



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

711 Roanoke Ave. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

NEWS RELEASE #102

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON REGIONAL
CASE COUNTS AND OUTBREAKS**

Elizabeth City, NC – Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is providing updated data of lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases as of 11 a.m. Friday, September 25, 2020 in addition, to the weekly surveillance report (attached).

Pasquotank County – 695 lab confirmed cases - 107 active, 557 recovered, and 31 deaths

Perquimans County – 186 lab confirmed cases – 24 active, 159 recovered, and 3 deaths

Camden County – 113 lab confirmed cases – 7 active, 103 recovered, and 3 deaths

Chowan County – 346 lab confirmed cases - 89 active, 255 recovered, and 2 deaths

Currituck County – 182 lab confirmed cases – 48 active, 131 recovered, and 3 deaths

Bertie County – 577 lab confirmed cases – 21 active, 547 recovered, and 9 deaths

Gates County – 138 lab confirmed cases – 19 active, 116 recovered, and 3 deaths

Hertford County – 744 lab confirmed cases – 61 active, 652 recovered, and 31 deaths

NC DHHS has recently enhanced testing capacity at congregate living facilities therefore resulting in a number of recent outbreaks across the region. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in a facility. When an outbreak is identified, additional contact tracing and testing is required in order to manage exposures and ensure proper steps are taken to protect both staff and residents. This often times identifies additional cases more quickly, including asymptomatic cases.

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COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

Facility	Staff	Residents	Deaths
Brian Center Health and Rehab - Windsor	5	2	0
Windsor House	5	23	2
WaterBrooke Assisted Living	6	19	7
Bertie Correctional Institution	15	31	0
Creek Side Care and Rehab	30	68	13
Currituck House Assisted Living	8	17	2
Gates House	7	4	0
Elizabeth City Health and Rehab	8	10	0
Pasquotank Correctional Institution	5	22	0
Rivers Correctional Institution	9	7	0
Brian Center Health and Rehab - Herford	2	0	0
Three Rivers Health and Rehab	3	1	0
Currituck Health and Rehab	2	0	0

Over the past week, ARHS has noticed additional cases have fed into our state reporting system that were actually from tests conducted over the past four months. Staff are currently reviewing each case and conducting case investigations to determine what caused this late feed and are working with state and local partners to resolve those concerns. In addition, NC DHHS, beginning today, is now reporting probable cases. Based on current national case definitions of COVID-19, patients with a positive antigen test who do not have a positive molecular (PCR) test are defined as probable cases. Patients with a positive molecular PCR test are defined as confirmed. For more information:

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Antigen-Provider-Update.pdf>

As we enter into month seven of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been 7,058,362 reported cases in the United States and 204,331 cases in North Carolina. Nationwide over 200,000 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19. North Carolina has experienced 3,409 deaths with a death rate of 31 per 100,000 people. North Carolina ranks 21, meaning there are 20 states with lower deaths per 100,000 people. COVID-19 related deaths are the third leading cause of death in the nation, far surpassing death rates for flu and pneumonia.

“The numbers we are seeing on the national level and the state level are a stark reminder of the impact of this pandemic,” said R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director. “As I study these numbers and compare them to our local numbers, it is obvious we have reached and even bypassed historic levels of previous influenza pandemics and severe flu seasons. While I am optimistic our local efforts and partnerships continue to make a difference on our active COVID-19 cases, I am concerned about how the upcoming flu season could impact our communities. By continuing efforts in social distancing, wearing masks, and hygiene and sanitation, I truly believe we can turn the tide on this pandemic, minimizing illness and preventing deaths throughout our region.”

NC DHHS has launched a COVID-19 Exposure Notification app called **SlowCOVIDNC**. The app will help North Carolinians slow the spread of the virus by alerting them when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data. To learn more about **SlowCOVIDNC** and to download the app, visit <https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc>.

COVID-19 testing is available for those meeting criteria by appointment only at the local health departments across the region. ARHS encourages residents to call their primary care provider for an assessment or information on testing availability before calling the local health department. If someone does not have a primary care home, ARHS does offer primary care services. All tests will be completed through a curbside screening clinic at the local health department.

For more information on criteria for COVID-19 testing or appointments, call 252-338-WELL/9355 or your local health department directly.

<p>Pasquotank County Health Department</p> <p>252-338-4400</p> <p>Testing available: Thursday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Perquimans County Health Department</p> <p>252-426-2100</p> <p>Testing available: Tuesday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Camden County Health Department</p> <p>252-338-4460</p> <p>Testing available: Thursday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Chowan County Health Department</p> <p>252-482-6003</p> <p>Testing available: Monday 8:30 – 10 am</p>
<p>Currituck County Health Department</p> <p>252-232-2271</p> <p>Testing available: Wednesday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Bertie County Health Department</p> <p>252-794-5322</p> <p>Testing available: Wednesday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Gates County Health Department</p> <p>252-357-1380</p> <p>Testing available: Monday 8:30 – 10 am</p>	<p>Hertford County Health Department</p> <p>252-862-4054</p> <p>Testing available: Tuesday 8:30 – 10 am</p>

ARHS is continuing to ask our community citizens to be mindful in practicing preventive and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please remember these precautions:

- 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.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public when social distancing measures are hard to maintain.

For more information about COVID-19 visit these sites:

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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