



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## ***COVID-19 Update***

# **151 New Cases, Officials Urge Students to Avoid Mass Gatherings**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports 151 new COVID-19 cases and five additional deaths since the Tuesday report. Cumberland County's case count is now 3,798 with 61 deaths.

Cumberland County currently has 108 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 61 deaths:

- 83% were age 65 and older
- 62.7% were male
- 55.7% were African American
- 72.1% were hospitalized
- 86.9% had at least one comorbidity
- 52.5% lived in a congregate living setting

## **Colleges and Universities Return to Class**

Public Health officials are urging students to avoid mass gatherings as they return to area universities and colleges.

“We are already seeing cases increases in those ages 18-25 in our area and around the state,” said Health Director Dr. Jennifer Green. “We understand college is a time to be social, but we must not relax our measures to slow the spread of this virus.”

Students should practice their 3 Ws. Wear a face covering. Wait 6 feet apart from others. Wash your hands often.

## **Quarantine and Isolation Protocols**

[The Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) recently updated its isolation guidance based on the latest science about COVID-19 showing that people can continue to test positive for up to three months after diagnosis and not be infectious to others.](#) The latest data suggests that retesting someone in the three months following initial infection is not necessary unless that person is exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 and the symptoms cannot be associated with another illness.

People with COVID-19 should be isolated for at least 10 days after symptom onset and until 24 hours after their fever subsides without the use of fever-reducing medications.

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past three months should self-quarantine and monitor your symptoms.

### **What counts as close contact?**

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

### **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.