



## Jones County Health Department

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### **Health Department Prepares for Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Trenton, NC - The Jones County Health Department continues preparation for the possibility of a coronavirus outbreak in Jones County. Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a respiratory disease caused by a new virus strain first identified in Wuhan, China. The symptoms are similar to the flu – including fever, cough, or shortness of breath. The most common spread is from an infected person to others through the air by coughing or sneezing; close personal contact, including touching and shaking hands; and, touching your nose, mouth, or eyes before washing your hands. At this time, only individuals who are showing symptoms are at risk of spreading the coronavirus.

As of today, there have been two (2) confirmed coronavirus cases in North Carolina. The Health Department is closely monitoring the coronavirus outbreak and is continuing to work together with local, state and federal partners such as Jones County Public Schools System, Jones County Emergency Management, Jones County Sheriff's Office, Jones County Government and the NC Division of Public Health to share information and update protocols in the event of a coronavirus case in Jones County.

While there is still a lot to learn about COVID-19, there are steps that the public can take to prevent respiratory illnesses, including the coronavirus. These include washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or the inside of your arm; staying home when you are sick; avoiding close contact with persons who are ill; and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

For more information on the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>) and the North Carolina Division of Public Health Coronavirus call line (1-866-462-3821) or (<https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/COVID19.html>). Jones County Health Department also is a source of information (252-448-9111) or <http://www.jonescountyhealth.com/>.

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