

Carteret County Health Department Press Release - March 13, 2020

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CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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Health Department Recommends Actions to Keep Residents Healthy

Morehead City, NC – The Carteret County Health Department continues to closely monitor the novel Coronavirus outbreak. Coronaviruses like COVID-19 are most often spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact or through touching your nose, mouth, or eyes before washing your hands. For that reason, the Carteret County Health Department recommends actions to help keep people healthy, reduce exposures to COVID-19, and slow the spread of the disease.

“As of right now, there have not been any confirmed coronavirus cases in Carteret County. Because it is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, residents should take the same measures that providers recommend to prevent the spread of flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoid touching your face, staying home if you are sick and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow or tissue,” states Stephanie Cannon, Health Director.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness, including older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diseases, or lung disease. Also, according to the CDC, pregnant women experience immunologic and physiologic changes which might make them more susceptible to viral respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. In addition to everyday precautions, those at high risk for serious illness should make sure they have needed supplies such as medications, household items, and groceries as well as stay at home as much as possible. Additionally, the CDC recommends those at higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19 should avoid crowds as much as possible and avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, please stay home and call your healthcare provider. By calling ahead, this will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to care for you and keep other people from getting infected or exposed. At the time, there is no treatment for COVID-19. Most people with illnesses will recover on their own. However, there are some things you can do to relieve your symptoms, including taking pain and fever medications; using a humidifier or taking a hot shower to ease a sore throat or cough; and drinking plenty of liquids and stay home and rest.



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Prevention (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV-FAQs/index.html>) or the North Carolina Division of Public Health (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>) websites or call the North Carolina Coronavirus Hotline at 866-462-3821.

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