Macon County
## Public Health

# *Press Release*

Macon County Public Health to Stop the Announcement of Clusters

In order to realign our resources to better support the vaccination roll-out process and due to exceptional community spread within Macon County, Macon County Public Health will not be issuing press releases regarding cluster announcements. This is not a decision made lightly, but it is the belief of the agency that it would be the best use of our limited resources as we move in to the vaccination phase of our response to COVID-19.

Health Director, Kathy McGaha said of the change, "Macon County is seeing a continued surge of COVID-19 positive individuals as a result of holiday gathering. This surge is affecting the entire community, including businesses, churches, agencies, etc. We need the community to do everything they can to slow the surge of COVID-19 by wearing their mask, avoid in-person social gatherings, and when it is your turn – get vaccinated."

The entire state of North Carolina is under a "Safer at Home" executive order, currently under phase three with masks required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness. Therefore, we ask that community members strictly follow the governor's orders and continue to practice social distancing, as well as safe hygiene measures such as hand washing and frequently cleaning touched objects and surfaces.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2517. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm, closing daily for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm, until further notice.

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