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Subject: Media Release: Positive Cases Remain at 7% of Total Tested



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2020

Department of Public Health
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COVID-19 Update **Positive Cases Remain at 7% of Total Tested**

FAYETTEVILLE –In Cumberland County, 7% of COVID-19 tests taken have been positive, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. The County has remained at 7% since Monday. The average for the state is 8%. The World Health Organization recommends a 5% positive rate.

The Department of Public Health reports 100 new COVID-19 cases and five additional deaths since Monday, June 29. Cumberland County's case count is now 1,327 and there have been 41 deaths.

Holiday Recommendations

The 4th of July is a time to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Health officials remind residents to stay proactive in slowing the spread of COVID-19—even during the holiday.

"As we head into the 4th of July holiday weekend, we strongly encourage the public to celebrate safety. Avoid mass gatherings. If you are going to be around others outside of your household, wear your face cloth coverings and stay six feet apart from others. Remember your hand sanitizer if you won't have access to soap and water," said Dr. Jennifer Green, Cumberland County Health Director.

Demand for Testing Increases

As cases rise across the country, there has been an increase in demand for COVID-19 testing. Increased demand has created a backlog for many laboratories and increased the turnaround time to process tests. Individuals tested by Health Department staff may not receive test results for 5-7 business days.

"Testing is a critical part of our strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19. The demand for testing is unprecedented. Our partners at commercial laboratories and the North Carolina State Public Health Laboratory have been working to increase their capacity and reduce turnaround time," said Dr. Green.

Testing in Cumberland

The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is offering drive-thru testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays while supplies last and staffing is available. [Visit our Testing and Collection page to schedule an appointment.](#)

On Tuesdays, test collection will be conducted at Manna Church, 5117 Clifdale Road, Fayetteville, NC 28314 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Thursdays, test collection will be conducted at Cumberland County Health Department, 1235 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Testing is free and available for any individual over the age of 13 who meets the following criteria:

- Any individual older than 13 experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Individuals without symptoms but who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer) with someone who tested positive COVID-19 in the last 14 days. If you are not having symptoms, you should wait 6 days after your last exposure to get tested.
- Regardless of symptoms, anyone older than 13, at higher risk of exposure or at higher risk for severe disease
 - Persons who live or work in a long-term care facility, homeless shelter, correctional facility, or migrant farmworker camp
 - People age 65 and older
 - People with underlying health conditions who are at high risk for severe illness
 - Persons from historically marginalized populations
 - Healthcare workers or first responders (e.g. EMS, law enforcement, fire department, military)
 - Front-line and essential workers (grocery store clerks, gas station attendants, childcare staff, etc.) in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
 - Individuals who have attended protests, rallies, or other mass gatherings in crowds where it is difficult to practice effective social distancing.

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.

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