



Macon County  
Public Health

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# Press Release

## Macon County Reports Additional Death Related to COVID-19

Macon County Public Health received notification today that a Macon County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 has passed away. The death occurred in Macon County and the individual was over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions. To protect the family's privacy, no further information will be released about the individual. This death brings Macon County to nineteen (19) deaths related to COVID-19.

Health Director, Kathy McGaha said, "I would like to offer my sincere condolences to friends and family of this individual." Ms. McGaha also stated, "We continue to be in the critical outbreak stage, but we can make a difference by being diligent in wearing a mask, washing our hands, and staying 6 feet from others. Continue to practice social distancing and limit your trips outside your home to help to slow the spread of COVID-19."

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. The public can monitor the different phases of re-opening and learn more about the restrictions at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance>.

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 8:00am – 5:00pm, until further notice.

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