



Macon County Public Health

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

Press Release

Macon County Government Wants Residents Protected!

COVID-19 continues to infect thousands more each day, including in North Carolina. It is important, now more than ever, that our approach be a team approach aimed at protecting our community. Macon County has seen its first positive result, and there are still many tests pending. We have to do what we can at a local level to minimize the effects of COVID-19, especially as we start seeing more Macon County residents become ill.

County Officials and staff have been actively pursuing all ways to protect our community's health while balancing individual legal rights. Planning discussions included limiting access to Macon County through restricting travelers and visitors to the county. Due to Federal laws and guidelines, we are restricted as to what can be done on major roads such as 441N and 441S. Following this assessment it was determined that resources would be more effectively used to enforce local emergency management regulations and target violators of the same. For example, the county is in the process of contacting all short term rental managers directly in order to ensure that they are following our regulations.

Educational efforts will continue as a legal means to offer current information about COVID -19, reinforce the actions steps of the regulations and support ways the public can limit exposure through social distancing. Through joint communication and support of county officials and staff have:

- Performed Extensive Outreach to Communicate Up-to-Date Guidance to Community Partners
- Conducted Targeted Testing and Contact Tracing for Potential COVID-19 Cases
- Sent Code Red Announcements to Macon County Citizens
- Declared a Macon County Emergency Declaration and Issued Supplemental Declaration
- Issued and Distributed a Traveler's Notice

Our message to those who are full-time residents, part-time residents, or visiting Macon County: Stay at home. Stay safe. Practice social distancing. Quarantine if you have travelled. Limit your trips outside of your home to necessities.

Throughout this pandemic, it is imperative that we all work together to do our part in protecting the people in our community, including remembering to practice kindness and compassion to our neighbors who are ill or in need. We appreciate the support and encouragement that county agencies have received in this response, and we will continue to serve in the best interest of our citizens.

For Immediate Release – April 3, 2020

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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, www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth for up-to-date information.

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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