, NC – As of 11 a.m. on April 3, 2020 Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is reporting 22 lab confirmed positive cases of COVID -19 across the region. Case counts include: Pasquotank – 7, Perquimans – 1, Camden – 0, Chowan – 1, Currituck – 2, Bertie – 6, Gates – 1, Hertford – 4. In North Carolina, there are currently 2,093 cases of COVID-19 in 86 counties. There have been 19 fatalities in NC associated with COVID-19. Currently, the state is reporting 259 hospitalizations.

- 52% of COVID-19 cases in NC are people between the ages of 18 and 49
- 28% are people age 50-64
- 20% age 65 and over

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“COVID-19 is a novel virus, meaning it is new, not everything is known about how the virus works. It is possible there are individuals, who have the virus and are spreading it, yet have no symptoms,” states ARHS Health Director R. Battle Betts, Jr. MPA. “The CDC has reported as many as 25% of people infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms. Therefore, public health interventions such as social distancing will continue to be an important tool to reduce transmission and prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

North Carolina will continue to track and post the number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases. However, it is important to recognize that there are many people with COVID-19 who will not be included in daily counts of laboratory-confirmed cases, including:

- People who had minimal or no symptoms and were not tested.
- People who had symptoms but did not seek medical care.
- People who sought medical care but were not tested.
- People with COVID-19 in whom the virus was not detected by testing.

Therefore, the number of laboratory-confirmed cases through testing will increasingly provide a limited picture of the spread of infections in the state as COVID-19 becomes more widespread and the number of people in the first three groups above increases.

As we enter into the weekend, remember to practice all guidelines included in the Governor’s Stay at Home Order each and every day. Stay home except for essential work or to visit essential businesses, to exercise outdoors, or to help a family member. Do not gather in groups of more than ten people and stay at least six feet apart from others. These orders are in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lessen the number of sick individuals.

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ARHS is continuing to ask our community citizens to be vigilant in practicing preventive and safety measures that will help prevent the spread of the virus and prevent the spread of COVID-

19. These precautions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet away from others, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid handshakes, hugs and other close contact.

Further information about COVID-19 can be found here:

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call 252-338-WELL

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

For more information, please contact Amy Underhill, ARHS Public Information Officer at 252-338-4448 or aunderhill@arhs-nc.org.

Albemarle Regional Health Services is dedicated to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy environment to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability through quality service, education, and advocacy.

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