



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

Contact: Dr. Jennifer Green, Health Director

E-mail: jgreen@co.cumberland.nc.us

Telephone: 910-433-3705

COVID-19 Update

184 New Cases, Contact Tracers Continue to Identify Possible Exposure

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports 184 new COVID-19 cases and four additional deaths since the Monday report. Cumberland County's case count is now 3,470 with 55 deaths.

The residents who died were in their 80s and 90s with underlying medical conditions and two residents lived in a congregate living setting.

Cumberland County currently has 97 cases per 10,000 residents with 9% of those tested returning positive for COVID-19.

According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) COVID-19 dashboard, of the 55 deaths:

- 80% were age 65 and older
- 74% were male
- 60% were African American
- 70% were hospitalized
- 90% had at least one comorbidity
- 56% lived in a congregate living setting

Answer the Call

The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is responsible for contact tracing after a positive case of COVID-19 is reported. Increased testing and extensive contact tracing are key to helping slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina so that we can safely return to gatherings with family and friends, sporting events, and other activities and events outside of our homes.

Individuals who have tested positive will receive a call from the Health Department. In addition, through contact tracing, people who have recently come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will get a text message, email notification, or phone call, along with information and support to help minimize the risk of spreading the virus further. Any information you share is confidential and will remain private.

If you receive one of these notifications, please cooperate with the instructions. This will allow us to rapidly identify those who may have been exposed and quickly get them the necessary supports and resources that can

help protect them and their loved ones.

Pets and COVID-19

NCDHHS the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are closely monitoring the emerging information about COVID-19 and its consequences for domestic animals.

It appears that dogs and cats are not readily infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. There is no evidence to suggest that animals, including pets or livestock, can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to people.

In a few rare instances, infections in dogs and cats have been documented. In these instances, people have given the infection to their pets and not the other way around. NCDHHS received its first reported case of a [confirmed SARS-CoV-2 positive dog in North Carolina](#). SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans.

Take common sense steps to protect your pets by limiting contact if you are sick with either suspected or confirmed COVID-19, just as you should limit contact with other people.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals.
- Avoid contact with your pet including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food.
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them.
- People should never take drugs intended for animals, as the FDA has only evaluated their safety and effectiveness in the animal species for which they are labeled. These animal drugs can cause serious harm in people.

There is no reason to remove pets from homes where COVID-19 has been identified in members of the household unless there is risk that the pet may not be cared for appropriately.

Immunizations

Gov. Roy Cooper recently [extended the deadline](#) but did not waive proof-of-immunization and health assessment documentation for school and child-care facilities.

Whether children are home-schooled or attend school in-person or by remote learning, they are required by state law to be immunized based on their age for certain vaccinations as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). School requirements are [listed on the NCDHHS website](#) according to school or grade level, as well as the [requirements](#) for young children who attend child care facilities.

Immunization appointments are available at the Health Department for children and teens entering 7th and 12th grade in the fall and individuals ages 11 to 16. Immunizations are also available for adults entering institutions of higher education in the fall.

All students entering 7th grade are required to obtain a Tdap and meningococcal conjugate vaccine before starting school. Effective Aug. 1, a booster dose to protect against meningococcal disease is required for adolescents entering the 12th grade or by 17 years of age, whichever comes first. Learn more [here](#) ([Spanish](#) language flier here).

A full list of immunizations required before entering kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade, as required by North Carolina state law, can be found on the Cumberland County Schools [website](#).

To protect the health and safety of staff and the public, immunizations are by appointment only. Appointments are expected to fill up quickly. Call (910)-321-7116 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to make an appointment.

If you are 18 years old or younger and do not have health insurance or your health insurance does not cover immunizations, you will receive immunizations at no cost through the [Vaccines for Children Program](#). If you are 19 or older, you will be billed for the cost of the vaccine and the administration fee.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19, a [screening and visitor protocol](#) is in place at the public health center, located at 1235 Ramsey Street. Bring an ID card, a copy of your insurance card and your immunization records, if available. Face coverings are required for those 11 and older.

Staying Updated

Cumberland County has made it easy for you to stay updated on the latest information about COVID-19. You can visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#), which has a list of [COVID-19-related closures and service changes](#). The county is also sharing important information on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.