

Jones County Health Department

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For Immediate Release

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Health Department Reports Second COVID-19 Death in Jones County Press Release #11

Trenton, NC – Jones County Health Department reports the second COVID-19 associated death in Jones County. The individual died on April 19th from complications associated with the virus. The individual was in their 90's with underlying medical conditions and had been hospitalized. To protect the family's privacy, no identifying information about the individual will be released.

“We extend our deepest sympathies to the individual's family and friends,” said Wesley P. Smith, Health Director. “This is another sad day for our community. For high risk individuals, this virus can cause serious illness and in some cases be fatal. However, we want to assure everyone that the Health Department is working tirelessly to educate Jones County residents on steps they need to take to protect themselves and their loved ones from acquiring the virus,” Smith added.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people who test positive with COVID-19 will recover without needing to seek medical care. For that reason, people who have mild symptoms such as fever and cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing are encouraged to isolate themselves at home, separate themselves from others as much as possible, and call their medical provider for advice. Residents should continue to follow the preventative measures which include frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and discarding the tissue immediately; avoid touching your face with unwashed hands; and practicing social distancing at least 6 feet.

“We continue to urge residents to follow Governor Roy Cooper's Stay at Home Order and only leave home for essential activities,” Smith stated. “If residents must leave home, they are encouraged to practice social distancing and other known precautions, wearing a surgical or cloth mask and limit the amount of time out, to reduce exposure to the virus. Close contacts of individuals confirmed with COVID-19 who have been required by the Health Department to self-isolate are cautioned that anyone who fails to comply will be issued quarantine orders by the Health Director that will be enforced by local law enforcement.”

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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