



Health Department
Scott S. LaVigne, MSW, MBA
Health Director
107 Industrial Drive, Suite C
Louisburg, NC 27549
919-496-8111
www.franklincountync.us
slavigne@franklincountync.us

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Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center

**** Positive Coronavirus Case 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) reported to the Franklin County Health Department that they have one (1) positive confirmed case of the coronavirus in a center resident, and that they have several additional residents exhibiting symptoms (but they are not confirmed cases at this point). The protocol for addressing this in a long term care setting is for the Health Department to complete a site visit to ensure the facility is following proper protocols for patients and staff, and that all residents and staff are to be tested.

Thus far, the Franklin County Health Department:

- Has been in active consultation with the Center and the NC State Communicable Disease Branch Epidemiologist;
- has completed a site-visit of the Center this morning in which we have confirmed the Center is following proper protocols;
- will continue monitoring this facility's residents and staff for additional cases, as testing is completed and results are available;
- have confirmed the facility has initiated and will complete testing of all residents & staff;
- have confirmed that the center has sufficient testing supplies to complete the collection of samples for the testing of all of their staff and residents; and
- have confirmed that the center has sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) going forward, given the confirmed case within the facility.

COVID-19 in a long term care facility is serious situation. We are reassured by Louisburg Nursing Center's response to their resident's positive test result, and that they are actively working with the Health Department to ensure they follow protocols for follow-up testing of staff and residents. 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 '4/7/2020' in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date

Steps We All Need to Take:

Guidance for Those with Fever & Upper Respiratory Symptoms:

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.

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.