



## Madison County Health Department

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# MADISON COUNTY CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF COVID-19

Madison County Health Department (MCHD) wants the community to know that their health and safety is our number one priority. Today we have a positive case of the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a Madison County resident. This is the first known positive case of COVID-19 associated with Madison County. This individual is middle-aged and does not have underlying health conditions.

MCHD public health staff are conducting an active investigation into this individual's activities. MCHD will not release further details about the individual to protect their privacy. It is **important** to know that MCHD communicable disease staff will be contacting those who may be affected by this and identified as a close contact.

MCHD Health Director, Tammy Cody, urges the public to remain calm in response to this news, saying, "It is important that our community remain calm, stay informed and be prepared for the spread of this illness. It is critical that everyone follow the guidance to stay home when sick. Additionally, everyone needs to wash their hands frequently and cover coughs and sneezes. High-risk individuals – those over 65 years of age or with underlying health conditions or weakened immune systems – should stay at home to decrease their chance of being infected."

### What to do and when to seek medical evaluation and advice:

- If you or a family member have fever AND cough or difficulty breathing, **call your healthcare provider, or an urgent care if you do not have a healthcare provider. DO NOT show up at your healthcare provider's office or the urgent care without calling first.**
- **Do NOT go to the emergency room.** Emergency rooms need to be able to serve the most critically ill.
- **If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 and tell them your symptoms.**
- If you do not have a healthcare provider and cannot afford to be seen at an urgent care, call 828-649-3531 to speak with a Communicable Disease nurse at MCHD. Leave a message and a CD nurse will return your call as quickly as possible.

Madison County Public Health: *EveryWhere, EveryDay, EveryBody*

- **People with symptoms should NOT come to the health department without calling ahead and scheduling an appointment.**

MCHD and response agencies will continue to update our community regularly about COVID-19 in Madison County. Strong coordination between Madison County public health, Madison County Emergency Services, healthcare providers, and infection prevention staff at local hospitals is occurring to identify and manage any person who develops signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

General information about COVID-19 in North Carolina can be found by visiting [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus) or by calling the NC COVID-19 hotline at (866) 462-3821. They will answer your question or triage your concern accordingly. For more information on coronavirus (COVID 19) in Madison County please call 828-649-0755. Staff are available at this number 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.