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May 12, 2020  
3:30pm

**Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center**  
**Franklin County Sees its Largest Single-Day Community Coronavirus Case-Increase thus far.**

**From:**

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

**Communication:**

On Monday 5/11/2020, the Franklin County Health Department received notice of seven (7) new coronavirus cases within the community. As of the date and time of this press release, this is the largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases for Franklin County since the onset of the pandemic within Franklin County on 3/20/2020, when the county reported four (4) initial cases. While the county has had larger increases in total cases reported during the pandemic, these prior larger numbers were associated with facility outbreaks. The current seven (7) cases are NOT associated with any facility outbreak and are not linked together. This is a stark reminder that even though North Carolina has entered into "Phase 1" of re-opening, we must remain vigilant in our adherence to personal protective behaviors (described below and on page 2).

As North Carolina **seems** poised to enter Phase 2 of our state's phased re-opening on Friday, 5/22/2020, the Franklin County Health Department urges everyone to remember the virus has **NOT** left Franklin County, and there is still **no vaccine**. "Flattening the Curve" simply means there is room for you in the hospital if you get very sick with the virus. The best way to ensure you and/or your loved-ones remain virus free is to strictly adhere to:

- Wearing a face covering (i.e. surgical or cloth mask) when out in public;
- limiting your time out in public to only when absolutely necessary;
- maintaining six feet of physical distance between yourself and anyone who doesn't live with you;
- washing/sanitizing your hands frequently; and
- not touching your face;

Look for more updates on this outbreak from the Franklin County COVID-19 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 "5/12/2020" 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 10 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."**