



Macon County Public Health

Kathy McCaha, MHS,
Public Information Officer
1830 Lakeside Drive
Franklin, NC 28734
Voice: 828-349-2475
kmcgaha@maconnc.org

Press Release

Second traveler tests positive in Macon County

As of Sunday, March 22, 2020, Macon County Public Health was notified that an individual who was admitted to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) tested positive for COVID – 19. The patient has been transported to Mission's main campus in Asheville. The patient is a resident of Maryland and traveled to their secondary residence in Jackson County, where they became ill, and then went to HCH's emergency room for care. Jackson County Health Department was immediately notified of the positive results.

The Jackson County Health Department is working to identify close contacts. The CDC defines close contact as being within approximately 6 feet of a person with an infection with COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer. Based on information provided by the individual, county health officials will assess risks of exposure, determine which if any additional measures are needed such as temperature and symptom checks, quarantine and/or testing.

Since cases are reported under the state of residency, this case will be identified as a Maryland case, not a North Carolina case. Therefore, this case will not show up on the North Carolina maps as a Macon County case.

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, [North Carolinians should take the same measures](#) that health care providers recommend to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home if you are sick and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Macon County Public Health, CDC, and NCDHHS. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

Macon County Public Health regularly updates our Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19, we encourage the public to check our Facebook page for up-to-date information.

For Immediate Release - March 23, 2020

more

- Page 2

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, and 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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