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March 20, 2020

**Franklin County**  
**COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center**

**From:**

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Franklin County Health Director  
Public Information Officer, Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

**Communication Goals:**

To provide the public with information on the current incidence of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in Franklin County, and to continue providing reliable information and concrete actions we can take to remain healthy in light of the current Pandemic.

**Current SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 Information:**

As per most recent information available, there are currently:

- 137 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in NC;
- 0 deaths linked to SARS-CoV-2 in NC;

Please note that given the sharp increases we anticipate, actual cases in a county may not **initially** register on the state's website-count for that county.

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc>

**Positive Virus Test Results:** On 3/20/2020, the Franklin County Health Department was notified that there are four (4) Franklin County Residents who have received presumptive positive test results for SARS-CoV-2. These individuals are currently under quarantine and isolation orders and contacts with them are being notified by our FCHD Communicable Disease Staff, working in conjunction with State and Federal Health Officials. As with all counties across North Carolina, we anticipate that case numbers will increase.

**Guidance for Those with Fever & Upper Respiratory Symptoms:**

Everyone with fever and respiratory symptoms should isolate themselves 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.

**Summary:**

At this Point, Franklin County has four (4) presumptive positive cases of SARS-CoV-2. The County Health Department is working in conjunction with State and Federal Health officials, and local providers to ensure all possible contacts with these individuals have been notified and provided with directions regarding quarantine and isolation requirements.

**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.
- avoid others if you’re sick;
- stay home from work/school if you’re 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.

**Not Identifying Individuals:**

While individuals may choose to release their own status to the community, we will continue to take the utmost care in balancing the community’s need to know with individuals right to privacy.

**Answers & Information:** For up-to-date-as-possible Coronavirus information:

**Franklin-County-Specific Virus information:**

**COVID-19 Phone Line:** 919-496-8113

**COVID 19 Email:** [coronavirus@franklincountync.us](mailto:coronavirus@franklincountync.us)

**North-Carolina-specific Information:**

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>