



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## ***COVID-19 Update*** **Percent Positive Cases Grow Higher than N.C. Average, Updated Guidance to Save Lives**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports 246 new COVID-19 cases and one death since Monday. Cumberland County's case count is now 2,257 with 49 deaths.

The resident who died was in their 40s with underlying health conditions.

The two-week average percentage of positive results out of all tests conducted is 10% in Cumberland County, which is higher than the 9% for North Carolina. This is the first time the County's percentage has been higher than the state average. The World Health Organization recommendation is 5%.

“Over the past two weeks we have seen daily positive cases increase in Cumberland County. I am concerned with these numbers,” said Health Director Dr. Jennifer Green. “This is not the time to relax our precautions in slowing the spread of COVID-19. We must all follow the recommendations to combat this pandemic and save lives.”

Of the COVID-19 related deaths in Cumberland County:

- 90% had a comorbidity
- 60% lived in a congregate living setting
- 68% were hospitalized
- 77% male
- 83% age 65 and older
- 57% African American

### **Updated Isolation Guidance**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their guidance for isolation during COVID-19 to reflect new evidence about the transmission of COVID-19.

Following [CDC guidelines](#), if your test comes back positive and you had symptoms, you should stay home and, as much as possible, avoid others in your household until you can say yes to ALL three of the following questions:

- Has it been at least 10 days since you first had symptoms?
- Has it been at least 24 hours since you have had a fever without using fever-reducing medicine?
- Have your other symptoms have improved?

For people who test positive and never had symptoms, you should stay home until 10 days after your first positive COVID-19 test. The CDC no longer recommends using a test-based strategy (e.g. requiring two negative tests) to end isolation. We do not recommend businesses require two negative tests for their employees to come back to work.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, were tested because you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, or you suspect you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you should stay home and, as much as possible, avoid others in your household. In addition, if you were tested because you have COVID-19 symptoms, everyone in your household should stay at home as much as possible until your results are known.

If you were tested for COVID-19 but have no symptoms and no known or suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19 (for example, as part of a workplace screening program), you do not need to stay home while waiting for your results unless you are told to do so by your employer or the health department.

### **Personal Protection Equipment for Agricultural Workers**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is taking further action to prevent and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks among the agricultural workforce, delivering critical personal protection equipment for use by agricultural workers across the state.

Farmworkers are deemed an essential workforce and it is imperative that people who cultivate and harvest North Carolina's wide variety of crops are protected. To support prevention efforts that are proven to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Office will receive masks and other infection control supplies to distribute to farms and agricultural operations. Farm operators should call (910) 321-6860 for information on distribution.

### **Fayetteville State University (FSU) CARES Community Testing Events**

In addition to Cumberland County Health Department COVID-19 test collections, FSU is coordinating community testing across the state and have added testing dates through September. View locations and dates on our [Testing and Collection website](#). Anyone interested in FSU CARES Community Testing should call (910) 672-2545.

### **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.