



Health Department
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April 8, 2020
4:40pm

Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center

**** Five (5) Positive Coronavirus Cases Confirmed in Louisburg Nursing Center ****

From:

Scott S. LaVigne, MSW, MBA
Franklin County Health Director
Public Information Officer, Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Communication:

Louisburg Nursing Center (202 Smoke Tree Way, Louisburg, NC 27549) currently has Five (5) positive confirmed cases at their facility: two (2) residents; and three (3) staff members. At this time, all are reported to be stable and no one has been hospitalized.

The Center has received an offer of assistance from our Capital Regional Advisory Committee (CAPRAC), as long term care facilities are now ranked #1 in priority for supplies. The Center continues to work closely with the Franklin County Health Department. At present, as per the previous and current NCDHHS guidance:

- testing is being completed on all patients and staff (onsite collection available for staff);
- Staff not scheduled to work are being contacted and informed of their need for testing;
- Affected patients are moved to a separate area of the facility;
- Staff who serve the affected patients are not to be rotated through other Center areas;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be worn by all staff as per the new guidance;
- The Center is providing evidence that sufficient quantities of PPE are available for staff to be worn as per the previous and new guidance from NCDHHS.

As Governor Cooper re-affirmed in his press conference this afternoon, COVID-19 in any long term care facilities requires swift and decisive action. The Franklin County Health Department will be working closely with Louisburg Nursing Center to ensure they have the supplies and guidance needed for the best possible outcome. Look for more updates from the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as more information becomes available.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. LaVigne', is written over a horizontal line.

Scott S. LaVigne, MSW, MBA
Franklin County Health Director
Franklin County COVID-19 EOC – Public Information Officer

A handwritten date '4/8/2020' in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date

Steps We All Need to Take:

Guidance for Those with Fever & Upper Respiratory Symptoms:

If you feel illness coming on, isolate yourself and call your doctor if your symptoms worsen. Everyone with fever and respiratory symptoms should isolate themselves from everyone until BOTH conditions below are met:

- At least 7 days since symptom onset.
AND
- Over 72 hours after symptom resolution (i.e. absence of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and improvement of respiratory symptoms).

Close Contacts:

- Those with close contact to a person with fever or respiratory illness are encouraged to stay home to the extent possible, and to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Recommendations:

What is important is that everyone do their part to keep us all safe:

- avoid touching your face;
- Wash your hands frequently & thoroughly using warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice, or use your own tune)
- use hand sanitizers frequently;
- cough/sneeze into your arm, or if you use a tissue, immediately throw it out and wash your hands.
- Isolate yourself from others if you're sick;
- stay home from work/school or going out anywhere if you feel the slightest bit sick.
- Everyone needs to avoid vulnerable populations, including: those over 65; those with underlying health conditions and/or weakened immune systems; and those who are pregnant.
- Do not group together, and certainly not in groups any larger than 10, and keep six (6) feet apart from anyone you don't live with.
- If you have to go out, please maintain at least 6 feet of space between you and others.
- If you have to go out, feel free to use a cloth covering to protect others from **you**, if you happen to have the virus but just aren't showing symptoms yet;
- Don't count on gloves or a cloth mask alone to keep you safe, wash your hands, don't touch your face, and use hand sanitizer if you have it.
- If you are lucky enough to have Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks etc.) use it correctly (wearing a pair of gloves everywhere you go means you now have collected everything you've been in contact with, on those gloves.)
- Live by the motto **"If they don't live with you in your house, then they can't come-in, and if you meet them in public, keep them at least 6 feet away."**