



For Release: Immediate
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Media Release

Person County Identifies First Case of COVID-19

Person County, NC – The first case of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been confirmed in Person County. Person County Health Department can confirm that the COVID-19 case is due to community spread. The affected individual is currently in isolation at home and is doing well. To protect the individual's privacy, no further information about the individual will be released.

Person County Health Department is identifying close contacts to the affected individual. A close contact is defined as anyone who was within six feet of the individual for 10 minutes. Our public health team will contact residents that may be at increased risk for COVID-19.

“Person County Health Department and our community partners have been preparing and planning and will continue to take proactive steps to protect the health of our community,” stated Person County Health Director, Janet Clayton.

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, the Health Department encourages residents to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 and any other flu-like illness by following these steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill and stay at home if you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Have a plan in case you need to miss work or other responsibilities due to personal illness or to care for a sick family member.
- People over 65 or who have chronic health conditions or with compromised immune systems are at highest risk of severe illness from the virus, and are advised to avoid large gatherings.

Personians are encouraged to use reputable sources of information to learn more about the coronavirus. Reputable sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/>, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/> and Person County Health Department <http://health.personcountync.gov> The Health Department has established a Coronavirus line to take your questions. The number is (336) 597-2204 x2278.

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